



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK	PD #: 2019072
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant</p> <p>Position Type: GIP Intern</p> <p>Primary natural resource discipline: Biological resources</p> <p>Project keywords: fieldwork, birds, ornithology, GIS, wildlife, habitat management, research, surveys, partnerships, landscape conservation, habitat assessment, data management,</p> <p>Location: Manassas, Virginia</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: Manassas National Battlefield Park preserves approximately 4,400 acres of rolling hills, forests and grasslands where the 1st and 2nd Battles of Manassas occurred. The Park is home to many different natural communities that support biologically diverse populations of flora and fauna. As the surrounding lands become urbanized by a rapidly growing population, the battlefield has become a regionally significant natural oasis. With warm season grassland habitat in decline, Manassas Battlefield provides a home and resting stop to over 160 species of birds.</p> <p>Six years ago, Manassas Battlefield established a program for monitoring the Northern bobwhite quail population and assessing the quality of their habitat to make informed land management decisions. The program has led the battlefield to join the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) as a focal area for the national program. As a focal area, the park is to assess the ecological suitability of our grasslands, and make efforts to improve the quality of the habitat in the park’s warm season grasslands. The park would like to utilize a GIP internship to support the park’s role as a focal area for the NBCI, and to assist additional natural resource projects. The intern would monitor Northern bobwhite populations during spring and grassland breeding bird surveys, perform habitat assessments, and implement a ground nesting bird habitat improvement plan.</p> <p>Duties would include, but are not limited to: performing bird surveys, creating brush piles in forest edges, improving wildlife habitat, planting native forbs, completing habitat assessment surveys, completing the associated data management and assisting with any additional natural resource management projects. Additional natural resource management projects could include: forest vegetation monitoring to assess the impacts of deer browsing, upkeep of wetland and meadow planting areas, integrated pest management, pollinator garden management and natural resource education and outreach.</p> <p>The GIP could expect to learn about the National Park Service Agency and its mission, and the variety of careers that exist within the Department of the Interior. Preserving the historic landscape, and the meadows and grasslands that are part of this landscape is directly tied to both our enabling legislation and our park’s purpose statement. Ensuring the implementation of Best Management Practices and Adaptive Management are fundamental responsibilities of the National Park Service. Manassas National Battlefield Park (MANA), has joined the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative as a focal area to help contribute bird population data and habitat assessment information to a national landscape scale analysis of land management practices and wildlife habitat. The GIP Natural Resource Management Assistant with a focus on Northern Bobwhite and Grassland breeding birds will contribute to the success of this project and multi-agency partnership by completing the necessary bird</p>	

population and habitat assessment surveys and documenting habitat management practices to add data to the annual national database. The need for BMP's in our grassland management and view shed preservation is addressed by planning documents: General Management Plans, Foundation Documents, and the Natural Resource Condition Assessment

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: Final products and deliverables of the GIP project would include: 57 completed Northern Bobwhite and grassland breeding bird surveys with completion of the associated data entry and management; Arc GIS shapefiles and maps of existing land management practices and recommended management actions; the implementation of recommended land management actions in multiple areas of the park; and a written summary of the management actions that took place. Additional deliverables and work products from the GIP experience would include an increase in the intern's awareness and understanding of career paths in the National Park Service, and an expanded resume for the GIP.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant should have a strong background in ornithology, GIS and natural resource management. Applicant must be comfortable performing physically arduous tasks in extreme environmental conditions. This is an internship that will require a mixture of field work and office work.

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 and personal vehicle are required to commute between housing and the park's duty station. The nearest grocery store is approximately 3 miles away, but the road conditions are not safe for pedestrian travel. A personal vehicle is necessary and required to travel to the duty station and into town. Official park vehicles will be used for conducting park business during the workday.

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. Housing is available within the park. This is shared housing, often with a roommate, with a shared bathroom, kitchen and living area. The housing will have a porch or patio and is located near the park trail systems for enjoyment. A personal vehicle is needed to travel for groceries, entertainment, and from the housing to the work office. The road conditions are not safe for pedestrian travel. Housing comes equipped with a refrigerator, washing machine, dryer, dishes, cook ware, furniture and a television with DVD player. Cable and high-speed internet are sometimes provided, and there are local libraries and restaurants that provide wi-fi within a 10 minute drive. A resident would need to bring bedding, clothing, toiletries, laundry basket, field gear, etc.. Optional items to bring would include yard games, board games, DVD's or even a gaming system for video games that don't require steady internet.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES	
Start Date: 5/20/2019	
Number of weeks: 12 weeks	
Flexibility of dates: Yes	
LIVING ALLOWANCE	
12 weeks (\$350/week = \$4,200)	
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE	
\$250	
AMERICORPS PROGRAM	
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Physical/Natural Environment: Manassas National Battlefield Park, established in 1940, preserves the sites of the First and Second Battles of Manassas. These important battlegrounds and associated monuments are nestled in over 4,400 acres of meadows, woodlands and streams. The Resource Management division oversees these historic lands for their important contribution to local and regional biodiversity. At about 305' elevation, temperatures can range from 55 degrees Fahrenheit to 105 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months at Manassas. The temperature typically ranges from 20 degrees to 105 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. Manassas National Battlefield is located in Prince William County, Virginia which has a population of over 40,600 residents and offers many opportunities for recreation, shopping and cultural activities. Groceries and entertainment are within a 5 mile drive from the housing location. The park provides over 40 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, and fishing ponds. It is conveniently located near several recreational parks and approximately 30 miles from the nation’s capital.</p> <p>Work Environment: Much of the work would be performed in the field, but would include a mixture of light field work, arduous physical labor, and office work. Applicant must be comfortable with bird identification, ArcGIS and performing arduous work in extreme environmental conditions. Exposure to extreme temperatures, variable weather conditions, poisonous plants, biting insects, wildlife and uneven terrain is to be expected and conducted safely. Personal protective equipment and tailgate safety sessions will be provided by the park regularly to help support a safe work environment.</p>	
MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS	
<p>Mentoring: The intern would work regularly with park staff to learn about the park’s resources, management objectives and the Park Service mission. At the park level, the Natural Resource Land Manager would provide project oversight, while Natural Resource staff Biologists would be available for project consultation, guidance and assistance. Communication and collaboration with the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Inter-agency partners and representatives will be encouraged. Partnerships with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the NBCI facilitate inter-agency communication and collaboration. The intern would have ample opportunities to work with local volunteers and citizen scientists with expertise in a range of fields from plant and animal identification</p>	

to land management techniques. Training and networking opportunities would be available for the intern. Some examples of possible opportunities include: park wide safety training, NPS Youth events, Manassas National Battlefield's Natural Resource Orientation, Regional Invasive Pest Management Training, and hands on training of natural resource projects. The intern would have the option of attending a National Capital Region Natural Resource Advisory Team Meeting, in which they could meet and network with various levels resource professionals in the National Park Service. Shadowing other divisions and NPS positions would be encouraged. Park staff would offer information, mentorship and coaching about NPS career paths and resume building.

Learning Goals: Learning goals include: expanded knowledge of the National Park Service and NPS careers; in depth understanding of natural resource management issues and adaptive management practices; increased awareness of the human dimension in natural resources; advanced abilities to network and sustain interagency partnerships; and improved technical skills in ornithology, habitat management, and best management practices. Shadowing other divisions and NPS positions would be encouraged. Park staff would offer information, mentorship and coaching about NPS career paths and resume building.

SUPERVISORS

Primary Supervisor: Bryan Gorsira	Secondary Supervisor: Courtney James
Title: Natural Resource Program Manager	Title: Biologist
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