



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Winter 2023

NPS UNIT: Cabrillo National Monument

Position #: 1225

Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant

Number of positions available: 1

Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences

Position Keywords: climate, marine, intertidal, invertebrate, whelk, range shift

Location: San Diego, California

Can this position be fully remote: No

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: The dark unicorn whelk (*Mexicanthina lugubris*) is native to rocky intertidal habitats in Baja California, Mexico, but their range has shifted northward into southern California, USA. Their abundance fluctuates over time, but it is hypothesized they increase in abundance during warm water events.

To understand how the abundance of this range-shifting whelk changes over time and determine whether it should be included in our list of taxa for long-term monitoring, the intern will (1) assess whelk abundance in 2022 surveys and historical photos 1990-2021 and (2) determine if the number of whelks is positively correlated with warm water events.

More specifically, the intern will count dark unicorn whelks currently at the park through surveying and photographing 60 long-term monitoring plots at CABR. They will then count the number of whelks in >1500 photos of the plots to quantify historical abundance 1990-2021. They will then test if the abundance of range-shifting dark unicorn whelks is correlated with warmer air and water temperature. Collectively, these data will be used to assess if dark unicorn whelks should be included in our species list for rocky intertidal monitoring programs.

Work Products: The intern will write a Natural Resources Data Series publication (5-10 pages) and create a post in a science communication venue of their choice (e.g. park social media posts, media briefs). A final draft of the report will be completed before the end of the internship, and full-time staff will complete the review and publication processes.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Cabrillo National Monument sits at the end of the Point Loma Peninsula. Our proximity to the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay has a major influence on weather in the area. Coastal marine layers can develop at any time, bringing moisture, cooler temperatures, and wind to the park, while the inland regions remain warm and sunny. The office building sits on a cliff overlooking the bay and can be cool in the fall and winter. Point Loma is the nearest community to the park. There is a small shopping center six miles down the road with a grocery store, sandwich shop, coffee shop, frozen yogurt, and pharmacy. Work will be done in an office setting and outdoors in rocky, uneven terrain. Long periods of sitting and standing are to be expected. Most work will be done indoors, analyzing data and preparing reports. When participating in fieldwork, the intern can expect to be working in the rocky intertidal zone, which is characterized by uneven and slippery terrain with varying weather conditions. The intern must be able to work in all different weather conditions, sit, stand, and walk for extended periods of time, swim, and lift up to 50 lbs.

QUALIFICATIONS

We would like to support an intern that is interested in a career with NPS or another government agency. The intern should have course or extra-curricular experience in marine biology or marine ecology. Experience working with data in Excel or RStudio, scientific writing skills, and ability to read and discuss primary literature will help with project success. Successful interns will be self-motivated and interested in data analysis. Interest in both conducting science and communicating results to park management and the public is valued.



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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. There are numerous options for housing in the immediate area, however San Diego is a high cost of living area. Point Loma, the closest neighborhood to the park, is roughly six miles from the entrance. Private short term room rentals in San Diego can range from \$1200 - \$2000 per month. There is reliable public transportation to the park on the #84 bus, so interns will not need to own a vehicle.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 10/03/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$580.00/week = \$6960.00)

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



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

