PROJECT DESCRIPTION
2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

Position Title: Geology Assistant (1)
Position Type: GIP Intern
Primary natural resource discipline: Geologic resources
Project keywords: Oil and Gas Well Inventory/Inspections, Abandoned Coal Mine Adit Inventory/Inspections, GIS Data Collection, Inventory/Inspection Reports
Location: Wartburg and Oneida, Tennessee

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 Cumberland Plateau boasts miles of scenic gorges and sandstone bluffs, is rich with natural and historic features and has been developed to provide visitors with a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. The Resource Management program is responsible for all aspects of resource management at the Obed Wild and Scenic River and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This position will be officed in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The parks have privately owned oil and gas wells and abandoned features associated with past coal mining in the area. The project will include updating and field checking existing conditions of active and inactive oil and gas wells and abandoned coal mine areas including documentation of potential environmental impacts.

The intern will work for the park’s Environmental Protection Specialist and duties will include work such as:

- The review and validation of existing inventories including inspection sheets, photographs and maps.
- Field work to update existing conditions of oils and gas wells and abandoned mine adits in the park including but no limited to completing inspection forms, taking photographs and collecting GPS locations of each site.
- Final reports of the updated information on wells and adits will be completed by the intern including inspection forms, maps, and photodocumentation.

This position will help the park identify and plan for safety issues related to abandoned coal mines. Coordinating with private mineral owners and operators is ongoing and this position will help support monitoring and reduction of potential impacts to natural and cultural resources.

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: This project will result in the documentation of current conditions in the park related oil and gas operations and abandoned coal mines. Up to date well and mine site inspections will allow park management to
identify potential impacts to park resources and formulate concise and complete requests for funding. Current conditions are also useful for continuing relationships with private mineral owners and operators in the park.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Highest priority will be given to applicants seeking a degree in Geology, Minerals Management, Petroleum Engineering other related fields.
- Have a strong working knowledge of GPS equipment, compass and maps
- Be able to travel on foot through rough terrain to remote work locations
- Have a strong working knowledge of ESRI GIS Software products (ArcMap, ArcPro, ArcGIS Online, Collector and Survey 123)

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 must possess a driver license to be able to operate government vehicles in the performance of their duties.

**A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.** The intern must have their own transportation for use during off-duty hours to travel to work, access grocery stores and other personal needs. The area is very rural and stores and communities are spread out.

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.** The KY dormitory is a 3 bedroom 2 bath house that has been setup for dormitory style housing. Each bedroom has one twin sized bed and two sets of dressers. The rooms are private, but the house may be shared by up to three individuals. The two bathrooms, kitchen, living area, and utility room with a washer and dryer are shared areas. Pets, firearms, wall hangings and flags are not allowed. This unit is not ADA accessible. The TN dormitory is a 4 bedroom facility. Each bedroom has two beds, two closets and a desk. You may be assigned a roommate based on demand. Each side of the dorm has two bedrooms, which share a bathroom and a kitchen. The center of the building contains a common area with a large living room with a TV and a utility/laundry room with a washer and dryer. No pets are allowed. This unit is ADA accessible.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

Start Date: 9/14/2020  
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 $1,612 - $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 will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

**NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Natural Environment:** The area is located on the Cumberland Plateau. The hardwood forests protect the free-flowing rivers and their tributaries. The area boasts miles of scenic gorges and sandstone bluffs, is rich with natural and historic features and has a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Summers are hot and humid with temperatures well above 90 degrees on many days. The area is approximately 10 miles from small cities that contain grocery stores, shopping and other facilities.

**Physical Work Environment:** The work environment will be a mix of field (60-70%) and office work (30-40%). Field work can take place in remote locations several miles from the nearest road and the applicant must be able to travel on foot through rough terrain carrying a pack and field equipment.

**MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** This position reports to and is supervised and mentored by the park’s Environmental Protection Specialist. The work assigned is associated with and supports the work of the Resource Management Division.

**Learning Goals:** The intern will gain skills in backcountry navigation, inspection techniques associated with producing and inactive oil and gas wells and abandoned coal mine sites including adits, and data organization skills for report writing. The intern will also get experience with a multi-disciplinary resource management program.

**SUPERVISORS/MENTORS**

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