



## GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

### 2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK		PD #: 2019088
<p><b>Position Title:</b> Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant</p> <p><b>Position Type:</b> GIP Intern</p> <p><b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Multidisciplinary</p> <p><b>Project keywords:</b> Interpretation, digital media, public education for natural resources topics and issues, science behind preservation</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Luray, Virginia</p>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS		
<p><b>Position Description:</b> Shenandoah National Park has a robust natural resources monitoring program and a strong interpretive team; however the daily demands of each program often get in the way of a true connection between the two. We are both fully committed to the need and potential benefits of communicating our work to the public, and are looking to this position to assist in that endeavor. The intern will function primarily as a liaison between the natural resources scientists in the park and the visual media branch of the interpretive division. The goal of this position is to give voice to the science behind the preservation of our natural resources to the public through as many avenues and platforms as possible. The participant will work to distill complex scientific concepts into information and interpretation products that will facilitate an understanding of why we study what we study, and what the long-term benefits of our work will have on the health and well-being of our nation. This will be accomplished through research and creative development of print documents, web content, short videos, livestream presentations, and other genre as appropriate. The intern would also assist with the organization of natural resource images-editing and entering metadata into the Park's database to make these images accessible parkwide. The intern will be guided by extremely skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced staff in both the science we wish to communicate and the technologies that we wish to use as our delivery methods.</p> <p>If preservation and recreation are the goals of the NPS, we must plan our work based on sound science that allows both of those to occur while providing the same for future generations. It is our experience that although people are well aware of the wonderful and inspiring recreational opportunities in Shenandoah, they have little to no understanding of what informs our management practices and decisions. We believe that educating the public about what we do and how we do it in ways that are exciting and accessible will help enhance their understanding of what's needed to provide recreation while preserving our national treasures for future generations. This work will do exactly that!</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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approximately 15 resource briefs now in draft would be revised and produced in InDesign and converted to 508-compliant PDFs for public dissemination on our website and through additional avenues.</li><li>• Approximately 10 "Science Shorts" would be produced--short 3 to 5-minute videos about critical resource issues-- and used in a variety of venues.</li></ul>		

- Approximately 5 livestream presentations would be planned and produced to relate exciting events in the natural resources realm at Shenandoah: peregrine reintroduction, bear population management, rock outcrop management are examples.
- The intern would also evaluate how natural resource information is presented on the Park website and work with the team to make improvements and updates.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Experience in Adobe Suite programs, particularly InDesign would be important. Experience in photography, videography, and editing would be preferable, although we can train if the incumbent has an interest. Understanding and undergraduate training and/or knowledge of basic biology, geology, scientific processes and principles are also important. An interest (preferably a passion) for these topics and presenting them to the public, as well as aptitude for communicating with the public are vital. The ability for self-direction is desirable, although we fully embrace our role as mentors.

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. Housing would likely be driving distance from grocery stores, restaurants, and entertainment. The area is rural and there is no public transportation.

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 will be provided at no cost to the participant. Housing is provided in furnished co-ed houses that each hold 3-4 interns or temporary employees. Some rooms are doubles, and others are singles. The male-female balance usually determines who is in a single vs a double room. All houses have electricity, modern plumbing with hot water, and kitchen facilities. One has A/C, the others do not. There is a shared laundry area within the housing area. Participants must bring their own pots and pans, dishes, towels, and linens as well as their personal items. However, we do have some linens, towels and other supplies that can be loaned to interns who fly to the Park and cannot bring their own.

#### **INTERNSHIP START/END DATES**

**Start Date:** 5/12/2019

**Number of weeks:** 20 weeks

**Flexibility of dates:** Yes

#### **LIVING ALLOWANCE**

20 weeks (\$350/week = \$7,000)

#### **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:** Shenandoah National Park is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. It covers about 200,000 acres across the crest of the mountain stretching 105 miles from the town of Front Royal to the city of Waynesboro. The duty station and housing for this position are located at the Park's headquarters about 4 miles east of Luray. There are all the normal small town amenities in Luray and we are within a half-hour of several college cities and within an hour of the Washington DC area. Summers are usually hot and humid with average temperatures in the 90s.

**Work Environment:** The primary work environment would be in an office on the headquarters campus within walking distance of housing. The intern would have access to an array of state-of-the-art equipment including cameras, lenses, 360 equipment, computers, Adobe software that is necessary for the position description's tasks. The intern would also have ample opportunity to travel in and through the park to interact with scientists and resources in his/her research and development of outreach materials. Moderate physical condition to walk on and off-trail while carrying moderately heavy equipment, and tolerance for the outdoors (bugs, heat, etc.) would be required.

## MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** The intern will work closely with both the natural resources professional staff and the visual media team. We will provide training in the technologies we use to create our outreach products. We operate in a very collaborative atmosphere and anticipate involving the intern in all aspects of our work. The intern will be mentored by both natural resource staff and media team staff, so this will be an excellent opportunity to see how two disciplines within one park work together toward common goals under a common mission. There will also be opportunities for cross-training with other divisions.

**Learning Goals:** The intern will experience what it is to operate within a highly creative, highly productive professional team. He/She will be an integral part of the team and will be given the opportunity for independent management of products. The intern can expect to develop (or further develop) skills in design, universal design for 508 compliance, videography, photography, public speaking, interpretation of complex to engaging critical resource issues and more.

## SUPERVISORS

<b>Primary Supervisor:</b> Claire Comer	<b>Secondary Supervisor:</b> Wendy Cass
<b>Title:</b> Park Ranger	<b>Title:</b> Botanist
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<b>Email address:</b> claire_comer@nps.gov	<b>Email address:</b> wendy_cass@nps.gov
<b>Park or Program Website:</b> <a href="http://www.nps.gov/shen">www.nps.gov/shen</a>	<b>Park or Program Website:</b> <a href="http://www.nps.gov/shen">www.nps.gov/shen</a>