GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS
Internship Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
2020 FALL/WINTER

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<tr>
<th>NPS UNIT: WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP DIVISION</th>
<th>PD #: 2020428, 2020429</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Position Title:</strong> Natural Resource Management Assistant (2)</td>
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<td><strong>Position Type:</strong> GIP Intern</td>
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<td><strong>Primary natural resource discipline:</strong> Multidisciplinary</td>
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<td><strong>Project keywords:</strong> Wilderness character monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Missoula, Montana</td>
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**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 GIP Intern will support a NPS wilderness park in the development of their wilderness character "building blocks" with an emphasis on a wilderness character narrative and baseline assessment. Wilderness Character is defined as a holistic concept based on the interaction of (1) biophysical environments primarily free from modern human manipulation and impacts, (2) personal experiences in natural environments relatively free from the encumbrances of modern society, and (3) symbolic meanings of humility, restraint, and interdependence that inspire human connection with nature. Taken together, these tangible and intangible values define wilderness character and distinguish wilderness from all other lands. |

The National Park Service has 44 million acres of wilderness designated by Congress in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This constitutes over 40% of the entire National Wilderness Preservation System. The NPS also administers an additional 26 million acres of wilderness identified as eligible, proposed or recommended. The National Park Service is responsible for preserving wilderness character on these lands in accordance with both the Wilderness Act and NPS wilderness policy.

The intern will be responsible for completing the following tasks for their assigned wilderness park/unit:

- a wilderness character narrative describing the attributes of the wilderness
- wilderness character baseline assessment, including measures and associated data needs
- wilderness character monitoring framework needed to identify changes and trends in wilderness character

These deliverables will be developed in accordance with the Interagency Wilderness Character Monitoring protocol developed in the "Keeping It Wild 2, An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System" guidance document, provided in NPS Reference Manual #41 as Level 3 policy.

The concept of preservation of wilderness character is directly associated with the mission of the National Park Service to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This mission statement is remarkably similar to the policy statement in the Wilderness Act which states that wilderness areas "shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people"
in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness."

The deliverables of this project are directly related to the National Park Service mission and Organic Act mandate to preserve the natural and cultural resources. Over 83% of National Park Service acreage is managed as wilderness, thus wilderness character monitoring serves an important purpose on the majority of NPS lands and waters.

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 intern will develop the following for the assigned park/unit:
- Wilderness Character Narrative
- Wilderness Character Baseline Assessment
- Wilderness Character Monitoring Framework

These products will be based on the protocol for wilderness character inventory and monitoring developed in "Keeping It Wild 2, An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System."

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Bachelors degree preferred, but not required. Two years of college level academic work may be considered. Preferred academic fields include but are not limited to wilderness management, natural resources management, parks and recreation management, outdoor recreation management, natural, biological or physical sciences, and political science.

Preferred skills include technical writing, data management, communications and a strong acumen in science and research is also preferred.

The intern’s work will require close collaboration with interdisciplinary staff specialists at their assigned park/unit. Strong communication and collaboration skills will enhance the intern’s ability to successful achieve their assignment.

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. Intern will be driving a park vehicle.

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position. A personal vehicle will help the Intern take care of personal business and have access to recreational opportunities during their time off duty.

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. Housing availability varies by site.
**INTERNSHIP DATES**

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<th>Start Date:</th>
<th>9/14/2020 through May 1, 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of weeks:</td>
<td>20 weeks</td>
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<td>Flexibility of dates:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

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

**RELOCATION ALLOWANCE**

- $250

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

- $1,500 (receipt based reimbursement)

**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:** Specific parks (2) to be determined

**Physical Work Environment:** The majority of the work will be in an indoor, office environment. Periodic assignments in the field for orientation or to observe actual management issues will be required.

**MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** The WASO Wilderness Stewardship Division will also provide training, mentoring an subject expertise. Mentoring will also be provided by the park/unit wilderness coordinator and other interdisciplinary subject matter specialists. The park/unit will assign a supervisor of record.

**Learning Goals:** The intern will learn the fundamentals of wilderness law, policy and operations and will become intimately familiar with the NPS legal and policy mandate to preserve wilderness character and the qualities of wilderness character and the interagency protocol for wilderness character inventory and monitoring.

**SUPERVISORS/MENTORS**

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<tr>
<th>Primary: Roger Semler</th>
<th>Secondary: Erin Drake</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division (WASO)</td>
<td>Wilderness Communications and Outreach Specialist</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:roger_semler@nps.gov">roger_semler@nps.gov</a></td>
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