GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS
2017 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK	PD #: 2017617

Position Title: Astronomy Intern – Apply by June 16, 2017
Position Type: GIP Intern
Primary natural resource discipline: Natural sounds and night skies
Location: 100 Great Basin National Park
Baker, Nevada 89311

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Position Description: The Astronomy Intern will assist with the park's extremely popular public astronomy programming. They will work most if not all astronomy program nights, running telescopes and providing information to visitors about objects they are viewing in space including galaxies, nebula and stars. They will work with University partners to develop social media and outreach for the park's new research observatory. The intern will also conduct public solar viewing using a solar telescope. They will work towards developing their own nighttime astronomy public talk. Additionally, they may work on other projects like kids' programs, and other astronomy programs (guided full moon hikes, for example).

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Internship Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA). Upon successful completion of the GIP internship, the participant is eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award.

Work Products: The intern will present a public astronomy program which includes approximately 45 minutes of a talk with A/V equipment and at least an hour of informal interpretation as people look through the telescopes. Through informal interpretation at solar and regular telescopes they will help to further the park's goal of connecting people to our night skies. Many people of different backgrounds arrive here and realize they have never seen a nighttime environment like this. The intern and fellow dark rangers will help find ways for everyone to relate to this important natural and cultural resource. This intern will also develop a social media outreach event relating to the park's new research class observatory.

QUALIFICATIONS

Some academic or experiential background in astronomy is preferred. Coursework or degrees in observational astronomy or astrophysics will be valued, as will experience as an interpreter or naturalist. The intern must be comfortable speaking in front of large groups (sometimes 150+) of people and conveying scientific concepts to a general audience. They must also strictly adhere to safety rules while ensuring the public does so, as well.

GIP participants are considered AmeriCorps members: AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 GIP or other AmeriCorps positions, he/she will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE/DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. A personal vehicle is recommended since the park is so isolated. The intern will most likely drive a park vehicle with the astronomy trailer attached.

If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, a driving records search will be performed and the GIP's ability to drive a park vehicle will be contingent upon the results. Examples that will preclude a GIP from driving a park vehicle include DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years.

HOUSING

Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant. It will either be a dormitory style building with private bedrooms, bathrooms shared with one other person, and communal kitchens and living areas, or a three bedroom house with the possibility of a shared a bedroom.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

Start Date: 8/7/2017
End Date: 10/27/2017
Number of weeks: 12
Flexibility of dates: No

STIPEND PAYMENT

$3,600 for 12 weeks ($300/week)

HOUSING PAYMENT

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

$250

PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical/Natural Environment: Great Basin National Park spans elevations from 5,000 feet to 13,000 feet. The majority of work will take place close to 7,000 feet. Summer days can frequently be hot and very dry while evenings are cool. The park is in a very remote area near Baker, NV and the nearest town with most services is about an hour away. A car is necessary. Internet and cell phone service are available but sometimes unreliable.

Work Environment: Much of the work will be done outside at night in a dark environment. Even in summer nights may be cold, windy, and infrequently stormy. Working the astronomy programs requires some physical labor and the ability to safely move heavy objects under dim light conditions. There will be some office work, but many days will be partially spent outside with the solar telescope. These work shifts can be hot, and water and sunscreen are necessities.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: The Astronomy Intern will work directly with the lead dark ranger. The ranger will offer guidance and advice on astronomy, interpretation, working with the public, and working for the National Park Service. The lead and other dark rangers will train the Astronomy Intern on use of the scopes, identifying night sky objects and how to conduct an interpretive program. The intern will develop skills in public speaking and crowd management and public safety. The Dark Ranger team works together often which creates a close-knit supportive team. Great Basin also frequently provides opportunities for cross training with the Resource Management and Maintenance divisions.

Learning Goals: The intern will experience working in a team of interpretive rangers and frequently collaborating, as well as coordinating with researchers using the observatory. They will use the most current understanding of

interpretation and public speaking. This is a good opportunity to gain an appreciation for the evolving nature of interpretive divisions in national parks.	
SUPERVISORS	
Primary Supervisor: Annie Gilliland	**Secondary Supervisor:** Nichole Andler
Title: Lead Astronomy Ranger	**Title:** Chief of Interpretation
Address: 100 Great Basin National Park Baker, NV 89311	**Address:** 100 Great Basin National Park Baker, NV 89311
Phone number: (775) 234-7523	**Phone number:** (775) 234-7521
Email address: annie_gilliland@nps.gov	**Email address:** nichole_andler@nps.gov
Park or Program Website: nps.gov/grba	**Park or Program Website:** nps.gov/grba