



# SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

## POSITION DESCRIPTION WINTER 2021

<b>NPS UNIT: ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK</b>	<b>PD #: 2021378</b>
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**Position Title:** Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant  
**Number of positions available:** 1  
**Primary natural resource discipline:** Communication & Education  
**Position keywords:** Pollinators, Citizen Science, Science Communication  
**Location:** Houghton, Michigan  
**Can this position be fully remote:** Yes

### 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.

### POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

**Position Description:** Isle Royale National Park is a remote and isolated island in Lake Superior that is often viewed as a refugia for species in peril. Pollinator populations are threatened across the globe due to factors such as habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. Baseline pollinator data is lacking at Isle Royale because of a lack of resources and experts to identify species, the difficulty of accessing remote locations in the park, and the effort required to collect a comprehensive inventory of pollinators. The Natural Resources division needs a way to document pollinators on Isle Royale’s landscape and a citizen science approach has been identified as the best way to carry out this work.

The SIP Intern will be responsible for working with Natural Resource and Interpretation Staff to develop a Citizen Science Program focused on pollinators to launch in Summer 2022. The goal of this program is to engage park visitors to collect pollinator data and contribute to long term research goals of Isle Royale. Citizen Science projects are new to Isle Royale and the intern will focus on collating baseline data on iNaturalist, designing an iNaturalist project page for Isle Royale, developing resources to train citizen scientists, and working with researchers to develop best practices for identifying species in iNaturalist and managing citizen science data.

The intern will be responsible for managing the project and communicating with park staff on project progress. Day to day tasks will involve learning the iNaturalist platform, developing social media posts, recording a training session, developing a data management and communication plan, connecting with subject matter experts, compiling existing pollinator data, developing an easy pollinator field guide for citizen scientists, and working with park staff on project objectives. The SIP intern will have a unique opportunity to work across divisions and with external project partners to develop a Citizen Science Program.

Isle Royale National Park has a need for baseline pollinator data to understand the park's function as a refugia for threatened pollinator species. In addition, the island is undergoing vegetation change due to herbivory by an abundant moose population and spruce budworm outbreaks. Pollinator data collected through Citizen Science will provide resource managers with vital information to understand insect trends

on Isle Royale. In addition, this citizen science project will be the first of its kind on Isle Royale and the park hopes it will serve as a model to continue engaging park visitors in collecting data, while aiding natural resource management in monitoring natural resources as financial restraints make large scale inventory and monitoring project difficult.

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:** The citizen science project will have the following deliverables:

- Pollinator Program Project Summary (includes data management and communication plans);
- iNaturalist Project Page for Isle Royale Citizen Science Project;
- Summary Report of existing pollinator data;
- Social media products (to be posted during the project roll-out)

### QUALIFICATIONS

Intern must have enthusiasm for both science and education and a desire to develop programs to engage the public in science. Undergraduate student or recent graduate in a Social Sciences, Natural Resources, Environmental Sciences or related field. The position could be filled by a first or second year undergraduate student, but higher skilled candidates should apply and job duties can be adjusted accordingly. No specific coursework is required. Experience writing and creating social media content is preferred. Willingness to learn iNaturalist is required. The intern should possess an excellent work ethic, attention to detail, and most importantly a positive attitude.

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 will not need to drive a government vehicle.**

**A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not 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.** The position will be located at the park headquarters in Houghton MI, where park housing is not available. Houghton is home to Michigan Tech University, which has around 7,000 students. Opportunities to sublease rooms, houses or apartments are typically available and in the range of \$400-\$800/month depending on location. Dormitory style housing may also be available on campus at a higher monthly cost.

**NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

This position is primarily office based and located at the mainland park headquarters in Houghton MI. The intern will have their own office. Houghton is located in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula on the South Shore of Lake Superior. The region is dominated by vast areas of lakes, forests and wetlands, and receives an average of 250" of snow annually. Houghton is the home of Michigan Tech University and the area offers many options for dining, grocery stores, retail shops, and has two hospitals. Houghton was rated as one of the top 10 U.S. adrenaline outposts by National Geographic Adventure Magazine, boasting excellent skiing, hiking, kayaking and mountain biking. There is a small regional airport which offers daily flights to Chicago.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**

**Start Date:** 1/10/2022  
**Number of Weeks:** 12  
**Flexible Start Date:** Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**

12 Weeks (\$525/week = \$6,300)

**RELOCATION ALLOWANCE**

\$350 (Mainland Only)

**AMERICORPS PROGRAM**



**AmeriCorps**

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 \$1,678 - \$6,345 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**

<p><b>Primary:</b> Lynette Potvin Ecologist lynette_potvin@nps.gov</p>	<p><b>Secondary:</b> Katie Keller Park Ranger Kathryn_keller@nps.gov</p>
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