



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Golden Spike National Historical Park **Position #: 179**

Position Title: Biology Assistant

Primary natural resource discipline: Physical Sciences

Position Keywords: Invasive Plants, Geospatial Data, GIS, Botany, Outreach

Location: Promontory, Utah

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 SIP intern will be an integral member of this park's resource management team. The primary objective of this internship is to build on existing knowledge of vegetation resources in the park through inventory and mapping of invasive plant species throughout Golden Spike NHP. Several invasive plants are rapidly expanding changing the historic landscape of the park and becoming a seed bank that may be making it harder for local land owners to suppress them. Enacted in 2019 the Dingell Act requires the park to work with local land owners to address invasive species in the park.

Though some data has been gathered on the presence and density of problematic invasive plants at the park, the park critically needs a high quality inventory of priority invasive species in order to make sound management decisions on their control, and expand visitor understanding and education. The intern will inventory large portions of the Park (at least 70% of the effort), with a particular focus on species the park has designated as EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) species that can be removed before they cause larger problems. The intern will work closely with the Northern Rocky Mountain Invasive Plant Management Team (NRM IPMT) to share this inventory and develop a treatment plan that offers the park clear, strategic, and achievable objectives for future invasive plant management (25% of effort). Finally, the intern will work with park partners to disseminate this information to local stakeholders, staff and the visiting public (5% of effort).

Being primarily a cultural resource park, Golden Spike NHP has very limited resources or staff members that have the botanical expertise to conduct this type of work.

- Work Products:**
1. A written standard operating procedure (SOP) for this inventory (process);
 2. Digital records of field work completed including a GIS database of invasive species inventory locations. (field data collection);
 3. Communications and engagement with NPS regional teams on the development of a strategic treatment/implementation plan (data transfer);
 4. Outreach materials for public weed prevention and education.
 5. Weed management SOP/planning documents (if time allows)

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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Anticipated work environment: 25% office, 75% field. The park is 32 miles west of shopping and medical facilities in Brigham City, Utah (pop. 19,000), and 52 miles from Ogden, UT (pop. 90,000), via 1-15. The climate in the summer is dry and warm to hot during the day, with cool dry nights. The terrain is Great Basin range land and river bottoms. The offices are climate controlled with excellent working conditions.

The participant must be able to work well independently, both in the office and in the field, and be comfortable traversing environments including broken terrain, hot, cold, or inclement weather, and carrying equipment of up to 30 lbs. weight. This individual needs to be capable of hiking or walking for significant portions of the day.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant should have knowledge in the biological sciences, having some experience in geospatial data collection (ArcGIS/ArcCollector), familiarity with botany and plant ID skills, and capable of providing professional level deliverables with minimal direct oversight. The intern will be working with ESRI based GIS software and ArcCollector and minimally should have working knowledge of these tools. The intern will be working with plant identification and inventory procedures developed by NPS. Experience in vegetation mapping and invasive plant management is optimal.

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 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. Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant. The intern will live in a 3 bedroom house with other park staff of mixed ages, genders, and backgrounds. Residents may have private or shared bedrooms and will share bathroom facilities, cooking, and living areas. Houses are stocked with some basic cooking implements and appliances. Applicant must bring own bed linens and towels, and personal cookware.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 05/22/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$400.00/week = \$4800.00)



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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.

