THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®

SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
SUMMER 2021

NPS UNIT: JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #: 2021039, 2021040

Project Title: Interpretive Assistant (2)
Primary natural resource discipline: Communication & Education
Project keywords: Interpretation, paleontology, education, geology, Leave No Trace
Location: Kimberly, Oregon

COVID-19 NOTICE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, 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 SIP 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: John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, located in east central Oregon was established in 1975 to protect plant and animal fossils spanning nearly 50 million years of the Age of Mammals and Flowering Plants. The monument is geographically dispersed over three separate units: Sheep Rock, Painted Hills, and Clarno. This position will be stationed at the Sheep Rock unit in Kimberly, Oregon. The intern will prepare and present interpretive / educational programs at the visitor center and guide hikes on monument trails utilizing 21st Century Interpretation, which includes explaining complex scientific concepts to the public in an understandable and participatory way. The project can take a number of forms depending on individual skills and interests, but will focus on interpretation of geological and paleontological resources. The participant may develop curriculum based learning materials, produce written brochures, design temporary exhibits, and/or create interpretive media for the website. The participant will be trained in, and gain experience in education / interpretation using the standard tools and practices of the National Park Service, including 21st Century Interpretation and Audience-Centered-Experiences. They will learn how to utilize the online training platform, Common Learning Portal, for gaining insight into interpretive programs and for networking with other park interpreters. The participant may be trained in any of the following relevant to their projects/assignments: Adobe Creative Cloud and/or video software, National Park Service design standards, interpretive theory, presentation techniques, and other needed skills. In addition to delivering interpretive programs, the intern will assist the park in becoming a more inclusive environment for people of all abilities. The park completed its accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) in 2018. Using SETP as a guide, the intern will update the park's media. Projects includes updating the trail guides to include trail conditions, updating brochures at the park so that they are accessibility to those with low vision, and updating all the bulletin boards at the park to contain accessible information. The intern will support the NPS mission by being a catalyst to invoke emotional and intellectual opportunities for visitors to connect the park. They will engage in visitor-centered programs, either in-person or non-personnel services, that help assist in making positive experiences.

While interacting with the public, they will facilitate meaning to the park so that visitors become stewards of the parks and support the NPS mission. Additionally, uniformed employees roving trails are an effective

Leave No Trace method for helping the public learn to stay on trail and prevent the damages we have seen in the Painted Hills unit of the park in recent years.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

Work Products: This could take the form of interpretive media such as videos, graphics, or signs. The final projects are variable because it depends on needed materials and the selected participant's experience, although all projects will relate to the rich geological and paleontological resources of John Day Fossil Beds.

QUALIFICATIONS

The park is seeking students and graduates in geology, paleontology, biology, and related fields. Individuals who plan to pursue interpretation, education, exhibit design, paleontology, or geology as a career are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to those with graphic design training or experience. Interns must have the desire and ability to interact with the public to assist in the understanding and appreciation of complex scientific concepts. The ability to research, develop, create, and present science to the public through presentations and interpretive media is vital.

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 veterans 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 drivers license and a good driving record.

A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.

If the SIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the SIP's ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. SIPs 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 SIP from driving a park vehicle include: SIP 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 SIP position. If the SIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

HOUSING

Park housing is NOT available. The intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. There are communities with housing options near the park headquarters including Kimberly, Dayville, Monument, Spray, Mount Vernon, and John Day, however housing options are limited. There are apartments available, but a majority of rental options are houses. Housing options can range between $300 and $800 per month, though some rentals use a sliding scale. Park housing is limited and may be available.

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is situated in the John Day River valley and surrounding lands. Elevation in the region varies from 1500 feet to 9000 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush / bunchgrass steppe, junipers, and forests of firs, ponderosas, and aspens. The area of paleontological interest consists of over 10,000 square miles cooperatively managed by the NPS, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service. The spring is often wet and cold, with the bulk of the summer being extremely dry. Summer temperatures can exceed 100 degrees during the daytime. Public transportation is unavailable, so a personal vehicle is required for commuting, grocery shopping and personal travel. The area is remote and rural, with the closest town populated by less than 200 people. Most participants elect to do their grocery shopping in John Day (45-60 minutes away) or in the Prineville/Redmond/Bend area (2.5 hours away), which has a much wider variety of services. Other more distant options are Boise, ID or Portland, OR, both approximately 4-4.5 hours away. The nearest hospital is about 60 minutes from the park. Work will be split primarily between the office and visitor center space at the Thomas Condon Paleontology and Visitor Center, in the Sheep Rock unit, with some outdoor work. While working in the visitor center, intern must wear SIP uniform, khaki pants, and brown or dark red boots. Outdoor work can be extreme including steep terrain, prolonged sun exposure, high temperatures and large daily temperature fluctuations. Suggested field gear includes good hiking boots, a day pack, and water bottles. Suggested field clothing for hot weather includes a hat, light weight long sleeve shirts, and tough pants to withstand wear and tear on sharp rocks.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 5/31/2021
Number of Weeks: 12 Weeks
Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks ($525/week =$6300)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

$350

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 SIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the SIP's living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the SIP position, the SIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a $1,638 - $6,195 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 SIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional SIP position.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

Primary:	**Secondary:**
Sarah Holman sarah_holman@nps.gov 541-987-2333 x 1214	Nicholas Famoso Nicholas_famoso@nps.gov 541-987-2333 x 1219