# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## 2020 FALL/WINTER

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<tr>
<th>NPS UNIT: DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT</th>
<th>PD #: 2020415</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position Title:</strong> Paleontology Assistant (1)</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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<tr>
<td><strong>Project keywords:</strong> museums, curation, paleontology, fossils</td>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong> Jensen, Utah</td>
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## COVID-19 NOTICE

This project description was developed prior to the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to postpone start dates, begin work remotely, or reformulate the project’s description. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project’s timeline or results, the GIP Team will work with the park and project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

**Position Description:** The Guest Scientist will assist with a variety of ongoing curation needs relating to the paleontological resources of the monument. Responsibilities include accessioning and cataloging fossils into the ICMS Database; stabilizing and repairing fossil specimens; constructing bedding jackets, support cradles and/or cavity mounts; specimen digitization; documentation of all work. Research will also be continued on past conservation techniques used on specimens, and how that relates to the current condition of the fossil in order to aid in future decision making about types and kinds of conservation work to utilize when stabilizing fossils within the collections.

This project will support critically needed conservation of fossils in the monument’s collection to prevent or slow deterioration of specimens through construction of support cradles. The position will contribute toward the conservation, management, research, and interpretation of the fossil resources which define the purpose of Dinosaur National Monument.

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:** 278 “at risk” fossils will receive treatment and improved storage. A minimum of 50 uncataloged fossils and records resulting from the project are expected to be cataloged into ICMS.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be patient, detail oriented, and comfortable working in a diverse team environment. Ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing is necessary. The participant must be able to work well independently with little supervision. Applicants should have or be working toward a degree in museum studies, geology, biology, or other related field. Graduate students and recent graduates are welcome to apply. Preference will be given to applicants having an excellent academic or museum employment record and a demonstrated ambition to pursue paleontology or museum collections care as a career. Experience with collections management, fossil conservation and stabilization, fossil support jacket and cradle making, database management, and basic digital photography are required. Excellent writing skills and physical hand writing skills.
are also required. If selected for an interview, examples of past work and a hand writing sample will be required prior to your interview.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veteran up to age 35. 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. Intern will be driving a park vehicle

A personal vehicle is **RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.** A NPS vehicle is available for work activities. Housing is about 50 yards from the work office. A personal vehicle is recommended as the nearest city is Vernal, Utah, which is 25 miles west of the park, and where groceries and amenities are available, and not available in the park or in near walking distance.

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. Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant in either a 3 bedroom HVAC house furnished as a dormitory (with 4-6 roommates) or a studio apartment, depending on seasonal availability. Housing includes all amenities (stove, utensils, pots, pans, frig, washer and dryer, bathroom with shower, etc.). Depending on park staffing dormitory rooms may need to be shared (2 persons/room, no mixed sexes). Housing is in the housing area of the Green River District (Jensen, Utah) so intern will be in the community of permanent and seasonal staff. House is located 50 yards from paleontology office.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

Start Date: 9/14/2020
Number of weeks: 52 weeks
Flexibility of dates: Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

52 weeks ($400/week = $20,800)

**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 $1,612 - $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 are not eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.
**NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Natural Environment:** Dinosaur National Monument straddles northwest Colorado & northeast Utah. The area is high desert, 5000 feet in elevation, with summer high temperatures of 100F, average winter lows of 20F, and 10% humidity. Housing area is located in Jensen, Utah. The nearest city is Vernal, Utah which is 25 miles west of the park.

**Physical Work Environment:** Much of the work will be conducted in an office or museum/collections room setting. Green River Resource Center & the museum collections are climate controlled. Some work spaces are not climate controlled and may require working outside or shaded areas for prolonged periods of time. Some work will be conducted by hand, and will often be messy and require the use of plaster, which can be hash on the skin. PPE will be provided and the Guest Scientist will be required to take a mask fit test and at times required to wear an air filtration mask.

**MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** The position will be supervised by the monument’s Paleontologist. The participant will occasionally work among a peer group with other paleontology interns. Paleontologist will provide general oversight but the Guest Scientist will have great latitude and freedom in carrying out the project. The monument’s paleontology program has many interactions with scientists and staff from various universities, agencies, and museums, which offer additional opportunities for networking. An orientation will provide training about the monument and specifically about paleontology. The intern will attend all employee parkwide training on safety, general orientation to the monument resources an operations, operational leadership, etc...as available and applicable. This provides a good introduction to the NPS in general and Dinosaur National Monument in particular.

**Learning Goals:** Practical experience will be gained in learning how an active science and museum management program functions in a national park unit. The participant will have opportunities to learn about paleontological resource management, museum inventory, collections curation, database maintenance, and museum management (including the possibility for a multi-day white water river trip). Opportunities exist for developing graduate thesis topics and independent research projects undertaken on own time on topics approved by supervisor, and not overlapping with other ongoing monument research.

**SUPERVISORS/MENTORS**

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<tr>
<th>Primary Supervisor/Mentor:</th>
<th>Secondary Supervisor/Mentor:</th>
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<tr>
<td>ReBecca Hunt-Foster</td>
<td>Lisa Baldwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paleontologist/Museum Curator</td>
<td>Chief, Resource Stewardship and Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 128, Jensen, Utah 84035</td>
<td>4545 Hwy 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(435) 781-7703</td>
<td>(970) 374-3064</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecca_hunt-foster@nps.gov">rebecca_hunt-foster@nps.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa_baldwin@nps.gov">lisa_baldwin@nps.gov</a></td>
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