



SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

POSITION DESCRIPTION WINTER 2021

NPS UNIT: POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE	PD #: 2021397
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant Number of positions available: 1 Primary natural resource discipline: Communication & Education Position keywords: Marine mammals, education, wildlife management, resource protection, public outreach, interpretation Location: Point Reyes Station, California Can this position be fully remote: No</p>	
COVID-19 NOTICE	
<p>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.</p>	
POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The intern will be responsible for assisting Point Reyes National Seashore staff in educating the public on the natural history, research, and protection of elephant seals, ensuring the safety of the elephant seals and visitors at Drakes Beach, and monitoring elephant seals within the park. The primary role of the intern will be to support the Winter Wildlife park ranger with Drakes Beach operations, which may include, but is not limited to, helping visitors safely view elephant seals while educating them on elephant seal natural history, producing and posting signage, setting up crowd control equipment, and communicating with staff in regards to the status of seals, visitors, and volunteers. On Mondays and Fridays, the intern will work closely with the Winter Wildlife lead docent to manage operations at Drakes Beach. The intern will also assist with wildlife management of the elephant seals by applying dye-marks to and hazing seals from Drakes Beach. The secondary role of the intern will be to help the marine ecologist in conducting weekly population counts of all the elephant seal colonies in Point Reyes, conduct flipper tag resight surveys, and apply flipper tags to weaned elephant seal pups. This internship is a collaboration between the Interpretation and Science divisions, but the intern will also have opportunities to work with staff from the Natural Resource Management and Visitor & Resource Protection divisions.</p> <p>This internship helps with an emerging natural resource management issue at PORE and is of high concern to park management. The elephant seal population at PORE is increasing in size and distribution across the park. There have been two recent years when elephant seals gave birth at a popular recreational beach in front of the Ken Patrick Visitor Center. The management strategy for this area is to haze pregnant females when they haul out on the beach to discourage them from giving birth here and move further down the beach, which is more easily protected. However, when hazing does not work, we have had to close the beach to the public to protect females and nursing pups. As this becomes a more regular occurrence, we would like to provide more opportunities for the public to view the seals from a safe distance and get educated on seal ecology by staff and docents. Even if female seals are absent, adult males will be present and the intern will help provide safety and education for visitors and seals whether the beach is open or closed. Additionally, as the elephant seal population has grown, so have the efforts to monitor the</p>	

population and the need for additional staff. The intern will help the Science Division conduct more surveys in more areas, which helps us better understand population changes as the seals move to new areas. We see big population changes with large storms and high surf events, which are predicted to increase in size and frequency due to climate change.

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 Natural Resource Interpretive Assistant will support the Winter Wildlife program park ranger in creating educational and training materials for the public and for internal use. Internal products will be training and outreach materials on elephant seal ecology to keep docents informed and updated. Public use materials may be short booklets or podcasts highlighting specific aspects of elephant seal ecology.

QUALIFICATIONS

Experience in public speaking or delivering interpretive programs. Some field experience conducting surveys and/or behavioral studies of large mammals. Undergraduate degree in science. Excellent physical condition and ability to hike off-trail on rough and steep terrain. Be able to be outdoors for long hours in various types of weather. Driver's license is 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 will need a valid driver's license in order to drive a government vehicle.

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 available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. Housing provided has two shared dorm-style bedrooms with bunkbeds (separate women's and men's bedrooms). There is one kitchen and two bathrooms shared by all housemates. During the winter season, there are usually less than 4 people sharing the house. Intern will need to bring bedding and personal items. This is a large house right on Tomales Bay with amazing views and wildlife right in the backyard. There is desk space and high-speed internet/Wi-Fi. Cell coverage is not good, but there is a landline for emergencies and cell phones can use Wi-Fi calling. There are no laundry facilities onsite and the intern will need to use the facilities at a local campground. The intern will need their own vehicle for personal use and to get to and from the office, but NPS will provide a vehicle for field work.

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment is primarily outdoors in an area that has weather ranging from cold, rain, windy, and foggy to dry and warm. Most of the required hiking is off trail on rough and steep terrain. The intern will also be standing outside at a sandy beach site for 6 – 8 hours where the weather conditions can change drastically. A minimal amount of the work environment will be in an open office setting. The intern is frequently required to be in close proximity to elephant seals, which can get up to 5,000 lbs. and 18 ft. long, and they must be quick to react to seal behaviors via visual and auditory clues. The employee must carry equipment in a backpack weighing up to 30 pounds. Just one hour north of San Francisco, California, Point Reyes National Seashore encompasses 70,000 acres of diverse natural and cultural resources and features 70 miles of unspoiled coastline, gray whales, birds, northern elephant seals, a historic lighthouse and lifeboat station, 150 miles of hiking trails, tule elk, and a replica Coast Miwok village. The intern would be roughly one hour away from San Francisco where they can explore and experience just about anything that a world class city can offer. Locally, Point Reyes Station, a small rural town with one main street and a five-minute drive from the park, offers a market, hardware store, library, gas station, bakery, and several restaurants. The park abounds in numerous recreational activities that the intern can explore.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 1/2/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$400/week = \$4,800)

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

Primary:

Carlo Arreglo
Park Ranger
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Secondary:

Sarah Codde
Marine Ecologist
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