**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**2020 SPRING/SUMMER**

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<tr>
<th>NPS UNIT: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK</th>
<th>PD #: 2020087, 2020088</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position Title:</strong> Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant (2)</td>
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<td><strong>Position Type:</strong> Guest Scientist</td>
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<td><strong>Primary natural resource discipline:</strong> Multidisciplinary</td>
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<td><strong>Project keywords:</strong> interpretation, backcountry, education</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Grand Canyon, Arizona</td>
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS**

**Position Description:** At Grand Canyon National Park, the Guest Scientist will be an integral member of both the inner canyon interpretive team and a diverse backcountry work group. They will hike into the canyon and staff the Indian Garden Ranger Station as the resident backcountry interpreter. Primary duties will include providing interpretive/educational programs to backcountry users on a variety of geologic and natural resource topics.

The GIP will research, develop, and present original interpretive programs based on NPS Interpretive Development Program standards with minimal preparation time. Program topics cover a variety of natural and cultural features of the park. In addition to formal programming, the GIP will provide roving interpretation, backcountry orientation and hike smart information at backcountry campgrounds and along park trails.

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Interpretation is a major avenue for accomplishing this mission. It does so by helping park visitors find deeper meanings in and connections to their National Parks.

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 GIP will provide up to 4 formal programs (30-45 minutes) and facilitate audience centered pop-up experiences. Program outlines for at least 4 programs will be submitted as polished final products for their GIP program project requirement. The final outlines will be used as training examples for future interns or volunteers at the Grand Canyon as well as the wider NPS Interpretation community on the Common Learning Portal.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicants must have at least an undergraduate degree in earth sciences and/or education. Some experience in public speaking, interpretation or environmental education is preferred but not required. Knowledge of standard Microsoft Office software is required. A Wilderness First Aid certification or higher is preferred.
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 does not need a valid driver license.** We do not anticipate the GIP using a park vehicle.

**A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.** The South Rim of Grand Canyon has restaurants, post office, gas station, churches, small grocery store, k-12 school, and medical clinic. Full services are available in Flagstaff, AZ located 80 miles from the park. Many residents choose to do their shopping in Flagstaff. Having a personal vehicle would also allow one to take advantage of recreational opportunities in the greater Northern Arizona area.

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.** South Rim housing is furnished in a shared government trailer, cabin or apartment with shared kitchen, living and bath areas and possibly a shared bedroom. Ability to live and work closely with others is essential. Bring cooking utensils, linens and personal items. Family members and/or pets are not allowed in shared housing. This is a remote location and, depending on your provider, cell phone reception may be poor or non-existent. There is limited internet availability in the residential area but wifi can be accessed throughout the community.

While on-duty quarters will be provided at one of the inner canyon Ranger Stations. The GIP will share the Ranger Residence with an on-duty Visitor and Resource Protection (VRP) ranger. VRP rangers may be commissioned law enforcement, non-law enforcement seasonal rangers, Backcountry Information Center staff, or experienced volunteers (VIPs). Quarters are small and you must be respectful of your coworker(s). The station is fully furnished and linens, kitchen wares, and towels are provided. These facilities must be vacated at the end of each tour of duty. There is a strict guest policy which requires prior approval from Law Enforcement and VIPs on-duty. The typical schedule is an 8-day tour with 10-hour work days followed by a 6-day weekend.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

**Start Date:** 8/30/2020  
**Number of weeks:** 12 weeks  
**Flexibility of dates:** No

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

12 weeks ($400/week = $4,800)  

**RELOCATION 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 relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a $1,638 - $6,195 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:** The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is the world’s greatest example of arid land erosion and one of the most spectacular exposures of stratified rocks. The vastness of its landscape has an average depth of 5,000 feet, width of 10 miles, and a length of 277 river miles – contains a seemingly infinite system of colorfully sculptured plateaus, mesas, buttes, cliffs, slopes, ridgelines, and side canyons. The South Rim is located at an elevation of 7000 ft and the duty stations range from an elevation of 4000 to 2400 ft.

Work is primarily performed outdoors, often under a variety of conditions that include temperature/weather extremes from very hot, arid summers with occasional monsoon rains, to cold, windy, snowy with blizzard conditions in the spring and fall. In the early fall, the inner canyon can retain summer heat levels and reach into the 100 degrees (°F). Sun exposure in the middle of the day can create surface temperatures that are 15F to 20F (9C-11C) degrees hotter than posted shade temperatures. Late summer thunderstorms or early winter snow storms have been known to take place during this transition season, making for sudden changes to the weather. While winter is relatively mild in the inner canyon, winter conditions on the South Rim can be extreme. Be prepared for snow, icy roads and trails, and possible road closures. Winter weather typically begins by November and becomes well entrenched by December and January, with frequent light to moderate snows and increasingly colder weather. Low temperatures are generally in the teens along the South Rim; however afternoon high temperatures still average in the 40s (4-9°C), due to the amount of sunshine the area receives.

**Physical Work Environment:** Duties require extensive walking, standing, hiking below the rim, and challenging variable shifts. One may be required to hike as many as 14 miles in a day with 6000 ft elevation change. In a backcountry setting, the ability to notify coworkers about emergencies and adapt to changing priorities during an emergency is imperative. The GIPs will be trained to communicate effectively with a hand-held radio. This position requires long periods standing with significant time spent outdoors in a variety of weather extremes.

Grand Canyon is dynamic and can be stressful, there are over 500 NPS employees here. There are eighty Interpretation employees at Grand Canyon (VIPs, guides, seasonal rangers, permanent rangers, resource education staff). In the Canyon District there are 3 permanent and 3 seasonal employees in interpretation. The GIPs will often work independently and must have the ability to communicate with the supervisor and coworkers from different locations. The GIPs will work closely with all divisions in the district, especially law enforcement. While on duty, you live and work in the same location. You must be a must be willing and able to coexist with a variety of personality types. Additionally there is limited privacy as visitors often seek assistance after hours.
MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** The GIPs will work with seasoned park rangers while learning the day to day operations. The participants’ interpretive ranger talks will be coached by park rangers and the supervisor. The incumbents will participate in Grand Canyon’s peer observation program learning to provide and receive quality feedback on presentations. The participants will have access to Grand Canyon research libraries and will be eligible to participate in Grand Canyon training events and online training. A Canyon District interpretation park ranger will supervise and mentor this position. The participants will work alongside the seasonal staff. This opportunity gives the participants experience working within the National Park Service mission and 21st Century Interpretation by allowing them to facilitate audience centered experiences for visitors in hopes to create stewards for Grand Canyon.

**Learning Goals:** The GIPs will develop tools for mitigating risk and promoting safe operations in a backcountry setting. The GIP Guest Scientists will work independently to learn about Grand Canyon. They will expand communication skills to have successful non-formal interpretive contacts with park visitors and to create and present formal interpretive ranger programs using 21st Century Interpretive Skills. In addition to providing daily programming for visitors, the GIPs will create formal annotated program outlines that will serve as a stand alone project to use in a portfolio of work. These outlines can be used for training future employees. The GIP will develop and implement an unstaffed Audience Centered Pop-up to engage visitors with Grand Canyon’s Natural resources.

**SUPERVISORS**

**Primary Supervisor:**
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