



# POSITION DESCRIPTION

## Summer 2022

**NPS UNIT: San Francisco Bay Area Network**

**Position #: 39**

**Position Title:** Biology Assistant

**Primary natural resource discipline:** Biological Sciences

**Position Keywords:** Fieldwork, monitoring, long-term, ecology, botany

**Location:** Point Reyes Station, California

### 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:** The San Francisco Bay Area Inventory and Monitoring Network manages 13 long-term ecological monitoring programs across 5 National Parks, including Point Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, Pinnacles National Park and John Muir National Historic Site. The purpose of these monitoring programs is to track the status and health of park ecosystems in the region. This intern will be part of the long-term Plant Community Monitoring team, and will have the opportunity to occasionally join the Invasive Species Early Detection team. Our long-term Plant Community Monitoring intern will be part of a 2-person crew revisiting permanent plots throughout the Network parks, identifying plants within several different habitats, and carrying out a range of standard plant community monitoring techniques.

Primary duties include:

1. Utilizing dichotomous keys to identifying vascular plant species.
2. Navigating to known locations using maps/compass and handheld GPS devices.
3. Collecting and preparing voucher specimens for herbaria.
4. Collecting high-quality spatial and tabular data to be used for restoration planning, vegetation monitoring, geodatabases, etc.
5. Utilizing field computers to collect data; organizing data in spreadsheets, databases, and reports; and using ArcGIS.
6. Entering data in Microsoft Access and performing QA/QC.
7. Assisting in planning of daily field work.

**Work Products:** The intern will have the opportunity to carry out a small research project while completing work duties. The research design and data will result in a short written report and poster presentation for an end-of-season SFAN science meeting. The intern will also help to create annual reports within their respective program. For the Plant Community Monitoring Intern, this will consist of a data summary for each community type visited over the course of the season and a discussion of observations made in the field.

### NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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**Physical/Natural Environment:** The intern will either be based at the Marin Headlands of Golden Gate National Recreation Area or Point Reyes National Seashore. The Marin Headlands is located just north of the Golden Gate Bridge outside of San Francisco. The office is a 5-minute walk to Rodeo beach, with weather ranging from cool foggy days to mild sunny days. The office at Point Reyes National Seashore is located at the entrance of the park in Point Reyes Station, approximately an hour north of San Francisco. Summers are a bit warmer than along the coast, but still relatively mild and sunny.

**Work Environment:** Work will be heavily field based. When in the field, the intern will be subject to uneven terrain, ticks, poison oak (those with strong reactions should know that exposure is frequent and sometimes unavoidable), strong winds, and other inclement weather. Interns will need to carry between 20 and 30 lb of gear on any given day. Some work may also occur along busy roadsides or popular trails. This position requires daily vehicle commuting to field sites and may include one or more camping trips to Pinnacles National Park. Field sites are generally less than 1 mile from a main trail or road. When not in the field, the intern will be in a typical shared office space or working remotely with a government laptop.

### QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's degree is recommended but not required, as is some experience working outdoors. Plant identification skills and knowledge of dichotomous keys will be very helpful skills. Positive attitude and teamwork/leadership skills are also strongly desired. A willingness to learn and use handheld GPS and map-and-compass navigation skills will be crucial for accessing sites. Interns will need a good level of fitness to be able to travel off-trail with heavy packs to field sites and spend up to 10 hours in the field in all sorts of weather conditions.

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 available and will be provided at no cost to the participant.** Furnished park housing may be available. Depending on which housing unit has availability, the intern will have a private room in a shared co-ed house or may have their own private apartment. Kitchens are supplied with dishes/pans. Intern will need to bring all personal items including toiletries, laundry detergent, pillows, and linens. Housing typically has wifi but may be limited depending on unit. There is also limited or no cell service at GOGA housing units.

### INTERNSHIP DATES

**Start Date:** 05/01/2022

**Number of Weeks:** 20

**Flexible Start Date:** No

### LIVING ALLOWANCE

20 Weeks (\$400.00/week = \$8000.00)



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### RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

### 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 \$1,638 - \$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.

