NPS UNIT: OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT & PRESERVE  |  PD #: 2020450

Position Title: Education Assistant (1)  
Position Type: GIP Intern  
Primary natural resource discipline: Geologic resources  
Project keywords: Caves, interpretation, education  
Location: Cave Junction, Oregon

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: This is an environmental education position within the Division of Interpretation, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve. The intern will work with the park education specialist to prepare and present Earth science education activities geared for fourth through sixth grade students, including conducting an activity through the Oregon Caves. Fall 2020, the project will focus on development of new curriculum and teaching materials about the complex geology and/or diverse biology of the monument and preserve. These materials are intended to be used as post site or follow up activities to continue the learning process back in the classroom. Other duties will include leading guided tours of the cave for the general public and participation in public outreach events. We are hoping that our GIP could help with editing our current geology training if time permits.

Our project is all about educating and creating new stewards of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve and the NPS. In addition to delivering a curriculum based tour of Oregon Caves, our GIP will develop new and creative curriculum based activities for the teacher to take back to the classroom. These activities could also be added to our website for teachers to access as a distance learning component.

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 result will include a lesson plan and teaching materials available to instructors who visit Oregon Caves with their students and via internet for those who cannot.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants need a strong understanding of the Earth sciences, especially Geology; enthusiasm to learn more as it relates to the caves and the Klamath-Siskiyou Region; and a desire to share that knowledge verbally with the public, especially kids, and the ability to write well.
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 drive a government vehicle for work. We may also ask the intern to drive the government vehicle when attending off-site and outreach programs.

**A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.** A personal vehicle is required due to the remote nature of the duty station. The small town of Cave Junction is located 20 miles to the west and offers basic amenities. Grants Pass is 50 miles to the north and offers a wide range of amenities, including a hospital. Crater Lake and Redwood National Parks and the Pacific Ocean are all within a 3-hour drive.

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.** Housing is dormitory style in the historic chalet. It has a shared kitchen, laundry room, and communal bathrooms. Rooms are sparse and may be shared with a roommate. The participant must supply their own bedding (twin) and towels. Satellite TV and a DVD player are available in a shared entertainment room. Wi-Fi is available in the dorm, but on a limited basis (no streaming or gaming). Cell service is very limited. The dorm phone is available for use and you will need a calling card to be able to place long distance calls. The nearest grocery store and gas station is 20 miles away.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

**Start Date:** 8/16/2020  
**Number of weeks:** 12 weeks  
**Flexibility of dates:** No

**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: Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve is located within the rugged and beautiful Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon, an area widely recognized for its rich geological and biological diversity. The visitor center and historic lodge are nestled around the cave entrance under a lush green canopy of conifers, maples, and madrones. The elevation here is 4,000 feet. The small town of Cave Junction is located 20 miles to the west and offers basic amenities. Grants Pass is 50 miles to the north and offers a wide range of amenities, including a hospital. Crater Lake and Redwood National Parks and the Pacific Ocean are all within a 3-hour drive.

Physical Work Environment: Much of the work is in a cave environment leading up to 3, 90 minute tours per day. The temperature inside the cave is a constant 44 degrees Fahrenheit. Spring weather will vary from highs of 60 to lows below freezing. You can also expect periods of snowy and rainy weather during this time.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: Interpretive development training will be provided along with park resource training. The GIP intern will work closely with the education coordinator to develop a curriculum based education cave tour and other programming to present at off-site or outreach events.

Learning Goals: The intern will receive training (90 hours), present environmental education programs for school children (140 hours) and present interpretive cave tours (90 hours). The remaining 140 hours will be guided work with education coordinator and other team members preparing a curriculum about the geology and/or biology of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. The intern will also assist with and present public outreach programs about the site.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

Primary:
Jamie Cleaver
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