




## GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

### 2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #: 2019063
<p><b>Position Title:</b> Paleontology Assistant</p> <p><b>Position Type:</b> GIP Intern</p> <p><b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Geologic resources</p> <p><b>Project keywords:</b> Paleontology, GIS, curation, museum</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Kimberly, Oregon</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p><b>Position Description:</b> The position can take many forms including field assistant, laboratory/museum assistant, student researcher, graduate researcher, and more. Regardless of form, this position will include both field and office work in paleontology. Duties may involve assisting with collection, preparation, and curation of fossils, database management, GIS work, or independent research. Some examples of projects that could be worked on include a GIS project to map fossil localities from NPS and BLM administered lands in our collections, independently derived research on paleontological specimens, or cataloging specimens from sites collected through new acquisitions to the park collections. Process based research projects will also be strongly considered. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center at the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will serve as office, laboratory, museum collection, and field base for work.</p> <p>This position will help to manage and preserve the paleontological and museum resources of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The purpose of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is to preserve, and provide for the scientific and public understanding of the paleontological resources of the John Day region, and the natural, scenic, and cultural resources within the boundaries of the national monument.</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><b>Work Products:</b> Variable, depending on position details. This typically includes a project proposal, mid-term update, presentation to monument staff and visitors, and a final report including field notes, maps, digital photos, associated data, and other products appropriate for specialized projects. Participants are strongly encouraged to submit their work as presentations at the Geological Society of America and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meetings.</p>	
QUALIFICATIONS	
<p>We are seeking students and graduates in geology, paleontology, biology, museums, and related fields. Individuals who plan to pursue paleontology or geology as a career, or those who are beginning graduate or undergraduate thesis projects, are encouraged to apply. The minimum requirement is one year of undergraduate coursework in earth science, geology, paleontology, biology, museums, or related fields. An undergraduate degree, graduate degree, graduate level coursework and or previous research and field experience are also desirable, but not required.</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.	
<b>VEHICLE/DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS</b>	
Applicants must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. A personal vehicle is highly recommended for commuting between housing and the park, as well as for grocery shopping. Commuting with other staff is encouraged. Distances are long here and no public transportation is available.	
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.	
<b>HOUSING</b>	
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.	
<b>INTERNSHIP START/END DATES</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b> 6/3/2019	
<b>Number of weeks:</b> 12 weeks (NO housing)	
<b>Flexibility of dates:</b> Yes	
<b>LIVING ALLOWANCE</b>	
12 weeks (\$500/week = \$6,00)	
<b>TRAVEL ALLOWANCE</b>	
\$250	
<b>AMERICORPS PROGRAM</b>	
	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.
<b>PHYSICAL/NATURAL &amp; WORK ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Physical/Natural Environment:</b> John Day Fossil Beds NM is situated in the John Day River Valley and surrounding lands. There are three separate units (Sheep Rock, Clarno, and Painted Hills) which are between one and two hour drives away from each other. The area of paleontological interest consists of over 10,000 square miles cooperatively managed by the NPS, BLM, and USFS. Elevation in the region varies from 1,500 feet to 9,000 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush/bunchgrass steppe, junipers, and forests of firs, ponderosas, and aspens. Weather in summer tends to be hot and dry with little precipitation and high temperatures regularly exceeding 100 degrees F.	

The area is remote and rural, with several nearby towns (population <200 people) and more distant towns of several thousand. Limited grocery shopping options are available in smaller towns near the monument (~10 miles distant), but the nearest grocery store, pharmacy, and hospital are about 45 miles from park headquarters (Sheep Rock Unit). More facilities and services are available in the Bend area which is about 120 miles from the Sheep Rock Unit. The closest airport is in Redmond, OR, about 2 hour drive from the Sheep Rock Unit. Other airports are in Boise, ID, and Portland, OR.

**Work Environment:** Work time will be split between office and lab space at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center and field work. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center is the visitor center and museum for the monument. This position will be provided office space and computer access for their work. Field environments can be extreme, including steep terrain, prolonged sun exposure, high temperatures, and large daily temperature fluctuations. Required field gear includes good hiking boots, a day pack, and water bottles. Suggested field clothing for hot dry weather includes a hat, lightweight long sleeve shirts, and tough long pants to withstand wear and tear on sharp rocks.

#### MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** This position is mentored by the monument's Chief of Paleontology who provides oversight of research projects and any field, lab, and museum work associated with the project. GIPs are encouraged to work together to complete projects and to learn from working with other park staff and visiting researchers.

**Learning Goals:** Variable depending on the details of the project. All GIPs have the opportunity to participate in the paleontology program at the monument and learn field, lab, and museum techniques. Skills learned include, but are not limited to, field survey techniques, excavation of fossils, data collection (including use of Trimble GPS units), preparation of fossils in the laboratory, and curation of fossils (including identification and cataloging). Participants will also learn about the rich geological and paleontological history of Oregon, including details of past climate change and the evolution of floras and faunas through time. GIPs that pursue research projects will have the opportunity to learn and directly contribute to the base of knowledge of the monument.

#### SUPERVISORS

<b>Primary Supervisor:</b> Nicholas Famoso, PhD	<b>Secondary Supervisor:</b> Sandra Gladish
<b>Title:</b> Chief of Paleontology/Museum Curator	<b>Title:</b> Chief of Interpretation
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<b>Park or Program Website:</b> <a href="http://nps.gov/joda">http://nps.gov/joda</a>	<b>Park or Program Website:</b> <a href="http://nps.gov/joda">http://nps.gov/joda</a>