## NPS UNIT: MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title:</th>
<th>Biology Assistant (1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Type:</td>
<td>GIP Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary natural resource discipline:</td>
<td>Biological resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project keywords:</td>
<td>Bobwhite Quail, habitat improvement, citizen science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Manassas, Virginia</td>
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## PD #: 2020007

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

**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. Manassas Battlefield has an established program for monitoring the Northern bobwhite quail population and assessing the quality of their habitat. After assessing the ecological suitability of our grasslands, efforts must be made to improve the quality of the habitat in the park’s warm season grasslands. The park would like to utilize a GIP internship to monitor Northern bobwhite populations, and implement a ground nesting bird habitat improvement plan.

Duties include, but are not limited to:
- creating brush piles in forest edges,
- removing Autumn Olive, an exotic species, for use in habitat building/restoration
- planting native forbs,
- completing bird and habitat assessment surveys, and
- assisting with any additional natural resource management projects.

The Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative has just formed an alliance with the National Park Service to encourage a landscape scale approach to monitoring quail and improving their habitat. This is a high profile project, with potential for helping many parks within the system. Notable advances with this project will be held as an example for others, highlighting the potential for everyone to reach for higher goals. This project directly ties to the NPS mission of providing quality habitat for a variety of species. Management of habitats with a changing climate is a moving target and this project will help us navigate management of our grasslands.

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:

1) Improved grassland habitat in 5 designated management areas
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<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>Completed spring quail surveys and habitat assessment surveys</td>
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<td>3)</td>
<td>GIS maps for park management</td>
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The intern will create a final report using GIS maps, photographs and text, that highlight the data collected, the habitat improvements created, and suggestions for future work.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicant should have a strong background in wildlife biology or ecology, 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 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. The intern will be driving a park vehicle to access various locations throughout the park.

**A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.** A vehicle is needed to travel for groceries and entertainment, and from the housing to the work 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, DUls, 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 available within the park within driving distance from the office. This is shared housing, often with a roommate, with shared kitchen and living area. A vehicle is needed to travel for groceries and entertainment.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

Start Date: 5/11/2020  
Number of weeks: 12 weeks  
Flexibility of dates: Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

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

**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 are not eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

**NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**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. The Manassas National Battlefield is located in Prince William County, Virginia which has a population of 40,600 and offers many opportunities for shopping and cultural activities. 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. Weather during the summers can be quite hot and humid.

**Physical Work Environment:** Work will include field work, physical labor, and office work. Applicant must be comfortable with arduous work in extreme environmental conditions. Exposure to plants, insects, and wildlife is to be expected and conducted safely.

**MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** Training and networking opportunities will be available for the intern. Some examples of possible opportunities include: park wide safety training, Youth Summit events, Manassas National Battlefield’s Natural Resource Orientation, Regional Exotic Plant Management Training, and hands on training of some natural resource projects. Park staff, both the Natural resource manager and the park biologist, will offer information, mentorship and advice about NPS career paths and resume building.

**Learning Goals:**

1) Completing the necessary surveys and management actions needed to monitor and improve ground nesting bird habitat in the park
2) Developing an understanding of the National Park Service and learn about employment opportunities
3) Advancing skills in research and natural resource management

**SUPERVISORS/MENTOR**

**Primary Supervisor/Mentor:**
Bryan Gorsira  
Natural Resource Program Manager  
12521 Lee Highway  
Manassas, VA  20109  
(703) 754-1861 | bryan_gorsira@nps.gov  
https://www.nps.gov/mana/learn/nature/index.htm

**Secondary Supervisor/Mentor:**
TBD  
Biolgist  
12521 Lee Highway  
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(703) 754-1861 | bryan_gorsira@nps.gov  
https://www.nps.gov/mana/learn/nature/index.htm