



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: SOUTHEAST COAST INVENTORY AND MONITORING NETWORK	PD #: 2020444
TIMUCUAN ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE	
<p>Position Title: Ecology Assistant (1) Position Type: GIP Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Biological resources Project keywords: salt marsh, shoreline, RSET, GPS, GIS Location: Jacksonville, Florida</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 Coastal Monitoring Intern will assist with Southeast Coast Inventory & Monitoring (SECN) Coastal Program projects, which includes long-term shoreline and salt marsh monitoring. The position is located at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (TIMU) in Jacksonville, FL. The overall objective of this position is to assist in the salt marsh and shoreline monitoring projects that provides long-term data for the parks in making management decisions. This position will also provide a diverse and educational experience to the candidate to strengthen their knowledge of the work SECN does. The SECN Coastal Program has been collecting data since 2014, performing salt marsh and shoreline monitoring. Shoreline monitoring is performed at CANA, FOMA, TIMU, CUIS, and CAHA in the spring and fall and salt marsh monitoring is performed at 4+ parks during the summer. The primary responsibilities of the internship are to assist the SECN Coastal Ecologist in conducting the salt marsh and shoreline monitoring projects, following specific methods and protocols. The intern will assist the coastal ecologist with material preparation, equipment maintenance, sampling elevation, accretion, collecting GPS surveys, and data collection, processing, and entry. This data will be used to create reports for the parks and is part of a long-term ecological monitoring effort by NPS to provide data to the parks on the status of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and ecosystem change with significant natural resources. The intern will receive safety training, mentorship, and have the opportunity to attend training.</p> <p>As part of the SECN Coastal Program, the coastal monitoring intern will assist with the data collection and processing of important natural resources identified at SECN parks, which will provide information for natural resource managers to continue to preserve the park's natural resources. The work this intern will do is imperative to the continued management and understanding of these park's natural resources for continued successful management for future generations. The work this intern will accomplish will assist SECN in collecting important natural resource data and getting it into the hands of the natural resource park managers.</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 Coastal Monitoring Intern will complete the data workflow process for our salt marsh data. This will include entering and checking the salt marsh data in the data base. Additionally, the intern will be responsible for ensuring that SECN and our partner's field data forms are scanned, named appropriately, and organized. The intern will have the opportunity to assist in shoreline monitoring and salt marsh monitoring data collection efforts at SECN Coastal Parks, utilize the GPS data, creating and editing GIS data, creating maps, and working with AGOL GIS data. If time allows, the intern will also have the opportunity to create story maps for the long-term shoreline and salt marsh monitoring projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

This position entails a high level of responsibility and initiative. The intern should have a Bachelor's degree in science related area, such as environmental science, geology, etc. Desired qualifications include the ability to work efficiently, independently, and be detail oriented is essential. Previous experience organizing and leading field efforts is preferred. Good leadership skills, commitment to program mission, and respect for authority are essential. The candidate should have experience with GPS and GIS, be comfortable in isolated environments, be comfortable being on the water in small boats, be comfortable driving long distances (8-10 hours), and be ability to carry 50 pounds.

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 responsible for getting themselves to the office and driving the field vehicle.

A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position. Park housing may not be within walking distance of the office and public transportation is not available in the area where park housing is located.

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. Shared park housing at TIMU is available with private bedroom and shared bathroom, living, and kitchen.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 1/4/2021

Number of weeks: 20 weeks

Flexibility of dates: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

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

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

\$250

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

\$2000

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: Work will be performed in office and field settings. Office setting is a shared office space.

Field settings can be in isolated places and the candidate will have to endure a variety of environmental circumstances. Exposed beaches, salt marsh, mangroves, sometimes accessed by boat. Field days can be long and the candidate will need to pack their necessities for the day (food, water, etc.).

Physical Work Environment: Office work will require a lot of sedentary work. Field work will require driving long distances, trekking through wetlands or beaches carrying equipment, and standing most of the time. Work days can be long in the field.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: As a mentor, my goal is to set the intern up for success, allowing them to oversee one and assist with a few other projects. This will allow them to grow and develop their skills and have a product they can be proud of at the end of their internship. During this process I am available to assist the intern and guide them. We are duty stationed at TIMU and therefore, although the intern is working for SECN, they will have the experience of being in and a part of the park. I make sure to provide time for interns to gain experience assisting the park in other aspects and areas during their time.

Learning Goals: My goal is that the intern will learn how to collect, make sense of, organize, and format data for use in natural resource management. The intern will be able to see this through work performed on two long term monitoring projects, shoreline change and salt marsh elevation change.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

Primary:

Lisa Cowart Baron
Coastal Ecologist
13165 Mount Pleasant Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
(706) 424-2390 | lisa_baron@nps.gov
<https://www.nps.gov/im/secn/index.htm>

Secondary:

M. Brian Gregory
SECN Program Manager
135 Phoenix Road
Athens, GA 30605
(706) 352-9441 | mark_gregory@nps.gov
<https://www.nps.gov/im/secn/index.htm>