



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park **Position #: 11**

Position Title: Science Communication Assistant
Primary natural resource discipline: Communication and Education
Position Keywords: Science Communication, Marginalized Communities, Youth, Environmental Justice, STEAM, Activism
Location: Pawtucket, Rhode Island

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

Project Description: This position fosters relationships with conservation organizations and local communities advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands. The project continues the park's creative approach to science communication within the neighborhoods around the Blackstone River Valley NHP. The park's core theme is industrial history but the Blackstone River itself is a named resource of the park in the legislation, therefore, we express the environmental factors of the river as well. This internship will support innovative techniques for open, public science communication.

The intern will lead a series of science workshops and fun activities at the park's new education facility to learn about water quality, ecology, and environmental justice as it applies to their own town and neighborhoods. This is an initiative the park has already begun and is integral to our long-term outreach programming. We have found that scientific understanding of the Blackstone River ecosystems correlates to stewardship of the National Park, public health, and environmental activism.

Work Products: This project will raise community awareness about local water quality by innovating science communication methodology. Stewardship will lead to increased engagement in environmental decisions concerning the river that flows through their neighborhood. The intern will lead a series of pop-up programs around the park and at summer festivals around the area to engage the public with topics such as pollinators, water quality, safe recreational opportunities, and social responsibility. Their feedback will then be used to provide data for the park which will be used for interpretation as well as to help guide the creation of strategies for protection, restoration, and management of the park's natural resources.

The intern will raise awareness about water quality which is particularly important because the Blackstone River and its tributaries are named resources within the park. As part of this work, they will coordinate with the Blackstone River Coalition (BRC) and the Friends of the Blackstone (FOB), Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and other umbrella organizations looking at the on-going restoration efforts for the Blackstone River established by the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. Working with the Blackstone River Coalition will both provide a source for existing data, as well as help to coordinate with ongoing water quality efforts already underway in the case of Ashton Village and the Blackstone State Park.

This will coincide with the park's current artist in residence who has helped create a prototype installation that uses public lighting as a form of science communication about local environmental conditions.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park has a primary location at Pawtucket, RI, a small city located just north of the state capitol of Providence. The park's main headquarters is at Old Slater Mill NHL with ample office and desk space for this tight-knit team of 6 full-time staff members. Overlooking the banks of the historic Blackstone River and waterfalls, the park has served as one of the most significant cultural sites in Rhode Island and greater New England. The intern will work with their supervisor daily as a fully participating member of our team. We hold a few weekly meetings, have an ongoing open door supervision policy, and empower all of our staff to find their own balance of independence and collaboration.

The intern will have a desk, possibly a private office, and PIV access. Their hours will be flexible and could include telework as an option. The site location is on a 6 acre open park in downtown Pawtucket. And additionally, the field work will be conducted at Blackstone River State Park in Lincoln, RI (part of the National Historical Park), where most of the public engagement workshops will be held.

It's possible that some work will also be done at Roger Williams National Memorial in downtown Providence, RI.

QUALIFICATIONS

We seek a candidate who ideally is able to speak, read and write Spanish, have experience teaching STEAM education, and experience in art education and communication. Our ideal candidate would also be from the local commuting area with safe and reliable housing and transportation. They would have familiarity or interest in history of immigration, industrialization, labor rights, and how that relates to environmentalism and social justice. NPS has historically utilized artistic expression as a form of science communication to foster stewardship and and sense of ownership of public lands. And they would seek the PLC hiring authority to establish a long-term career in public service, land stewardship, and science education.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder"). Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is recommended 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. Park housing is not available, however the park will assist in securing safe, affordable, and comfortable living accommodations. Previous VISTAs, SCAs, and seasonal staff have utilized our network of partners and local contacts to find accommodations appropriate for them without problems. Additionally, the local area has lots of safe public transportation, access to arts and cultural sites, recreational opportunities, as well as metropolitan medical facilities and a wide variety of shopping.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 05/02/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes



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LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$525.00/week = \$6300.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

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.

Partners

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.

