THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®

SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
SUMMER 2021

NPS UNIT: JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT	PD #: 2021041, 2021042

Project Title: Paleontology Intern (2)
Primary natural resource discipline: Physical Sciences
Project keywords: Paleontology, GIS, curation, museum, fossil preparation
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: The position can take many forms including field assistant, laboratory/museum assistant, student researcher, graduate researcher, and more. Regardless of form, this position will include both field and office work in paleontology. Duties may involve assisting with the collection, preparation, and curation of fossils, database management, GIS work, or independent research. Some examples of projects that could be worked on include a GIS project to map fossil localities from NPS and BLM administered lands in our collections, independently derived research on paleontological specimens, or cataloging specimens from sites collected through new acquisitions to the park collections. Process based research projects will also be strongly considered. Applications should propose a project in the cover letter. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center at the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will serve as an office, laboratory, museum collection, and field base for work.

This position will help to manage and preserve the paleontological and museum resources of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The purpose of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is to preserve and provide for the scientific and public understanding of the paleontological resources of the John Day region, and the natural, scenic, and cultural resources within the boundaries of the national monument.

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: Variable, depending on position details. This typically includes a project proposal, mid-term update, presentation to monument staff and visitors, and a final report including field notes, maps, digital photos, associated data, and other products appropriate for specialized projects. Participants are strongly encouraged to submit their work as presentations at the Geological Society of America and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS

The park is seeking students and graduates in geology, paleontology, biology, museums, and related fields. Individuals who plan to pursue paleontology or geology as a career, or those who are beginning graduate or undergraduate thesis projects, are encouraged to apply. The minimum requirement is one year of undergraduate coursework in earth science, geology, paleontology, biology, museums, or related fields. An

undergraduate degree, graduate degree, graduate level coursework and or previous research and field experience are also desirable, but not required.

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 many 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 the 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 may be available.

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

John Day Fossil Beds NM is situated in the John Day River Valley and surrounding lands. There are three separate units (Sheep Rock, Clarno, and Painted Hills) which are between one and two-hour drives away from each other. The area of paleontological interest consists of over 10,000 square miles cooperatively managed by the NPS, BLM, and USFS. Elevation in the region varies from 1,500 feet to 9,000 feet. Vegetation includes sagebrush/bunchgrass steppe, junipers, and forests of firs, ponderosas, and aspens. Weather in summer tends to be hot and dry with little precipitation and high temperatures regularly exceeding 100 degrees F.The area is remote and rural, with several nearby towns (population <200 people) and more distant towns of several thousand. Limited grocery shopping options are available in smaller towns near the monument (~10 miles distant), but the nearest grocery store, pharmacy, and hospital are about 45 miles from park headquarters (Sheep Rock Unit). More facilities and services are available in the Bend area which is about 120 miles from the Sheep Rock Unit. The closest airport is in Redmond, OR, about two-hour drive from the Sheep Rock Unit. Other airports are in Boise, ID, Pasco, WA, and Portland, OR. Work time will be split between office and lab space at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center and fieldwork. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center is the visitor center and museum for the monument. This position will be provided with office space and computer access for their work. Field environments can be extreme, including steep terrain, prolonged sun exposure, high temperatures, and large daily temperature fluctuations. Required field gear includes good hiking boots, a day pack, and water bottles. Suggested field clothing for hot dry weather includes a hat, lightweight long sleeve shirts, and tough long 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:**
Nicholas Famoso, PhD nicholas_famoso@nps.gov 541-987-2333 x 1219	Sarah Holman sarah_holman@nps.gov 541-987-2333 x 1214