



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #: 2019071
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant</p> <p>Position Type: GIP Intern</p> <p>Primary natural resource discipline: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Project keywords: Natural resource interpretation, education, digital outreach, social media, StoryMaps, LIDAR, GIS, tribal partnerships, tourism, trails</p> <p>Location: Crow Agency, Montana</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, an iconic place in American history, preserves 765 acres overlooking the valley of the Little Bighorn River in south central Montana. In 1876, the Battle of the Little Bighorn broke out between the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne. The Monument memorializes one of the last armed efforts to preserve the Plains Indian way of life. On June 25 and 26, 1876, 263 US Army soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer died fighting several thousand Lakota, and Cheyenne warriors. It is also home to the Custer National Cemetery, the final resting place of nearly 5,000 armed services veterans from the late 19th C. to the present.</p> <p>The park hosts over 350,000 visitors from all over the world every year. The museum, near pristine battlefield landscape, and national cemetery are all critical resources that the park must preserve, protect, and interpret. The project takes on two key elements of the unit's complex stewardship and interpretation responsibilities – preservation and interpretation of the Custer National Cemetery grounds in the face of drought and disease impacting its landscape trees and turf, and launching new forms of digital interpretive products on the unit's resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct background research on turf and tree management for arid or semi-arid environments and national cemetery landscape standards, using on-line information, interviews with agency resource managers across the country, library research, etc. The intern will conduct this research independently with limited oversight from park staff, and will archive the information gathered into park archives using established protocols. They will collaborate with a nationally recognized NPS turf manager and cultural landscape professional, the park biologist, and other experts in the field. • Assist in the development of a monitoring program for turf and landscape tree health. • Develop information and interpretive products for the park, including: information that is written for the public which may include web page content, social media content, kiosks, trail signs, fact sheets, audiovisual content, and other educational materials (K-12, and/or general public, as appropriate). <p>The work directly relates to the NPS goals of preservation, protection, and interpretation of park resources and values. The intern will participate in planning needed to preserve the National Cemetery grounds and maintaining the historic landscape in the face of a drier and hotter environment. Years of drought and disease have severely impacted the appearance of the historic grounds, making it challenging to show proper respect for the military veterans interred there, and to provide a tranquil experience for visiting families and other members of the public. The intern's research will provide critical groundwork for successfully designing a new landscape</p>	

that is resilient, yet consistent with the historic character of the unit, and for developing a protocol for monitoring its condition.

The digital outreach effort is critical to expanding awareness of park resources, including the battlefield, cemetery, and its natural and cultural resources, in new ways and for new audiences. For example, currently visitors must use a paper logbook and map to locate graves of interest. The cemetery locator app will enable digital access to grave locations and inscriptions. The flythrough will provide virtual access to areas where critical episodes in the battle occurred that are closed to public access.

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: The intern will: complete digital products to include a fly through of the park showing its natural and cultural features, a locator app highlighting various natural and cultural features of the park such as significant topographic features, prairie plant communities, trails, and monuments; create and add records into the park archives system; assist park staff with relevant resource management duties including development of geospatial data concerning the subject resources assisting with the park night sky program, and ; preparation of scientific information in formats appropriate for various public and professional audiences.

QUALIFICATIONS


Applicants should possess education and experience in biological and geospatial disciplines. Applicants with field experience, field methods training, and /or field school experience are encouraged to apply. Applicant experience with field mapping and GPS and GIS skills should be identified in the application. The ability to recognize and identify plants and physiographic features in the field may also be important for this position. The intern must be proficient in field note taking and reporting, adapting complex scientific information for public interpretation purposes, and working with a variety of employees and disciplines. Preference will be given to applicants with extensive GIS, digital outreach, writing, and outdoor skills and experience. As a small park, staff can be tasked with a varying work on short notice, so flexibility and adaptability to changing priorities are a plus.

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 valid driver's license is required for the project. A vehicle is not required for the project. Housing is very close to the work station. However, the nearest basic shopping is two miles away from the park. A larger town is twelve miles away, but with limited shopping/services. The nearest city with major shopping, entertainment, healthcare, banking services etc. is sixty miles away. Not having a personal vehicle would be very challenging in a practical and social sense.

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 incumbent may live in a three-bedroom house with other park staff of mixed ages, genders and backgrounds. All residents will have private bedrooms, but may share bathroom facilities, cooking, and living areas. Houses are stocked with basic cooking implements and appliances. Wireless internet service will be available. Phone service is not provided. TV is limited to local stations. Applicant must bring own bed linens and towels.	
INTERNSHIP START/END DATES	
Start Date: 5/13/2019	
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: The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument preserves 765 acres of rolling hills in the High Plains, overlooking the valley of the Little Bighorn River and the Beartooth Range, Pryor Mountains, and Yellowstone National Park visible to the west. Here in 1876, the Battle of the Little Bighorn broke out between the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne. The Monument memorializes one of the Indian's last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. On June 25 and 26 of 1876, 263 soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer and attached personnel of the U.S. Army, died fighting several thousand Lakota, and Cheyenne warriors.	
The nearest basic grocery store is two miles away from the park in Crow Agency, MT. A larger town-Hardin, M-is twelve miles away, but with limited shopping/services. The nearest city-Billings, MT-with all usual major shopping, entertainment, healthcare, banking services etc. is sixty miles away.	
Work Environment: Office is well lit and comfortable. Time will be approximately 50/50 office/field. The terrain is often very uneven. Weather may be cold, hot, windy, or inclement. Intern should be able to walk up to six miles per day with a light pack, though this would be a frequent duty.	
MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS	
Mentoring: The intern will be supervised and mentored by the Chief of Resource Management and staff. They will be provided training and access to resources to expand their understanding of NPS resource management and a career in the NPS. They may have access to academics and agency staff conducting research in or around the park.	

Learning Goals: This internship will provide diverse and challenging field and desk experience through documentation and monitoring of park resources and digital outreach initiatives. The intern will also gain experience and understanding of resource management principles and practices used by the National Park Service, and experience "translating" complex scientific information to the general public, including K-12 students. Mentoring and training will be available to assist with ongoing professional development.

SUPERVISORS

Primary Supervisor: Staffan Peterson Ph.D.	Secondary Supervisor: Wayne Challoner
Title: Chief, Integrated Resource Management	Title: Superintendent
Address: 756 Battlefield Tour Road Crow Agency, MT 59022	Address: 756 Battlefield Tour Road Crow Agency, MT 59022
Phone number: (406) 638-3221	Phone number: (406) 638-3201
Email address: staffan_peterson@nps.gov	Email address: wayne_challoner@nps.gov
Park or Program Website: https://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm	Park or Program Website: https://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm