



# GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

## 2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION FALL/WINTER SEASON

NPS UNIT: MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK		PD #: 2019447
<p><b>Position Title:</b> Natural Resource Management Assistant (1)</p> <p><b>Position Type:</b> GIP Intern</p> <p><b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Multidisciplinary</p> <p><b>Project keywords:</b> Caves, GIS, Resource and Cultural Management, Exotics, Hydrology</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Mammoth Cave, Kentucky</p>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS		
<p><b>Position Description:</b> The primary duty of the intern will be to assist the park's Science and Resources Management Division in the field with a variety of projects. Some of these projects include updating and expanding inventory of caves and karst features in the park, monitoring avian species in the park, trail monitoring, water quality, monitoring sensitive species, archaeological site monitoring, historic site and abandoned well locations, etc. Field work will include backcountry hiking as well as some caving. The intern will be locating cave sites, ground-truthing recorded locations, recording vital data GPS locations, taking photographs, recording data, etc. Office work will include combing records for resources that have not been field-verified, entering data into park databases and the GIS system, and scanning historic documents.</p> <p>The selected individual will also have the opportunity to assist with other projects as well. The exact nature of additional opportunities will depend on the intern's availability and what research will be going on in the division at that time. Individuals may also assist with Karst Field Studies, or assist volunteers and other interns that may be working in the park. The individual will work under the supervision of the park's GIS Specialist. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required to allow the individual to obtain computer access.</p> <p>Mammoth Cave National Park has over 400 cave and karst features that are not connected to the main 412 miles of the known Mammoth Cave passages. These cave and karst features have an abundance of resources that the park monitors. The intern will play a critical roll in accomplishing all the tasks necessary to protect and preserve our park resources.</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> The GIP will write a report regarding the research and projects they have worked on during the internship and will present to the Division Chief and other division employees. The intern will complete resource inventories and provide various information (photos, GPS locations, updated information, etc.) to assist with the protection of the park resources.</p>		
QUALIFICATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to hike for long days, in strenuous conditions, while carrying a heavy load</li> <li>• A background in natural sciences is helpful for this position but not required</li> </ul>		

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 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

**Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record.** A valid driver license is required to drive park vehicles for fieldwork.

**A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.** A personal vehicle is not required but is highly recommended for getting to town for groceries and supplies. Housing is within walking distance of the office.

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 available and will be provided at no cost to the participant.** Housing is in the park and within walking distance of the office. Housing will be either a one bedroom apartment or a 3 bedroom house that will most likely be shared with other participants and researchers. Each housing unit has a full kitchen however, cooking supplies may or may not be available. The quarters are basic with furniture, microwave, stove, and refrigerator. The intern is required to bring pillows and bedding for the housing unit assigned.

#### INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

**Start Date:** 9/16/2019

**Number of weeks:** 12 weeks

**Flexibility of dates:** Yes

#### LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 weeks (\$350/week = \$4,200)

#### RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

\$250 (mainland only)

#### 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 relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,612 - \$6,095 pre-tax education award 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, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

## NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

**Natural Environment:** Mammoth Cave National Park is home to the world's longest cave system. The park is located in the heart of the central Kentucky karst, one of the best studied karst areas in the world. The park contains approximately 53,000 acres of mixed hardwood forests, grasslands, and wetlands. It also houses 24 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers. Summers in central Kentucky are typically hot and humid. Fall is typically warm and humid. The park is underlain by Mississippian and Pennsylvanian Sedimentary rocks, with karst development occurring in several Mississippian Limestones. In addition to the world's longest cave system, the park contains over 400 other recorded caves, varying in size from a few tens of feet to several miles long. The nearest communities to the park are Cave City, Park City, and Brownsville Kentucky. These communities have convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, and a few small grocery stores. The larger cities within a thirty minute drive of the park are Bowling Green, KY and Glasgow, KY . The nearest commercial airports are Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN; each are about 100 miles from the park. Participant will work out of the Science and Resource Management office.

**Physical Work Environment:** The majority of the work for this position will be in the field. The work will involve strenuous physical activity, hiking always off trail through forest and undergrowth, in hot and humid weather, working in and around caves. Carrying a heavy backpack with the necessary tools and water for the day as well as lunch will be required. Mammoth Cave is home to two types of poisonous snakes as well as several varieties of non-venomous snakes, ticks, etc. that will be encountered in the woods on a daily basis. The park provides tick spray, first aid kits, and snake chaps as precautions. The GIP will receive training in safe caving and backcountry fieldwork.

## MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** Mammoth Cave will provide on-the-ground, science-based work experience with the park resource management staff members. We have a knowledgeable and experienced staff within the division of Science and Resources Management. The selected intern will work closely with resource management staff as well as other interns and students. We are mainly a field-based division; the majority of work performed during the internship will be in the outdoors alongside a permanent staff member. The individual that is selected will have daily opportunities to work in the cave, woods, on and off trails as well as on the river in the park. We will also be able to mentor the intern to look for available positions on USA jobs and other jobs in this type of field. Park staff offer assistance to the selected intern with resume building for other possible federal jobs.

**Learning Goals:** Some skills the intern will develop may include: reading paper maps, mapping and land navigation with a number of different types of GPS units, introduction to caving, water quality sampling, air quality sampling, environmental education, identifying archaeology sites, monitoring avian species in the park, trail monitoring, identifying native and non-native plants, inventorying bats and etc. At the end of the internship, the intern will present their experiences at a park meeting.

## SUPERVISORS

### Primary Supervisor:

Lillian J. Scoggins  
GIS Specialist  
61 Maintenance Road  
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259  
(270) 758-2149 | [Lillian\\_Scoggins@nps.gov](mailto:Lillian_Scoggins@nps.gov)  
[nps.gov/mac](https://nps.gov/mac)

### Secondary Supervisor:

Brice Leech  
Biologist  
61 Maintenance Road  
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## Internship Program

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