



## GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

### 2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>NPS UNIT: JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT</b>	<b>PD #: 2019064 &amp; 2019065</b>
<p><b>Position Title:</b> Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant (2 positions)  <b>Position Type:</b> GIP Intern  <b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Geologic resources  <b>Project keywords:</b> interpretation, education, fossils, Geology, tours, gallery, exhibits, museum, trails, waysides, leave no trace  <b>Location:</b> Kimberly, Oregon</p>	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS</b>	
<p><b>Position Description:</b> John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, located in east central Oregon was established in 1975 to protect plant and animal fossils spanning nearly 50 million years of the “Age of Mammals and Flowering Plants”. The monument is geographically dispersed over three widely separated units: Sheep Rock, Painted Hills, and Clarno. This position will be stationed at the Sheep Rock unit in Kimberly, Oregon.</p> <p>The intern will prepare and present interpretive / educational programs at the visitor center and guide hikes on monument trails utilizing 21st Century Interpretation, which includes explaining complex scientific concepts to the public in an understandable and engaging way. The participant project can take a number of forms depending on individual skills and interests, but will focus on interpretation of geological and paleontological resources. Participant may develop curriculum based learning materials, produce written brochures, design temporary exhibits, and/or create interpretive media for the website.</p> <p>Participant will be trained in, and gain experience in education / interpretation using the standard tools and practices of the National Park Service, including 21st Century Interpretation and Audience-Centered-Experiences. They will learn how to utilize the online training platform, Common Learning Portal, for gaining insight into interpretive programs and for networking with other park interpreters. Participants may be trained in any of the following relevant to their projects/assignments: Adobe Creative Cloud and/or video software, National Park Service design standards, the NPS Content Management System (website system), interpretive theory, presentation techniques, and other needed skills.</p> <p>In addition, the intern will assist with the planning and implementation of the Leave No Trace Hot Spot, focused on the Painted Hills unit. Painted Hills is nine miles northwest of the town of Mitchell. It totals over 3,000 acres and contains multicolored hills and ridges derived from exposed paleosols. Unfortunately, the exposed hills are getting overuse by off-trail hikers which is degrading the scenic landscape and resource. The park is engaging in a communication campaign during the Hot Spot event to more effectively promote Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. This week-long event will train park staff and the public on how to better care for public lands and more effectively communicate the reasons for preservation and conservation.</p> <p>The intern will support the NPS mission by being a catalyst to invoke emotional and intellectual opportunities for visitors to connect the park. They will engage in visitor-centered programs, either in-person or non-personnel services, that help assist in making positive experiences. While interacting with the public, they will facilitate</p>	

meaning to the park so that visitors become stewards of the parks and support the NPS mission. In addition, by participating in the Leave No Trace Hot Spot, the intern will help protect the park's resources.

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).

**Work Products:** Intern will assist the park in more effectively communicating Leave No Trace to the public. This could take the form of interpretive media such as videos, graphics, or signs. The final projects are variable because it depends on needed materials and the selected participant's experience, although all projects will relate to the rich geological and paleontological resources of John Day Fossil Beds.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

The park is seeking students and graduates in geology, paleontology, biology, and related fields. Individuals who plan to pursue interpretation, education, exhibit design, paleontology, or geology as a career are encouraged to apply. Interns must have the desire and ability to interact with the public to assist in the understanding and appreciation of complex scientific concepts. The ability to research, develop, create, and present science to the public through presentations and interpretive media is vital.

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**

The intern must have a valid driver's license and a personal vehicle is required. There is no public transportation, and the closest housing typically available is 7 to 15 miles away from the work site. In addition, the closest grocery store is 8 miles from the park and laundromat is 25 miles.

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 NOT available and the intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. A higher living allowance is provide to cover housing costs.

**INTERNSHIP START/END DATES**

**Start Date:** 6/16/2019

**Number of weeks:** 12 weeks (NO housing)

**Flexibility of dates:** No

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

12 weeks (\$500/week = \$6,000)

**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:** John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is situated in the John Day River valley and surrounding lands. Elevation in the region varies from 1500 feet to 9000 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush / bunchgrass steppe, junipers, and forests of firs, ponderosas, and aspens. The area of paleontological interest consists of over 10,000 square miles cooperatively managed by the NPS, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service. The spring is often wet and cold, with the bulk of the summer being extremely dry. Summer temperatures can exceed 100 degrees during the daytime.

Public transportation is unavailable, so a personal vehicle is required for commuting, grocery shopping and personal travel. The area is remote and rural, with the closes town populated by less than 200 people. Most participants elect to do their grocery shopping in John Day (45-60 minutes away) or in the Prineville/Redmond/Bend area (2.5 hours away), which has a much wider variety of services. Other more distant options are Boise, ID or Portland, OR, both approximately 4-4.5 hours away. The nearest hospital is about 60 minutes from the park.

**Work Environment:** Work will be split primarily between the office and visitor center space at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, in the Sheep Rock unit, with some outdoor work. While working in the visitor center, intern must wear GIP uniform, khaki pants, and brown or dark red boots. Outdoor work can be extreme including steep terrain, prolonged sun exposure, high temperatures and large daily temperature fluctuations. Suggested field gear includes good hiking boots, a day pack, and water bottles. Suggested field clothing for hot weather includes a hat, light weight long sleeve shirts, and tough pants to withstand wear and tear on sharp rocks.

## MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** Mentoring will be variable depending on the experience of the participant and the nature of their project. At a minimum, the participant will be provided with site orientation, operations training, and work with park staff on establishing the project and its scope. Park staff will be available and onsite to answer questions, offer guidance when needed, and assist with difficulties as they arise. Some projects may involve working directly with park staff on a joint effort, while other projects may only require occasional oversight. In addition to onsite mentoring, interpretive program feedback will be supplemented by the Common Learning Portal.

Often staff in the summer get together weekly for game nights or other after-hour activities. There will be two GIPs hired for this position and their days off will be the same so that they have the option of exploring the area together.

**Learning Goals:** Participant will increase their public speaking abilities. They may be trained in any of the following skills relevant to their projects: Adobe Creative Cloud, video software, NPS design standards, the NPS Content Management System (website system), Common Learning Portal, interpretive theory and techniques,

and first aid and CPR. They will be in the field with paleontology at least once during the internship to gain an understanding of fossil prospecting and preservation. A federal resume workshop will be offered during the internship.

In addition, the intern will learn how to effectively communicate Leave No Trace (LNT) messaging to the public during the week-long LNT Hot Spot event.

**SUPERVISORS**

<b>Primary Supervisor:</b> Sandra Gladish	<b>Secondary Supervisor:</b> Dr. Nicholas Famoso
<b>Title:</b> Chief of Interpretation and Education	<b>Title:</b> Chief of Paleontology/Museum Curator
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