




GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS 2018 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK	PD #: 2018077 & 2018092
<p>Position Title: Interpretation Intern (2 positions) Position Type: GIP Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Multidisciplinary Location: Luray, Virginia</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The GIP will develop and present professional thematic interpretive programs (guided walks, talks, junior ranger programs, and evening programs) about the Park’s significance to a wide variety of audiences (60%). These ranger programs will focus on the park’s geologic story and emerging critical issues such as climate change, water and air quality, and preservation of night skies, as well as other relevant Park topics. Our programs are given in a diversity of Park locations including campgrounds, trails, visitor centers, and historic buildings and range in length from 15 minutes to 2 hours. Audience sizes can vary from 2 to 50+ people. Participant will also perform other duties in connection with staffing the visitor center, and will provide information and informal interpretation during fixed station and roving assignments (40%). Roving occurs on popular trails and other high-use areas in the park.</p> <p>The GIP intern will receive 80 hours of formal training in interpretive skills, customer service, safety, and natural and cultural resources; plus 40+ hours of on-the-job training in presenting interpretive programs and park operations. Participant will have the opportunity to shadow experienced staff members while they develop their individual programs. Staff leads and supervisors will provide mentoring and coaching opportunities throughout the season.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Work Products: The goal of this internship is to provide the participant with an opportunity to gain experience in the field of interpretation with the National Park Service. The participant will gain experience doing the work of a front-line interpretive park ranger who is capable of developing and delivering original interpretive ranger programs; who is able to rove park trails, campgrounds, and developed areas to create interpretive opportunities for park visitors; and, who is proficient at the visitor information desk and delivering information about the Park. The deliverables for the internship will be to develop original interpretive program outlines with a focus on geology and emerging critical resource issues such as climate change and preservation of night skies for at least four ranger programs. In addition, a project that spans the length of the internship will be developed based on the participant’s specific area(s) of interest.</p>	

QUALIFICATIONS
<p>Participant will have upper-level college coursework in the physical sciences including geology, climate change, and environmental science. Participant will have experience in public speaking and customer service and be interested in working outdoors.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
VEHICLE/DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
<p>Applicant must have a valid driver’s license and a good driving record. A personal vehicle is required to commute between housing and the Byrd Visitor Center (primary duty station). Government vehicles will be provided for travel during work time.</p> <p>If the GIP intern 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 intern 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.</p>
HOUSING
<p>Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant and is located within our seasonal housing area. Participant will share a house with other seasonal employees with the potential for a roommate depending on occupancy demands. Kitchen facilities and bathrooms are shared with housemates.</p>
INTERNSHIP START/END DATES
<p>Start Date: 5/7/2018 End Date: 7/27/2018 Number of weeks: 12 Flexibility of dates: Yes</p>
STIPEND PAYMENT
<p>\$3,600 for 12 weeks</p>
HOUSING PAYMENT
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE
<p>\$250</p>
PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT
<p>Physical/Natural Environment: Shenandoah National Park lies along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in north central Virginia. The park consists of more than 197,000 acres of mountains, forests, meadows and streams including 79,579 acres of designated wilderness. The major access route through the park is the 105-mile long Skyline Drive which provides opportunities for outstanding views of the Shenandoah Valley and the Piedmont from Skyline Drive’s numerous overlooks. There are more than 500 miles of hiking trails including 101 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Historic sites in the park include Rapidan Camp, the historic “summer white house” of President Herbert Hoover.</p> <p>Weather is variable throughout the season from cold, winter-like conditions in early May to hot, humid summer conditions in June, July and August. Temperatures are usually 8-10 degrees cooler on the mountain than they are in the surrounding lowland areas. Rain and thunderstorms are likely in the summer. Some can be severe.</p>

Depending on the location of the participant's housing, the distance to the nearest large grocery stores, pharmacies, post offices, doctor's offices, etc. ranges from 10-25 miles.

Work Environment: Participant's duty station will be the Byrd Visitor Center (mile 51 on Skyline Drive). The location of daily shifts will vary throughout the park. Potential duty stations include hiking trails, outdoor amphitheaters, visitor centers, Mobile Visitor Center, overlooks, etc. There are numerous species of insects in Shenandoah National Park. Gnats and stink bugs can be a nuisance. Some ticks carry Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses so participants will have to use precautionary practices and be diligent about performing daily tick checks. Tick safety information will be provided during orientation and throughout the season. The park is home to approximately 500 black bears, 2 species of venomous snakes, as well as a variety of other wildlife.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: The participant will shadow experienced rangers to learn how to effectively do the work of an interpretive park ranger. For example, they will shadow rangers on their interpretive programs to see how ranger-led programs are conducted. They will shadow visitor center staff at the information desk to learn good customer service skills including answering questions and orienting visitors to the Park, as well as issuing backcountry permits, assisting with lost and found inquiries, and operating audio/visual equipment. They will shadow experienced rangers while roving trails and campgrounds to learn how to approach visitors and create interpretive opportunities. Staff leads and supervisors will provide mentoring, program outline review, and coaching opportunities throughout the season.

Learning Goals: This internship will allow the participant to learn the skills of a professional interpretive park ranger. These skills will prepare them for a career as an interpretive park ranger with the National Park Service or in any job environment where public speaking and/or customer service skills are required. Participant will receive 80 hours of formal training in interpretive skills, park significance and themes, customer service, safety and natural and cultural resources; plus 40 hours of on-the-job training in presenting interpretive programs and park operations. Participant will have the opportunity to shadow experienced staff members while they develop their individual programs. Participant will also have the opportunity for cross-training with other divisions in the park. Participant will be encouraged to take on-line courses in interpretation through Eppley Institute's online curriculum at www.provalenslearning.com. Participant will be offered the opportunity to become trained in CPR, First Aid, Search and Rescue techniques and Leave No Trace outdoor ethics skills. They will be able to participate in Search and Rescue operations, if they are trained and interested.

SUPERVISORS

Primary Supervisor: Debby Smith	Secondary Supervisor: Tim Taglauer
Title: Interpretive Operations Supervisor	Title: Deputy Chief of Interpretation
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