



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for valuable "hands-on" experience in your career field? The National Park Service (NPS) offers beautiful and challenging environments with internship programs intended to provide working experience to augment your degree program. Natural and cultural resource management, park ranger, and facility management internships are available with the NPS at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, Michigan. Many alumni of the internship program have enrolled in graduate school programs and/or successfully started careers in the National Park Service.

PARK AREA

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was established to preserve outstanding natural features including forests, beaches, dunes, and ancient glacial phenomena along 65 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline to perpetuate the natural setting for the benefit and enjoyment of the public and to protect it from developments

and inappropriate uses that would destroy its scenic beauty, scientific and recreational value. The Lakeshore's historic maritime and agricultural landscapes are of a size and quality that are unique on the Great Lakes and rare elsewhere on the U.S. coastline.

TYPES OF INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Natural Resource Management

Wildlife and Plants – The interns will work on projects related to the biological and physical resources of the park, including: monitoring and gathering data on endangered and threatened species, control of invasive plant species, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, dune and impacted site restoration and revegetation, and developing themes by GPS for the park's GIS program.

Water Quality - The interns will collect and analyze water, sediment, and biological samples from inland lakes and streams, assist in monitoring and protecting targeted aquatic species, assist with fish surveys, and assist with other natural resource management projects.

Facility Management - The Facility Management interns will assist with field condition assessments of park trails, roads, grounds, buildings and utilities and assist in updating and maintaining the NPS facility management and cost estimating computer software systems.

Park Ranger

Interpretation - The intern will research and present programs to park visitors on the natural and cultural resources of the park and develop educational curricula and exhibits.

Park Ranger

General – The interns on the Manitou

Islands patrol campgrounds and trails, orient visitors and issue backcountry permits, assist with wildland fire prevention, clear trails and remove exotic vegetation, monitor threatened and endangered species, and provide interpretive talks.

Cultural Resource Management

Historian – Researches libraries and archives for historical information relating to the Lakeshore and locates sources of information. Assists in collection of oral histories. Develops national register nominations for park historic sites. Researches and copies historic photographs.

Archivist/Curator – Helps organize and care for museum collections. Develops a guide to the park's archives.

Historic/Landscape Architect – Assists with documenting existing conditions of park historic architecture and cultural landscapes. Assists in drafting and developing design plans for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic buildings and cultural landscapes.

Paraprofessional Archeologist – Assists in testing of ground sites for potential archeological sites, monitor known sites, research potential archeological sites.

REQUIREMENTS

Natural Resource Management

interns must have a working knowledge of natural resource management techniques and principles and/or related field experience. The work requires some physical exertion such as long periods of standing or walking outdoors over rough, muddy, or sandy terrain and exposure to weather extremes. Candidates who possess knowledge and skills in specific fields such as botany, ornithology, GIS, etc., will be given first consideration for internships in those fields.

Facility Management interns must have a basic knowledge of the principles, practices, tools, and materials used in engineering, architecture, construction trades or facility maintenance operations; and computer, oral and written communication skills.

Park Ranger (Interpretation) interns

must have knowledge of natural and cultural resources, knowledge of environmental education principles and techniques, and ability to prepare and present interpretive programs.

Park Ranger (General) interns must have a working knowledge of island, backcountry or wilderness operations and practices and the ability to convey information and rules to visitors. The work requires some physical exertion such as that described for Natural Resource interns.

Cultural Resource Management

interns must have a working knowledge of the cultural resource specialization for which they are applying, related experience, or a combination of both.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Interns who will work over 180 days, who require access to government computers, or who require unescorted access to government buildings may be required to successfully complete a background investigation, including an FBI fingerprint check, prior to beginning their internship.

Interns who may be required to drive a government vehicle must have a valid state driver's license.

Interns may be issued volunteer uniforms. If issued uniforms, you will be required to wear your uniform in conformance with established standards.

DURATION

Internships usually last for twelve weeks, with the intern working five 8-hour days per week. Other arrangements may be negotiated with the internship supervisor.

Other volunteer and intern positions may be arranged at other times of the year, including Cultural Resource Management internships which are preferred during the school year.

Summer interns should be available no later than early June, and some internships may start earlier.

BENEFITS

Paid interns receive a minimal weekly reimbursement (no less than \$84 per week), some uniform items and park housing.

by the intern, the college advisor, and the NPS supervisor.

Unpaid interns receive some uniform items and park housing.

Training - all interns participate in an orientation training class. Topics which may be covered depending your position include: NPS policy, history and organization; interpretive philosophy, theory, and methods; basic history of the area; basic geology of the area; basic ecology of the area, first aid and CPR; visitor service and resource management goals; and fee collection procedures. Interns will also receive on-the-job training in their field of work.

Interns receive an incredible "hands-on" experience to add to their career resume.

Academic credit may be arranged with the intern's school. Research topics or independent study projects will be agreed on

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Housing for mainland staff is located in Empire which has a grocery, banks, restaurants, churches, gas station, and daycare. More extensive shopping, medical, and recreational opportunities are available within 30 miles; however there is no public transportation to these locations. Mainland interns are responsible for their own transportation to work each day. Mainland interns may be assigned to work on the Manitou Islands for periods of time up to 10 days. If mainland interns are assigned to work on the Manitou Islands for short periods, they may be assigned to camp or be in park housing. Camping equipment, except for backpacks and sleeping bags, will be provided.

Housing for Island staff is located on the Manitou Islands which are approximately 7 miles off shore in Lake Michigan. No other facilities are on the islands. Island staff usually work 10 days on the islands and have 4 days off. Temporary housing is available on the mainland for Island staff on their days off. This housing is remotely located so interns should have their own transportation for shopping and other amenities. The park boat and the concession ferry provide access to and from the islands during the summer months. Island employees may ride the park boat or concession ferry at least once per month at no charge or more frequently on a space available basis.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for an internship, please mail a résumé including the phone numbers of at least two references, a copy of academic transcripts, a letter of recommendation from a college advisor or employer, and a cover letter that states in which position you are interested and why.

Applications for summer internships must be **received no later than March 1.**

If you wish to be considered for more than one of the internships, please send separate applications.

Applications for internships other than summer should be sent no later than 3 months before the desired starting date. Mail applications to:

Sleeping Bear Dunes
National Lakeshore
ATTN: Intern Program
9922 Front Street
Empire, MI 49630

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding these opportunities may be obtained by calling Marie Rose White at: (231)326-5134X204.

OR by e-mail at:

Marie_White@nps.gov
