

GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: FOSSIL BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #: 2020404
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant (1) Position Type: GIP Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Geologic resources Project keywords: geology, paleontology, fossils, education, interpretation, wildlife Location: Kemmerer, Wyoming</p>	
COVID-19 NOTICE	
<p>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.</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The selectee will serve as a member of the Interpretation and Education Division at Fossil Butte National Monument in Kemmerer, WY. The park has been expanding a successful distance education program for the last year, which teaches students from across the globe about the geologic and paleontological resources of the Fossil Basin area. Schools have been reached on six different continents and all across the United States. The Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant will independently develop curriculum based programs for schools to highlight the resources of the park and present them to the classrooms. The incumbent will receive education and interpretation training, as well as supplemental geology and paleontology training as needed to put programs together. We will also be doing programs in the community, in association with the local library, recreation center, and schools. The selected person will also staff the visitor center and provide customer service and information to in-person visitors. This will include educating them about fossil research, paleontology/geology of the area, climate change, area information, and other topics relevant to the National Park Service. As a Geoscientist-in-the-Park, they will also help work with fossil preparation, processing fossils taken from the park's research quarry during the summer months. The GIP will work in the fossil preparation lab to get fossil preparation projects done. Using iron and dolomite powders in air tools, fossils will be uncovered and prepped for museum and educational purposes. There will also be interpretive work done with park publications, social media, exhibits, and websites. The assistant will be assigned projects as needed to accomplish these tasks.</p> <p>The Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant will promote the National Park Service mission by educating students and visitors about the importance of protected spaces, particularly geologic and paleontological resources. As an integral part of the interpretation division, this person will teach the next generation of land stewards and allow our outreach program to grow beyond the limits it currently faces due to staffing. This GIP position will also help with the backlog of unprocessed fossils from the research quarry which will ultimately be used for museum, education, and research purposes for the NPS.</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).

Work Products: The education aspect of this position will be measured daily with the amount of students and visitors reached, both in person, in town, and virtual. By the end of the winter season, we hope to double our outreach numbers. In the preparation lab, deliverables will be finished fossils that are up to park standards.

QUALIFICATIONS

A strong interest in environmental education and protection is required for this position. Knowledge of the Green River Formation and the fossilization process is desired, as is a degree or work experience in the fields of geology, paleontology, zoology, geography, and/or biology. Lab based coursework is also desired. To be successful in the role, the GIP will have a geology or paleontology background and a passion for teaching others about it. A strong work ethic and the ability to adapt to changing situations is also a must. The incumbent also needs to be creative, as they will be developing their own programs and need to understand how students of varying ages learn.

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 AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. The intern will be driving a park vehicle for work.

A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position. Housing is about two miles from the visitor center where the intern will be working. It is also a 20 minute drive to the nearest town/grocery store.

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 an 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 a private bedroom and bathroom in a shared apartment. There is a washer and dryer in the unit, along with a TV and DVD player. Kitchen includes a microwave, stove, fridge, toaster, pots, pans, cookware, plates, cups, dinnerware, etc.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 11/1/2020

Number of weeks: 20 weeks

Flexibility of dates: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

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

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 AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment: The park sits just under 7,000 feet above sea level in a high desert, sagebrush environment. Winters are cold, with temperatures dipping below zero regularly. The nearest community to the park is Kemmerer, WY, which is about 15 miles away. There is a grocery store, hardware store, several restaurants, a movie theater, and a bowling alley. Outdoor recreational opportunities are abundant, as Forest Service and BLM land surround the area and places like Yellowstone, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks are a half day drive away. Deer, pronghorn, elk, coyotes, moose, prairie dogs, and other animals are common to see.

Physical Work Environment: Mostly indoor work will be required, with occasional transportation around the park. The GIP will be on the move as much as possible, working with school groups and visitors.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: The GIP will work closely with the Education Technician and the Supervisory Park Ranger. As this is a very small park, they will also get to know the curator, facility manager, and superintendent very well, and have them as future references. The GIP will get whatever mentoring and training that they need to get the job done, as well as to make sure their experience is worthwhile for the park and the participant. The Supervisory Park Ranger is dedicated to making the experience a positive one for all involved and to help the participant explore options for career development and exposure to different aspects of the Park Service. This mentorship and career counseling will continue beyond the actual internship.

Learning Goals: The participant will learn about geology and paleontology in the Fossil Basin area, including the history of the Wasatch and Green River Formations and the fossils that they hold. They will learn how to develop educational and interpretive programs and implement them in both a distance and in-person learning fashion. The selectee will also gain experience working in a fossil preparation lab, learning how to use air tools to expose specimens for display. Having experience working for the National Park Service will be an advantage for future employment and endeavors, as the name comes with a certain expectation of standards, education, and skillset. By working and networking with professionals in the field, the GIP will get an idea of whether or not a Park Service career is right for them.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

Primary:

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