



POSITION DESCRIPTION Winter 2023

NPS UNIT: Central Alaska Network

Position #: 1311

Position Title: Ecology Assistant

Number of positions available: 1

Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences

Position Keywords: Data management, database, aquatic ecology, stream ecology, water quality

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Can this position be fully remote: Yes

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: The internship will assist with a variety of data management and database development projects for the CAKN long-term stream monitoring program, which has collected a large amount of data of varying types in the 16 years. The existing stream database is in the process of being updated and improved, and needs to be populated with recently collected data. The intern will work with the CAKN stream ecologist and the assistant data manager to accomplish this. Similarly the program maintains a large number of long-term continuous stream temperature datasets in the Aquarius Time-Series database housed in Fort Collins, which depend on a variety of data management tasks to keep them accurate and up to date. Depending on the skill set of the intern, there may also be opportunities to engage in data analysis, for example of the long-term stream temperature datasets. In addition to these tasks, the intern will assist the CAKN Program Manager in preparing documentation of what the overall CAKN long-term monitoring program has learned over the 20 years of its existence. This assistance will take the form of helping with reports and the collation of publications and other products across the 17 Vital Signs that together constitute the CAKN monitoring program.

Work Products: The primary work product, accomplished in cooperation with the stream ecologist and assistant data manager, will be an updated stream monitoring database, that is populated with all currently available and appropriate data. In addition, all data will have been exported into the EDD file format using an existing export utility, and uploaded into the national Water Quality Portal. The other deliverable would be a current accounting of network reports, papers, and other products of the overall CAKN Program, and ensuring they are uploaded to IRMA and annotated. These work products are flexible and can be adjusted depending on the particular skill set and interests of the applicant.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

This intern will be based at the Fairbanks Administrative Center which is home to YUCH, YUGA, CAKN, ARCN and the eastern area Fire Program. This office is located in Fairbanks, Alaska. At present 90% of our staff are working from home but we expect that people will be working from the office by the fall and thus an SIP intern would be working from the office. Interns typically have desk space in a common area with other seasonal staff and appropriate COVID safety protocols will be in practice for the area. An important consideration is that winter in Fairbanks can be extreme, with bitter cold and heavy snow being typical in November and December. On the plus side, you're guaranteed to see the northern lights!

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be advanced undergraduates, recent graduates, or graduate students whose educational background and career objectives are in the general area of ecology. Knowledge of and experience in Access database development and use would be extremely helpful, along with experience in the Aquarius Time-Series database environment. Knowledge of and experience with GIS software, statistics and ecological data analysis in R would also be useful.

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



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Applicant will not need 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 is no park housing available. We typically work with interns to identify what type of housing will be appropriate for them and assist them finding the housing. Fairbanks has options like cabins that may have running water or not (often what students at University of Alaska Fairbanks opt for), apartments and hostels. Other accommodations like housesitting or sharing apartments with other seasonal staff have also been successful arrangements.

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

1000.00

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.



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