



**YOSEMITE  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

# INTERNSHIPS

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## POSITION DESCRIPTIONS: 2012

### 1. National Park Service Interpretation; Field Branch:

#### **Purpose:**

Park ranger – interpreters connect people to parks. They play a key role in ensuring that visitors have a meaningful, satisfying, and safe park experience, help visitors decide how to spend their time in the park, and inform them about the wonders that await their discovery. Park ranger – interpreters are specially trained to engage the public so that each park visitor can find a personal connection with the meanings and values found in the places and stories of that park. They help visitors explore the many dimensions of parks by introducing them to a variety of perspectives. By providing the opportunity for visitors to care about the places they visit, they promote stewardship and the opportunity for those visitors to care for park resources.

The work done by park ranger-interpreters through effective interpretive and educational programs encourages the development of a personal stewardship ethic and broadens public support for preserving and protecting park resources, so that they may be enjoyed by present and future generations.



#### **Description of Duties:**

- Develop and present a walk and/or talk in a park location such as the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the Wawona campground, or the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The guided program (30 – 90 minutes) offered by the intern may be a junior ranger program or general visitor program. The topic may be about history, culture, or nature. These programs are researched and developed by the intern and generally reflect the interests of the intern. A major goal for interpreters providing these programs is to connect the visitor to the resource and create a sense of stewardship among these visitors.
- Provide informal interpretation and information/orientation to culturally diverse visitors encountered during visitor center desk and trail/public area roving duties. Interns will orient visitors to Yosemite National Park (and surrounding areas) and answer frequently asked questions. Share up-to-date information on park features, facilities, and services to park visitors during informational contacts.
- May sell park publications at these facilities or issue wilderness permits.

#### **Qualifications:**

- Skills in communication a must – both public speaking and informal interpersonal communication.
- Desire to work with the visiting public and provide quality customer service.

- Interest in interpretation, education, and park preservation through the inspiration of others.
- Ability to work well within a team; flexibility and collaboration a must!
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- Basic computer literacy, Microsoft Word and Powerpoint a plus.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.

## 2. National Park Service Interpretation; Education Branch:

### **Purpose:**

Education Interns have the remarkable opportunity to explore, learn, develop and hone professional skills in the field of environmental education. Working along side experienced Education Rangers; interns will be guided through the process of researching, developing and delivering environmental education programs for visiting school groups, within Yosemite National Park.



### **Description of Duties:**

Interns will have the opportunity to explore a variety of subject matters including, but not limited to, Climate Change, Geology, Wildlife, Wilderness, Watershed Science, Bears, and much more. Interns will have the opportunity to gain experience working in a variety of settings within Yosemite National Park as well as with a diverse audience of students. Presenting information for groups of visiting students will be required and interns will be mentored in this skill prior to delivery of any program. At the completion of the internship, the student should have a comprehensive understanding of environmental education techniques and standards as well as relevant professional experience. This is an excellent internship for students interested in a career in education, interpretation, writing, or other similar field.

### **Qualifications:**

- Strong communication skills required – both public speaking and informal interpersonal communication.
- Interest in learning how to research background information on a particular topic via literary resources and field observations while being provided guidance in designing their own education program.
- Interest in interpretation, education, and park preservation through the inspiration of others.
- Ability to work well both independently and within a team;
- Basic computer literacy e.g.: Microsoft Word and Powerpoint.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills desired.

### 3. Visitor and Resource Protection; Wilderness:

#### **Purpose:**

As a Wilderness Ranger working in both the front and backcountry you will encounter a wide variety of situations which require you to use your best judgment and work as a team in the center or with your partner in the field. From this array of encounters you will learn or hone your customer service skills, visitor and resource management knowledge, Wilderness skills and values, and communication skills. Past employees have remarked on how much more confident they feel and that they have more faith in their skills to handle dynamic situations.

#### **Description of Duties:**

This position is based in one of the four wilderness centers in Yosemite National Park. The position is split out to be about 40 % in the field and 60% in the wilderness center. In the Wilderness Centers, you will: advise backcountry users on trails and trail conditions, answer general park information questions, issue permits, clean and inventory bear canisters, work on special projects, and assist with sales. Wilderness Patrols include: hiking trails, contacting visitors to provide information about bear defense tactics and regulations, rehabilitating campsites, responding to emergencies, working with restoration crews, inventorying wilderness and trail conditions and answering visitor questions. Wilderness patrols are one to three days in length and typically you will be teamed up with another ranger. You will also need to have and maintain a high degree of physical fitness. On patrol hikes you may encounter a variety of conditions and weather. Conversely, when working at the wilderness center you will be inside most of the day.



#### **Qualifications:**

Required:

- Good customer service skills
- Ability to work outdoors in varying weather
- Familiarity with PC based computers
- Valid State driver's license

Strongly Recommended:

- Basic knowledge of hiking and backpacking (We provide equipment)
- First Aid and CPR certifications

#### **Training Provided:**

- CPR and First Aid (depending on availability at the Park)
- Wilderness and Leave No Trace travel skills
- Wilderness ethics, history and regulations
- Bear awareness and hazing
- Park Orientation and specific job duties

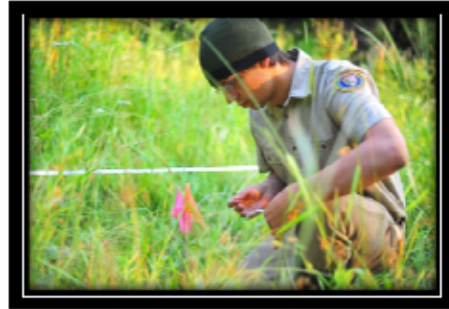
#### **Past UC Students:**

Sydney Montroy (2009), Gil Ayala (2009)  
Chris Cuny (2010), Aricia Martinez (2010)  
Cameron Polic (2011), Jamie Husain (2011)

#### 4. Resources Management and Science; Vegetation and Ecological Restoration:

##### **Purpose:**

This position works within the division of Resources Management and Science (RMS) in the branch of Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER). Intern will work on a variety of vegetation management and ecological restoration related activities that will help restore and maintain the ecological integrity of Yosemite for present and future generations. Some examples of work include: cataloging plant or lichen specimens; introduction to plant taxonomy; maintaining native plants in a garden or restoration setting; hydrology and vegetation monitoring; invasive plant removal; building and/or repairing fences; ecological restoration of disturbed sites; conifer removal; etc.



##### **Description of Duties:**

- Ecological restoration activities may include a range of tasks from obliterating social trails or illegal campsites to meadow restoration. Some work may occur in the wilderness and require overnight backcountry travel. Methods often utilized for ecological restoration projects include: de-compacting soil, mulching, seeding, planting, watering, and/or fencing. In addition, intern may assist with collection of seeds, cones, plant cuttings or other native materials needed for restoration sites. To help determine the success of a restoration project, Intern may also perform monitoring or survey of hydrology and vegetation utilizing GPS, cameras, compass and other survey equipment.
- The Intern will assist in the survey and documentation (using GPS) for non-native plants to check the spread and to focus removal efforts. Removal typically involves non-chemical (hand clippers, loppers, bow saws, handsaws, shovels, weed wrenches, hand pulling) means to remove exotic (non-native) plant infestations or other unwanted vegetation (i.e. conifers in meadows). Although not personally handling herbicides, Interns may assist RMS staff or Trained Crew Leader when herbicides are used in the work area.
- Intern may assist in cataloging vascular and non-vascular (lichens) plant specimens (indoor activity).

##### **Qualifications:**

- Interest in ecology, botany, biology, hydrology and/or ecological restoration
- Knowledge of or ability to learn established principles, practices, and techniques of the vegetation & ecological restoration field
- Knowledge of or ability to learn data collection techniques, including operation and maintenance of field equipment (tools, GPS, plant identification, etc)
- Ability to work well within a team; flexible, sense of humor, willing to learn
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work outdoors for long days in all weather conditions and sometimes spend a day in the office
- Interest in some backcountry overnight travel
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record

## 5. Resources Management and Science; Visitor Use and Social Sciences:

### **Purpose:**

This internship position works within the division of Resources Management and Science in the branch of Visitor Use and Social Socials Sciences. This internship position will provide the participant with unparalleled experience working on two of Yosemite National Parks largest management plans—The Mariposa Grove Restoration and The Merced River Plan. Assisting with these plans will leave a legacy that will last well after the internship over. Interns will collect data on the recreational patterns of visitor use in front country settings. This is a great opportunity to be part of a park-wide monitoring program and interact with the public. Opportunities are also available to participate in other aspects of the user capacity monitoring program. This position requires a motivated intern who will work well in a team as well as individually in order to address broader resource protection and experiential issues. Through the monitoring of social, cultural and ecological indicators, this information will be used to directly inform actions aimed at protecting the cultural and natural resources within Yosemite National Park.



### **Description of duties:**

- \*Collect information for the monitoring program that will be utilized in the development of The Mariposa Grove Restoration Plan and the Merced River Plan.
- \*Perform person counts to understand use levels of various recreational activities.
- \*Administer visitor experience surveys to public at popular park destinations.
- \*Data entry and organization

### **Qualifications:**

- A love of nature, outdoor works, getting your hands dirty.
- Interest in social science; recreation management and land use planning.
- Ability to work well within a team; sense of humor, flexibility and collaboration a must!
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- Great verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy, Word, Excel, Experience with database operations or Photoshop a plus.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.

## 6. Visitor and Resource Protection; Fire Education and Communication:

### **Purpose:**

This internship will provide an exciting and unique opportunity to work directly with the Yosemite National Park Fire team. This internship will be focused on assisting with communication regarding fire incidents and management within Yosemite National Park; working directly with park education staff and the fire communication team, this internship will provide a first-



hand experience learning about fire management strategies, policy and assist with direct communication with the public via personal interactions or developed communication tools such as fact sheets, bulletins, maps, displays, etc.

This internship will give the participant an extraordinary look into the dynamic role that fire plays in the Sierra Nevada. From the role that fire plays in the ecosystem, to agency management perspectives and stakeholder view points, this internship is a great opportunity to build professional skills, get outside, create communication materials and work with visitors and park staff.

**Qualifications:**

- A love of nature, outdoor works, getting your hands dirty.
- Interest in fire ecology, education, and multi-media platforms.
- Ability to work well within a team; sense of humor, flexibility and collaboration a must!
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- Great verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy, Word, Excel, Experience with database operations or Photoshop a plus.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.

**7. Visitor and Resource Protection; Preventative Search and Rescue:**

**Purpose:**

The Yosemite Valley District Protection Rangers request one UC Merced Intern to assist Rangers with day to day operations in Little Yosemite Valley from approximately June to September. Little Yosemite Valley (LYV) contains the trail network leading to Half Dome. While there are no roads in this wilderness area it is one of the busiest trail systems in Yosemite and the National Park System. Due to the volume of hikers in this area there is often a need for extra persons to patrol the trails and assist visitors.



**Description of Duties:**

- The PSAR portion of the position involves talking to hikers about their skill level and known hazards in an attempt to prevent any mishaps. Additionally, the volunteer is expected to respond to and report emergencies as well as assist with SAR operations.
- The wildlife management portion of the position involves assisting and educating hikers on how to keep Yosemite's wildlife wild. Specifically, the intern is trained to assist with monitoring bear activity and assisting visitors with proper food storage.
- Volunteers are also expected to the assist the LYV Rangers with operations and projects.

This is a great opportunity for anyone thinking of a career with the National Park Service, Emergency Medicine, Search and Rescue, or Wildlife Management.

**Qualifications:**

- Perspective Interns should possess backpacking and outdoor skills and maintain a high level of physical fitness.
- Interns should be enthusiastic and comfortable informing the visiting public about NPS rules and regulations in informal groups along the trails and at backcountry campsites.
- A good attitude and an aptitude for new experiences may be more important than current knowledge and skills

Backcountry quarters during the work week are provided at the LYV Ranger Station in a shared canvas wall tent without running water. Meals are provided while at LYV.

Volunteering in Little Yosemite Valley will require a lot of hard work, but in return, the intern will gain unique experiences that will last a life time.

**8. National Park Management; Superintendent's Office:****Purpose:**

This internship position provides the participant with an exciting opportunity to see how a national park is managed, learning first-hand about park management plans, partnerships, operations, outreach initiatives, safety requirements and the forethought that goes into managing critically important cultural and natural resources. This internship provides experience in reviewing and processing news and media clips, updating park fact sheets, creating press materials and assisting with special press visits. This intern will also take or collect photos and videos, assist with the Merced River Plan process; provides support for events and meetings, while gaining administrative skills by assisting with data entry, file maintenance and reporting. This is an excellent internship opportunity for students interested in business, recreation or land management, policy or a public lands career.

**Responsibilities:**

- Support for public affairs to include processing news clippings, updating fact sheets, assembling press kits, and coordinating and participating in press visits
- Take photos and/or create graphics/videos that could be used in the Merced River Plan public involvement process.
- Photo and/or video document public involvement events/processes
- Event support/setup for special park events, open houses and public meetings
- Support for the safety office to include database entry for test results and creation of fact sheets
- Data entry in outreach contact database
- Filing in Superintendent's Office as needed

**Qualifications:**

- Interest in business, recreation management or land use planning.
- Professional, positive attitude, excited to learn and be an important part of a dynamic team.

- Ability to work well within a team environment; sense of humor, flexibility and collaboration a must!
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy, Word, Excel, Experience with database operations or Photoshop, video program editing a plus.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.

## 9. NPS Sustainability Team:

### **Purpose:**

This internship seeks to provide a student with an opportunity to develop a training curriculum and associated materials related to sustainability for National Park Service employees. Yosemite National Park employs approximately 600 – 1000 individuals in geographically dispersed locations. The intern will develop a training binder with weekly topics to increase the knowledge of employees in regards to



sustainability, which includes topics related to energy, water use, transportation, indoor environments, purchasing, climate change, and recycling. The intern may also conduct classes for employees, concessioners and other park partners, highlighting topics of sustainability.

### **Description of Duties:**

- Interview subject matter experts to gain information about sustainability related topics
- Conduct research of online and written resources to gain knowledge of sustainability related topics
- Create a training binder with information about sustainable topics
- Conduct focus groups to determine effective methods of content delivery for educational purposes
- Possibly teach classes related to sustainability
- Create and implement a marketing plan to generate interest in sustainability training

### **Qualifications:**

- A passion for simultaneously advancing environmental stewardship and social justice while being aware of economic realities
- Ability to synthesize information from multiple sources and create educational material that can be understood by the general public
- Writing ability
- Communication skills

- Willingness to work indoors and travel to different parts of the park
- Public speaking skills desirable
- Prior knowledge of sustainability and education desirable

## 10. National Park Non-Profit Partner; Yosemite Conservancy:

### **Purpose:**

Yosemite Conservancy is offering a unique Yosemite Leadership Program internship opportunity for a creative and people-oriented individual, to work with the Yosemite Art and Education Center in Yosemite Valley. We are looking for someone who is interested in art and nature and wants to spend a summer in Yosemite National Park. They will learn about public educational programs offered in Yosemite with an eye to creating and presenting a simple art-based program which will be a part of this summer's Art and Education Center schedule.



Since the beginning of Yosemite National Park, art has played a vital role in public awareness of and involvement in environmental preservation. The National Park system, and Yosemite in specific, has served to inspire generations of artists. Through their art, they speak with a dynamic and persuasive voice for the appreciation and preservation of this national resource. This summer internship will be study of public education program development with an emphasis on the role of arts programming. Through experiencing many of the programs available in YNP they will develop an understanding of the vital role of the public education process in the protection of our national parks. They will work with the coordinator of the Art and Education Center to develop and present programming that uses art as a tool that involves people in Yosemite.

### **Description of Duties:**

We'll keep duties somewhat varied to provide a good exposure to the functions of a non-profit that works with a federal agency. This intern does not need to be a highly developed artist, but must have good communication skills, feel comfortable working with groups of varied ages and nationalities and most importantly should be excited about presenting a regular program to the public.

### **Qualifications:**

- Good physical condition for hiking, exploring at varied elevations, dealing with challenges of heat, dehydration, and carrying a pack. There may be long periods of standing and walking as well.
- Participating in operational planning and evaluation meetings
- Attending and assisting with existing interpretive programs given by various park partners
- Dealing with park visitors with patience, kindness, and courtesy at all times
- Learning about the vastness and beauty of Yosemite as much as is possible in a summer

## 11. Concessioner (DNC Parks and Resorts); Interpretation:

The mission of the Interpretive Services Department of Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (DNC P&R at Yosemite) is to inspire park stewardship by creating personal connections between the visitors and Yosemite National Park. For the summer of 2011, we seek an enthused, passionate, committed Interpretive Services intern who will help us achieve this mission!



### **Description of Duties:**

- Get training and practice in interpretation skills including research, outline preparation, presentation techniques, working with children, and comfort speaking to large audiences
- Research, design and present interpretive programs in English and Spanish for diverse audiences, such as film presentations, hikes, children's activities, historic tours, and/or informal visitor interactions
- Do one of the two following projects:
  1. Interface with the DNC website as you develop/translate at least one DNC web page in Spanish.
  2. Work with audio software and recording devices as you translate an interpretive podcast into Spanish
- Discover Yosemite's cultural and natural history
- Explore Yosemite and have fun!

### **Required Qualifications:**

- In the process of earning an undergraduate degree, preferably in education, science, and/or tourism
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills in *both* the English and Spanish languages
- Ability to work successfully both independently and as a member of a team
- Enthusiastic, innovative, self-directed, flexible, motivated, and punctual
- Possession of or willingness to obtain current first aid, CPR, and AED certifications
- Possession of a valid driver's license
- Be comfortable with diverse forms of technology, ranging from, but not limited to, PC software, audio recording devices, and web editing programs.

### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience with the use of digital audio-recording equipment and computer editing technology for digital audio files
- Experience teaching and/or public speaking
- Experience working with children of a variety of age levels
- Experience or interest in the visual or performing arts
- Knowledge of Sierra Nevada ecosystems and cultural history