

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
North Carolina and Tennessee



Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internships

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting for several 3-6 month Internships available for college students and recent graduates who would like to gain valuable work experience while helping us protect the cultural and natural resources in the park through education, research, and management.

Ridge upon ridge of forest straddles the border between North Carolina and Tennessee in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM), the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Mississippi River. World-renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, it is America's most visited national park.

GRSM has the most biological diversity of any area in the world's temperate zone. Thus, the park is a sanctuary for a magnificent array of animal and plant life. Outdoor recreational opportunities also abound in the park and local area. GRSM alone contains 10 campgrounds, 2,000 miles of stream, almost 900 miles of trails and 89 backcountry campsites. The park boasts sections of three long-distance trails, including over 70 miles of the world-famous Appalachian Trail.

Interns receive dorm housing, uniform shirt, and a weekly stipend (\$125), but are responsible for their own travel expenses to the park. A personal vehicle is encouraged to facilitate off-duty use since public transportation is limited in the area.

The following Internships are available in 2012. Please see the attached position descriptions for duties, responsibilities, skills needed, and application procedures.

Please pay careful attention to the application material due dates! The due dates are slightly different for each position.

For general questions about the internship program, you may contact:

Dana Soehn, Volunteer Coordinator
(865) 436-1265
dana_soehn@nps.gov

*The funding for these positions has been provided by our partners:
Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains Association*



Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Botany Intern
1 summer position



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 weeks (May - August)

STIPEND \$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for a spring/summer internship in the Inventory and Monitoring Branch. The position is primarily field oriented and will assist in collecting and compiling data to:

1. Protect rare and endangered plant species
2. Assess impacts to target plant species

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Rare Plant Monitoring: Assist with various botanical projects such as field monitoring of threatened and endangered plants. This will involve locating, mapping using a Trimble XT, and sampling target populations in backcountry areas, and detailed data collection.

General: Other short-term duties may include:

- assisting with other ecological projects in the Park
- laboratory work on specimen identification and preservation
- long-term vegetation monitoring (plot set-up and data collection)
- herbarium specimen preparation
- computer data entry

SKILLS REQUIRED

Academic background in biological sciences. Ability to hike/backpack in steep mountainous terrain. Be part of a team that operates safely and communicates clearly.

SKILLS DESIRED

Preferred knowledge in botany and GIS.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **February 24, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Janet Rock, Botanist
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 430-4743
janet_rock@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Forest Ecology Intern
2 summer positions



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 weeks (May - August)

STIPEND \$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for a summer internship in the Inventory and Monitoring Branch. The position is primarily field oriented and will assist in digitally mapping vegetation communities, assist with wetlands inventory, mapping, and classification, and monitor vegetation plots throughout the park.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- Vegetation community mapping: Serve on a field crew that digitally maps vegetation communities throughout the backcountry. Duties will include using Trimble GPS Equipment and ArcGIS software to digitally map vegetation communities.
- Wetlands identification: Assist with locating and mapping wetlands in selected watersheds. Duties will include inventorying plant life in wetlands, assessing wetland conditions and management considerations, and using Trimble and Garmin GPS equipment to map wetlands.
- Vegetation monitoring project: Assist with sampling overstory and understory communities. This will involve plot reestablishment, tagging and measurement of trees, surveys of herbaceous vegetation, and assessing tree condition.
- General: Other short term duties may include:
 - Data entry
 - Uninstallation of lysimeter plots
- Assist with other park programs as needed

SKILLS REQUIRED

Academic background in forestry, botany or the biological or environmental sciences. Experience/interest in dendrology, plant identification, GPS/GIS and backcountry navigation desired. The position requires the ability to hike/backpack (up to 10-15 miles) in steep mountainous terrain and work off trail; may require overnight backcountry stays. Interns will be part of a team that operates safely and communicates clearly.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1st, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Tom Remaley, Ecologist
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-1736
tom_remaley@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE: GIS Intern
1 Position



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT: 12 weeks

STIPEND: \$125 per week + dorm housing included

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

GIS interns needed beginning June 2012 and lasting for 12 weeks for assistance with GIS data creation and data management. Duties will include using ArcGIS Desktop software and Trimble GPS Equipment to create and manage new GIS data layers. Coordinating with park staff to organize existing spatial data and create and document procedures for updating geo-spatial datasets.

Must be able to hike in mountainous terrain in hot humid or inclement weather conditions carrying a daypack or backpack and other field equipment. Good fitting hiking boots and rainwear are important personal items to have prior to arrival. Stinging insects, poison ivy, slippery footing, and venomous snakes are known field hazards. Work schedule is eight hour days 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

SKILLS NEEDED:

Some education or experience in geographic information systems (GIS), computer cartography a must, specifically experience using ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMap/ArcCatalog). Experience with geodatabase formats is a plus. Applicant should have the ability to write and follow detailed technical information documents and be self-motivated and flexible. Valid state vehicle operator's license desired.

HOW TO APPLY:

Application materials must be received by **March 1st, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Thomas Colson, GIS Program Manager
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-1701
thomas_colson@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE: Backcountry Management Intern
1 summer position



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 weeks (June – August)

STIPEND \$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified individuals for a summer internship in backcountry management. The position is primarily field-oriented and assists the Backcountry Management Specialist.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Assist the park's Backcountry Management Specialist with monitoring conditions of trails, backcountry signs, campsites, shelters and privies. Lead or assist with backcountry campsite clean ups. Assist with maintenance of backcountry permit locations. Perform campsite assessments. Provide support to the Backcountry Information Office. Assist the Backcountry Management Specialist with backcountry and wilderness related research and projects. Work with park partners, such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, to accomplish common goals.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants must have an interest in backcountry and wilderness management. No specific academic background is required. However, a background in parks and recreation management is preferred. Applicants must be in good physical condition and able to hike with a loaded pack up to 15 miles per day. Applicants must be experienced multi-day backpackers, be grounded in the principles of Leave No Trace and be willing and able to hike and camp alone for multiple days in the remote areas. Applicants must have exceptional interpersonal skills and be able to effectively communicate with a variety of individuals.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 15, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Melissa Cobern, Backcountry Specialist
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-1264
melissa_cobern@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Fishery Management Intern
4 Positions (2 Summer, 2 Fall)



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT

12 weeks
2 Positions from June through August (dates are negotiable);
2 Positions from August through early November (dates are negotiable)
Normal Appointment Term is 12 weeks

STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Fisheries Management Branch. The positions are field and lab oriented and assists with fishery assessments and management.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) is the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Mississippi River boasting over 2,100 miles of cool and coldwater streams. There are nearly 60 species of fish found in GRSM representing 12 families from prehistoric lampreys to wild brook trout, to three federally protected fish species that were extirpated but have recently been reintroduced and are being monitored in Abrams Creek. You will serve as a fisheries intern being trained and assisting in small stream monitoring efforts of trout populations using backpack electrofishing gear throughout this 520,000 acre National Park. Major training and skills acquired through this position include the use, construction, and maintenance of backpack electrofishing gear, small stream sampling guidelines, population enumeration using depletion estimates, identification of 20-40 fish species, physical and chemical stream measurements, data entry and editing techniques, and backcountry sampling and camping techniques. Interns will work with a team of federal, state, and private biologists, as well as university researchers.

Specific responsibilities will include: monitoring fish using backpack electrofishing gear and snorkeling - 40%, physical and chemical stream measurements - 20%, fish identification – 10%, data entry and editing techniques – 10%, equipment repair, maintenance and construction – 10%, and backcountry camping and sampling techniques - 10%.

Training: use, repair and maintenance of backpack electrofishing gear, stream snorkeling techniques, fish identification, and remote backcountry field operations.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Interest in the profession of fisheries biology or fish management, good physical conditioning, ability to carry heavy loads of gear (40 lbs.) over rough terrain for up to 5 miles on a daily basis, willingness to work outdoors, possibly overnight(s) in variable weather conditions.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received **by February 17, 2012** for Summer Positions and **May 18, 2012** for Fall Positions. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Matt Kulp, Fishery Biologist
Matt_Kulp@nps.gov
865-436-1254

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Vegetation Management Intern
3 summer positions



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 weeks

STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Control invasive exotic plants- this is a park-wide activity that involves mechanical (pulling) or chemical control of the 30 species of invasive plants that we actively manage. We provide safety training on the safe use of pesticides and the techniques we use. Exotic plant control involves about 30%-40% of scheduled time.

We have several forest insect pests that are having a big impact on our forests. Specifically, hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect from Asia, has been in the park since 2000 and has had a big effect on the eastern hemlock forests in the Smokies. The park has old growth hemlock (some exceeding 500 years old) and mixed hemlock forest types, some of which are globally rare. We treat high value hemlocks with chemicals and biocontrol predator beetles to keep hemlocks alive. The park is also infested with the balsam woolly adelgid (BWA), an eastern European insect that attacks Fraser fir trees, and has killed 80+% of the park's fir trees. We monitor the population of BWA on four mountain tops and can treat a portion of one area with insecticidal soap sprayed from truck mounted sprayers. Forest insect and disease work involves about 50% of work time. Various projects including replanting areas that have been under construction, maintaining grassy balds with weed eaters to suppress blackberry growth, and maintaining native prairie seed plantings for restoration use. Restoration work involves about 10% of work time.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Ability to hike/backpack in mountainous terrain in hot or cold humid conditions; may require overnight backcountry stays. Ability to work as a group member to complete work assignments; Note: Exposure to poison ivy and biting/stinging insects is possible; those highly allergic should carefully consider this issue. After provided training, must be able to use pesticides in safe manner following required handling, application and disposal instructions including wearing of personal protective equipment. Ability to learn to safely use cutting tools- manual or powered- is important. Must be willing to wear a volunteer in parks (VIP) hat and/or shirt to be identifiable to the visiting public and act as a representative of the National Park Service while serving as an intern.

SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in biology, agriculture, forestry, recreation and resource management among other disciplines. Plant and/or invertebrate identification skills beneficial.

HOW TO APPLY:

Application materials must be received by **March 1st, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

Glenn Taylor
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
Glenn_Taylor@nps.gov
(865) 430-4748

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE **Wildlife Management Intern**
2 Positions: 1 Spring/Summer, 1 Summer/Fall



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 to 16 weeks
May – August, August - November

STIPEND \$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Wildlife Branch. The positions are primarily field oriented and assist with elk management, black bear management, and other wildlife management activities.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- **Elk Management:** Perform radio-telemetry to monitor elk movements and survival. Assist in the capture, handling, and radio-marking of newborn elk calves (spring position only). Patrol areas where elk commonly feed providing education and assistance to visitors.
- **Black Bear Management:** Assist with the monitoring, capture, and handling of nuisance and injured black bears. Post warning and/or closure signs as needed. This work can often be physically strenuous for extended hours.
- **Wild Hog Control:** Hike and scout area for wild hog activity. Set and monitor wild hog traps. Utilize a firearm to humanely euthanize trapped wild hogs.
- Hike and backpack (up to 15 miles) in remote mountainous terrain.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Practical knowledge of radio-telemetry; ability to work with/handle animals (farm, zoo, etc. work experience); ability to hike/backpack; ability to use firearms; ability to work with and carry heavy backpacks in steep mountains terrain; ability to operate vehicles including towing and backing trailers.

SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in wildlife or related disciplines; outdoor related skills in hunting, trapping and backpacking.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **February 24, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references and copy of transcripts to:

Joe Yarkovich, Wildlife Biologist
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 850-0533
Joseph_Yarkovich@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE: Wildlife Management Intern
3 Positions



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 to 16 weeks
April/May through August/September

STIPEND: \$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Wildlife Branch. The positions are primarily field oriented and assist with black bear management, wild hog control and other wildlife management activities.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- **Black Bear Management:** Monitor campgrounds and picnic areas for nuisance black bears. Set and monitor bear traps. Assist with the capture and handling of nuisance and injured black bears. Post warning and/or closure signs as needed.
- **Wild Hog Control:** Hike and scout area for wild hog activity. Set and monitor wild hog traps. Utilize a firearm to humanely euthanize trapped wild hogs.
- **Wildlife Monitoring:** Assist with wildlife surveys. Gather and record wildlife data. Utilize computers to input, review and edit wildlife data.
- Hike and backpack (up to 15 miles) in remote mountainous terrain.
- May be required to exert strenuous physical effort in search and rescue and wildlife control situations.

SKILLS NEEDED

Ability to work with/handle animals (farm, zoo, etc. work experience); ability to hike/backpack; ability to use firearms; ability to work with and carry heavy backpacks in steep mountains terrain; ability to operate vehicles including towing and backing trailers.

SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in wildlife or related disciplines; outdoor related skills in hunting, trapping and backpacking.

HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **February 24, 2012**. Send resume, 3 references and copy of transcripts to:

Bill Stiver, Wildlife Biologist
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-1251
bill_stiver@nps.gov

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Resource Education Intern
7 Positions



4 Summer Positions

(2 Positions at Sugarlands Visitor Center, 2 Positions at Oconaluftee Visitor Centers)

2 Fall Positions

(Sugarlands Visitor Center)

1 Winter Position

(Sugarlands Visitor Center)

LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 12 weeks

STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park interns in Resource Education acquire experience and training in presenting thematic naturalist and cultural programs, become familiar with operations at a visitor center in a large national park, and gain knowledge on a variety of topics including wildlife biology, botany, forest ecology, geology, Native American culture, history, and park management. In addition, there are many recreational opportunities either in Park or the surrounding area to hike, bike, backpack, canoe, kayak, raft, fish, rock climb, and observe wildlife.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Resource education/ interpretation interns deal directly with park visitors. After completing a training session, the work involves answering questions at visitor centers and providing trip planning help at an information desk, researching, preparing, and presenting short guided walks and talks, leading children's programs, providing information to individuals you may encounter on trails or overlooks, providing roving interpretation in the field, assisting with traffic/visitor management around wildlife, assisting other park operations in the field, and completing a wide variety of special projects. The intern wears a volunteer in parks (VIP) hat and or shirt to be identifiable to the visiting public and act as a representative of the National Park Service.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants must be high school graduates with a solid academic background or college students in a declared major field of study such as natural or physical sciences, history, education, communications, natural science interpretation, or recreation and resource management. An interest or experience in interpretation or environmental education, natural or cultural history would be helpful, but is not required. Applicants should have the ability to communicate ideas effectively, and enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others.

BENEFITS

Interns selected for the program will participate in all training and orientation normally attended by the resource education staff, and will receive rent-free housing, a stipend of \$125 per week for a 12 week assignment and a uniform. Interns will receive two stipend payments, one at the mid-term of the assignment and one at the completion of the assignment. Travel to and from the park is at the intern's personal expense. Personal vehicles are encouraged to facilitate off duty use since public transportation is limited in the area.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a detailed resume which lists education, work experience, hobbies and other interests, and at least three references. College students or graduates should also include a college transcript. Applicants should specify their subject matter interests and can seek information on park programs by reviewing information on the park's website at www.nps.gov/grsm.

For Sugarlands Visitor Center, Send Application materials to:

Caitlin Worth
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-1263
caitlin_worth@nps.gov

For Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Send Application materials to:

Florie Takaki
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(828) 497-1905
florie_takaki@nps.gov

Application materials must be mailed to the appropriate supervisor by the following dates:

Application Due Date for Resource Education Positions:

Summer Internship Position	March 1, 2012
Fall Internship Position	June 1, 2012
Winter Internship Position	September 1, 2012