

National Parks Business Plan Initiative



- ▶ Summer 2007 Work Site: Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland
- ▶ Resources: 37-mile barrier island with migratory birds, wild ponies, forests, marshes, shifting dunes, dedicated park staff, and more.
- ▶ Objectives: Provide the park with a detailed analysis of operations and funding needs. Work with staff to develop innovative strategies to meet park goals. Prepare a document that communicates the park's priorities to outside stakeholders.
- ▶ Other Goals: Learn to surf.

With the interesting work, great opportunities to apply and build off of first-year courses, and an incredible outdoor lifestyle, this is an ideal summer internship.

—Sylvia Dizon



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This was an opportunity to use my prior consulting experience in an area I've been passionate about since I visited my first national park over 20 years ago. This is truly a way to give back to our national parks . . .

—Brandon Warner

▶ Each summer, the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association send teams of graduate students to parks around the country to guide staff members through strategic and financial planning.



▶ Brandon and Sylvia were only one of several teams in the summer of 2007. To learn about other experiences and how to apply for next year, visit:
www.nps.gov/consultinginternship

Brandon's Day at Assateague Island National Seashore

- 6:00 a.m. - Coffee followed by sunrise surfing.
- 8:00 a.m. - Meet with Park Superintendent to discuss how to improve sustainability of park operations—installing solar trash compactor units, reducing the park's vehicle fleet, and offering bicycle rentals to visitors.
- 10:00 a.m. - Into the field with vegetation resources team to learn about staff time requirements for identifying endangered plants.
- 2:00 p.m. - Back at the office to write summary of Resource Management operations for the business plan document.
- 4:00 p.m. - Catch up on e-mails and set up next interview with aquatic resources team.
- 5:00 p.m. - Meet with co-consultant to evaluate community outreach strategies.
- 7:00 p.m. - Early evening kayak on the bay.