



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Pacific Island Network

Position #: 30

Position Title: Ecology Assistant

Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences

Position Keywords: Water Quality, Stream Animals, Data Management, Backcountry, Fieldwork

Location: Hawaii National Park, Hawaii

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: We seek an intern to assist with water quality and aquatic animal monitoring in streams and anchialine pools of national parks in Hawaii. Major duties include: entering data into databases and checking data entry quality against field data sheets, assisting in preparation for fieldwork, participating in two 10-day field sampling trips to Haleakalā National Park and Kalaupapa National Historical Park to collect water samples and survey stream animals, participating in sampling day-trips to four national park units on the Big island of Hawai'i to collect water samples, and assisting in post-field trip equipment maintenance and sample handling. Data entry work will make up the bulk of time and require standard office and computer-use and the ability to work independently. Fieldwork requires working in a group under the supervision of a crew leader, working in a wide array of physically demanding environmental conditions (including high heat, direct sun, heavy rain, dense vegetation, and sharp rocks), backcountry camping in remote and isolated conditions with no services, hiking up to 10 miles per day including steep slopes while carrying heavy backpacks of up to 50 lbs, snorkeling in streams to observe benthic invertebrates, following established safety and behavior rules, ensuring sensitive scientific equipment is handled correctly, and ensuring data are collected and recorded following established standard methods. Important responsibilities of this position include following the directions of supervisors and crew leaders, ensuring a respectful working environment, safely conducting work in a remote and physically challenging backcountry environment, collecting field data in a neat and complete manner, and communicating effectively with supervisors and crewmembers. Specific tasks include ensuring sampling equipment are handled properly and maintained, participating in daily safety discussions before starting field work, backcountry hiking on-trail and off-trail to pre-determined sites using maps and GPS, operating manual filtering equipment, sondes, and other devices, and ensuring data is accurate, properly stored, and backed-up upon return from the field. Once trained, the individual may be asked to complete sampling independently or assist other staff with regular monitoring and data entry. A summary report detailing field effort, preliminary findings, maps of surveyed areas, and discussion of methods will be completed at the end of the internship and presented to the park staff, partners, and the scientific community.

Work Products: Deliverables that are part of a group effort include databases containing water quality and stream animal monitoring data, site photos and environmental data describing the sampling unit. Deliverables managed by the intern include a summary document detailing the field effort, discussion of methods, maps of surveyed areas, and preliminary findings on topic of choice related to the aquatic monitoring data collected, and a blog article, story map, or poster of ~500 words highlighting this work.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Office location will be within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park located at 4,000 ft elevation in a rainforest. Climate is cool and rainy. Small general stores are located within the national park and in the surrounding Volcano Village. Public transportation is extremely limited. Bikes are available for intern use daily. Government vehicle is available once a week for grocery shopping in the main city of Hilo 45 minutes from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Fieldwork will require travel to other islands as needed. Travel to field sites will be via hiking predominately but may require occasional boat travel.



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QUALIFICATIONS

Background in biology, ecology, biogeochemistry, and/or hydrology. Applicant should demonstrate this knowledge by describing relevant coursework, previous work experience, and related projects. Ability to maintain a positive attitude in a physically demanding work environment (hiking and sampling aquatic ecosystems in heat, rain, etc.). Ability to hike with 50 lbs. up to 10 miles/day including significant elevation changes and tent camp up to 7 days at a time. Ability to work effectively in teams of 3-6 people. Interest in water quality or aquatic ecology. Interest in data management and analysis. Ability to swim and be comfortable working in and around water is necessary for this position. Applicant may be asked to drive up to 5 hours per day in a government vehicle to field sites on island. Applicant will be required to hike up to 10 miles/day with up to 50lb backpack to remote field sites. Backcountry camping is required up to 7 days in length. Applicant must be able work independently on data entry once trained.

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. House and apartment rentals may be available in Volcano Village, neighboring communities, or Hilo, approximately 40 minutes from the park by car, for \$1000-1300 per month. There is one bus that runs between the park and Hilo that is very infrequent, so a car is recommended if living in Hilo. If living in Volcano Village a car is still recommended, but the park can be reached by bicycle. If cycling, please keep in mind that Volcano Village is in a rain forest and receives 3 meters of rain a year.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 05/02/2022

Number of Weeks: 20

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

20 Weeks (\$525.00/week =\$10500.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

1000.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



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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 \$1,638 - \$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.

