



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: AGATE FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #:2019001
<p>Position Title: Paleontology Assistant Position Type: GIP Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Geologic resources Project keywords: Paleontology, resource management plan, planning, education, interpretation, Distance Learning, National Fossil Day Location: Harrison, Nebraska</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The paleontology intern will be provided the opportunity to assist with the development, writing and editing of a paleontological resource management plan for Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. The plan will serve as a primary document guiding the monument with the management, protection, interpretation and scientific research involving paleontological resources. The intern will work closely with the NPS Senior Paleontologist and the staff from the NPS Geologic Resources Division to develop the plan. The intern will also provide actual classroom instruction through Distance Learning (video classroom conferencing) with the various elementary, secondary and other schools or educational organizations to which AGFO rangers are now regularly providing that instruction. The intern will also assist the monument staff to plan and host a National Fossil Day event at Agate Fossil Beds NM.</p> <p>The Paleontological Resource Management Plan will serve as a primary document guiding the monument with the management, protection, interpretation and scientific research involving paleontological resources.</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).</p> <p>Work Products: The paleontology intern will help to prepare a paleontological resource management plan for Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. This report will be prepared to help inform and guide the monument staff with plans for science, resource management, interpretation and other park operations and activities. The report will be prepared with support from the NPS Geologic Resource Division and will be distributed for peer review and final publication as a National Park Service Technical Report.</p>	
QUALIFICATIONS	
<p>Applicant should have completed at least three years toward a degree in geology, paleontology, environmental science, or other related field with a broad understanding of geologic and paleontological concepts and terminology. Master's degree and professionals are encouraged to apply. The participant should have some field experience in geology or paleontology. The participant should have excellent computer, oral and written communication skills, and ability to work well with others in a problem-solving capacity. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.</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

Applicant must have a valid driver’s license and a good driving record. Given the remote nature of Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (50 miles to the nearest gas, medical, food and retail services), the intern will need to have a driver’s license and vehicle for transportation. The intern can use a park vehicle for all official park activities and work.

If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the GIP’s ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. GIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a GIP from driving a park vehicle include: GIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver’s search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver’s liability insurance while the intern is driving a NPS vehicle for their GIP position. If the GIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

HOUSING

Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant. The park housing consists of private bedrooms with shared kitchen and laundry facilities. The housing units are furnished, but the intern will need to bring sheets, blankets and pillows. The park will cover the housing costs for the intern. The housing units are in walking distance to the park headquarters and visitor center.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

Start Date: 8/4/2019

Number of weeks: 12 weeks

Flexibility of dates: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 weeks (\$350/week = \$4,200)

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

\$250

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The GIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the GIP’s living stipend and travel/housing allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,612 - \$6,095 pre-tax education that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

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.

PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical/Natural Environment: Agate Fossil Beds National Monument is located in Sioux County in the northwest corner of Nebraska. The closest town with groceries, shopping and gasoline is Harrison, NE which is 25 miles to the north. The weather at Agate Fossil Beds changes with the season. Summer can be very hot with highs in the upper 90's, sometimes 100 degrees or more. In the winter, the temperatures can plummet to -10 or below. Winds can make it feel colder and dry you out in winter or summer. During the summer, thunderstorms can build in the afternoon and some become violent. In the winter, you could experience blizzard conditions.

Work Environment: The intern will be provided office space, which will include a government computer. The office space is within the park headquarters. The headquarters has a break-room facility with refrigerator and

microwave oven.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: The intern will be co-supervised and mentored by the NPS Senior Paleontologist, with co-supervision and day-to-day task direction from the monument's Superintendent. The intern will be provided training and access to resources to expand their understanding of NPS paleontology and a career in the NPS. The intern will be able to work with academic geologists / paleontologists conducting research under a permit in the park. Intern will participate in a weekly call with the GRD Paleontologist.

Learning Goals: The paleontology intern will gain experience in field paleontology and learn about the paleontological resource management practices used by the National Park Service. The intern will work with NPS staff to learn all aspects of park operations in order to understand how these operations relate to the management, protection and interpretation of fossil at the recreation area.

SUPERVISORS

Primary Supervisor: James Hill	Secondary Supervisor: Vincent Santucci
Title: Superintendent	Title: Senior Paleontologist
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