



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: REGION 6-8 PLANNING PROGRAM	PD #: 2020447
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant (1) Position Type: Guest Scientist Primary natural resource discipline: Multidisciplinary Project keywords: social science, planning, visitor use management, outdoor recreation, data management, resource preservation, research, technical competence, writing Location: Lakewood, Colorado</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: This position will focus on building the social science capabilities of a National Park Service regional office by building a coalition with park and program level social scientists, conducting research and compiling resources, and developing tools and synthesis documents for park managers to undertake or enlist assistance in collecting information to be used in planning and management efforts for decision making. The applicant will provide technical assistance and experienced judgment on human dimensions of natural resources, recreation ecology, visitor access and trail experiences, visitor capacity and other visitor use related issues to inform complex planning and management efforts around the region.</p> <p>This position will work closely with regional planners and social scientists/resource managers in parks across the region and the service to understand visitor use and experience, as well as recreation related impacts to natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences. Major duties will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with CESU coordinators and other network staff to develop SOPs, templates, and best practices for park staff to develop social science projects, select university partners, and execute studies. • Conduct literature reviews and synthesize information into a variety of formats on topics relevant to the social science of park management (i.e. methodologies for visitor use surveys and monitoring, research regarding human dimensions of natural resources, etc). • Gather examples of data collection/monitoring protocols, sampling plans, and choose viable options from the pool of known questions to build a series of best practices for field level staff to use. • Provide reviews and guidance for visitor surveys and other research instruments. • Help parks collect social science data related to visitor use, visitor experience, and visitor related resource impacts, including deploying visitor use monitoring equipment, downloading information from equipment, developing visitor interviews, designing visitor behavior observation methodologies, and developing projects to use GIS equipment and mobile applications. 	

- Organize and consolidating data to prepare for analysis.
- Analyze social science data to answer research questions.
- Communicate social science research via written reports to a range of audiences.

Social science informs evidence-based management deliberations and ensures consideration of visitor enjoyment with regard to the Organic Act. Social science, specifically information collected about visitor use and experience, is an integral component to monitoring visitor-related resource impacts. Currently, there are minimal resources at the regional level to provide assistance to parks with complex data needs in the area of social science. This position would lay a framework to assist regional planners with meeting those park needs.

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: CESU for social science workbook that includes guidance for using the networks for social scientific purposes in parks; an annotated bibliography of social science topics to inform park management; toolkit of protocols, plans, and questions for parks to build social science projects; provide recommendations and reviews for new/ongoing social science projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

The intern should be seeking a degree, preferably an advanced degree in planning, social science, human dimensions of natural resources, resource management and policy, recreation, park and tourism management, ecosystems and society, sociology, or similar fields. The ideal candidate is a good writer and communicator and well-versed in qualitative and quantitative research methods, particularly with building and executing visitor surveys and perception studies. Experience working within a CESU network to conduct research and/or data collection at a national park unit is ideal but not required.

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 candidate may be driving a regional vehicle for work duties

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position. Public transportation is available in the area, however bus stops and routes may be limited near the office itself. Bicycle or other alternative transportation may be possible depending on comfort level.

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 NOT available and the intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. Single occupancy or shared housing likely available to rent in an active rental market

INTERNSHIP DATES	
Start Date: 9/14/2020	
Number of weeks: 12 weeks	
Flexibility of dates: Yes	
LIVING ALLOWANCE	
12 weeks (\$525/week = \$6,300)	
RELOCATION ALLOWANCE	
\$250	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE	
\$3000	
AMERICORPS PROGRAM	
 <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT	
Natural Environment: Office setting located in the Denver-metro area, high elevation with variable weather conditions, generally good access to amenities such as grocery stores.	
Physical Work Environment: Office setting with configurable standing or sitting desk. Some field travel is possible.	
MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS	
Mentoring: Two regional planners will be available for mentoring and professional development and will guide day to day tasks. Exposure to multiple directorates in the regional office will be focused on so the intern can gain a holistic understanding of the types of work that the regional office does. Additional opportunities exist to collaborate with social scientists in parks and national programs.	
Learning Goals: The intern will gain an understanding of how visitor use planning is conducted at an NPS regional office and how the region coordinates with and supports individual park units and their managers, in addition to how the region collaborates with national programs.	
SUPERVISORS/MENTORS	
Primary: Sami Powers planner 12795 W Alameda Parkway (303) 969-2932 sami_powers@nps.gov https://parkplanning.nps.gov/planningHome.cfm	Secondary: Susan McPartland portfolio manager 12795 W Alameda Parkway (303) 969-2322 susan_mcpartland@nps.gov https://parkplanning.nps.gov/planningHome.cfm