



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2020 SPRING/SUMMER

NPS UNIT: GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE	PD #: 2020059
<p>Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant [Direct Placement] (1) Position Type: GIP Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Multidisciplinary Project keywords: natural resources, monitoring, wildlife, invasive species, turtles, shorebirds, nutria, plants Location: Ocean Springs, Mississippi</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The Natural Resource Monitoring GIP Internship is a 20 week, 40 hour per week position. Approximately 75% of the work will be performed in the field, with the remaining 25% of duties to be completed in the office. Applicants must be willing and able to adapt to a flexible schedule since hours will vary between early morning and evening shifts.</p> <p>Natural resource monitoring activities will be conducted to determine the status and trends of selected park resources and to evaluate the efficacy of current management practices. The GIP intern will assist park staff with monitoring and management activities related to but not limited to invasive species, nesting sea turtles and/or shorebirds. This position requires routine contact with Volunteers In Parks and the public to enhance understanding of natural resources within the park. The GIP intern is expected to positively represent the NPS at all times.</p> <p>The intern will be responsible for collecting accurate data by adhering to established protocols. Field training will be provided to identify invasive plants, as well as nutria tracks, scat and burrows. Training will also be provided to locate and identify sea turtle crawls/nests to species, relocate nests for conservation purposes, and monitor nests throughout the incubation period for signs of disturbance (i.e. predation, flooding, human interference) and hatch. The intern will also aid in the excavation and assessment of sea turtle nests post-hatch to determine success. Further training will also be provided to identify shorebird species by sight and sound, locate and monitor nests of multiple species, install symbolic fencing around nesting habitat to minimize disturbance, resight banded adults and family groups, and to observe and document behavior.</p> <p>Additional duties may include data entry, routine upkeep of supplies and equipment, shorebird and marine mammal mortality/stranding surveys and stewarding. The intern will also become involved with community outreach events promoting the conservation and management of natural resources.</p> <p>This project ties into the NPS mission by aiding in the monitoring of wilderness character and park resources, to identify status and trends, and to evaluate the efficacy of current management practices.</p> <p>This position is offered through the National Park Service's Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Internship Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).</p>	

<p>Work Products: Field work/field notes including completed data sheets and QA/QC of data throughout collection and entry, assist with annual reports, and present information related to park natural resources at workshops and local outreach events.</p>
<p>QUALIFICATIONS</p> <p>Skills –Successful applicants must demonstrate an understanding of basic scientific principles, data collection and analysis. Applicants should be able to follow precise procedures and established protocols with close attention to detail. Strong oral and written communication skills are also desired.</p> <p>Applicants must be currently enrolled in a degree in biology, ecology, natural resource management, environmental science, conservation, or a closely related scientific field.</p> <p>The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.</p>
<p>VEHICLE/DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. The intern will be driving a park vehicle.</p> <p>A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position. A personal vehicle is recommended to commute between park housing and duty station, grocery stores, etc. It is 2.5 miles from park housing to the nearest grocery store, and .1 miles between park housing and the duty station.</p> <p>If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the GIP’s ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. GIPs 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 GIP from driving a park vehicle include: GIP 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 GIP position. If the GIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.</p>
<p>HOUSING</p> <p>Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. Housing provided is a private bedroom with shared common spaces including bathroom, full kitchen (stove, microwave, refrigerator), and furnished living area with co-ed roommate(s). Laundry facilities are not available onsite- the nearest laundromat is about 3 miles away. Available bedrooms have either twin or full beds. Cell service and wifi are available.</p>
<p>INTERNSHIP DATES</p> <p>Start Date: 5/11/2020 Number of weeks: 20 weeks Flexibility of dates: Yes</p>
<p>LIVING ALLOWANCE</p> <p>20 weeks (\$350/week = \$7,000)</p>
<p>RELOCATION ALLOWANCE</p> <p>\$250</p>

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



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 GIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the GIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (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 GIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they are not eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment: The Mississippi District of Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS) contains an area of land-based forested wetland environment, and a series of barrier islands 6-14 miles off the coast of Mississippi. The largest of the National Seashores, GUIS stretches for 160 miles along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico in Florida and Mississippi, and includes barrier islands, maritime forests, bayous, and marine habitat. The Seashore provides suitable habitat to over 300 species of birds and four species of nesting sea turtles. GUIS is also comprised of several historic coastal fortifications and batteries dating back to the early 19th century. GUIS is at a low elevation, and park duty stations are located close to grocery stores and towns. Barrier Island sites are remote, but will be accessed daily via a round-trip boat ride.

Physical Work Environment: Approximately 75% of work will be performed outside on barrier islands. Field work requires walking, bending, and lifting 25+ lbs on a regular basis. Participants may be subject to biting insects and inclement weather including extreme heat, humidity, wind, and rain. Interns will be required to ride in a small boat to barrier island work sites, and to traverse several miles in soft sand and/or brush while carrying a backpack and equipment. The remaining 25% of duties will be performed in an office setting. Intern will be required to sit for extended periods of time while performing repetitive manual tasks.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: Intern will be supervised by the Mississippi District Biologist and mentored by SRS staff. There will be opportunities to learn from staff with a variety of backgrounds and career paths, as well as occasions to engage with other agencies/partners, and interact with the public.

Learning Goals: The intern will participate in significant science projects instilling basic field research and monitoring methods, data collection and observations, and data entry. The intern will ultimately gain natural resource skills and a sense of stewardship while contributing to the conservation of various threatened and endangered species. These acquired skills will prepare them to competitively apply for future public land management positions. The intern must submit a resume, undergo an interview, and successfully complete both field and public outreach training.

SUPERVISORS/MENTOR

Primary Supervisor/Mentor:

Erin Plitsch
Mississippi District Biologist
3500 Park Rd
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 281-4955 | erin_plitsch@nps.gov
<http://www.nps.gov/guis/index.htm>

Secondary Supervisor/Mentor:

J. Cody Haynes
Biological Science Technician
3500 Park Rd
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 230-4105 | james_haynes@nps.gov
<http://www.nps.gov/guis/index.htm>