



**YOSEMITE  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

# INTERNSHIPS

## POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:

### 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:**

P.J. Solomon (2007), Harry Ramirez (2007) Chris Hubach (2008), Gesha Uminskiy (2008), Sydney Montroy (2009), Gil Ayala (2009)

**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 to be performed include: assisting with native plants in a garden or restoration setting; invasive plant removal; building and/or repairing fences; ecological restoration of disturbed sites; riverbank stabilization; conifer removal; etc.

**Description of Duties:**



- Intern will utilize non-chemical means to remove exotic (non-native) plant infestations or other unwanted vegetation (i.e. conifers in meadows) under supervision of RMS Staff or Trained Crew Leader(s). Intern will use hand clippers, loppers, bow saws, hand saws, shovels, weed wrenches or other appropriate methods including hand pulling to manually remove unwanted plants. Although not personally handling herbicides, Interns will need to exercise care & follow directions from RMS staff or Trained Crew Leader when herbicides are used in the work area.
- Intern will utilize non-motorized hand tools such as hammers, shovels, post-hole diggers, digging bars, wrenches, cable cutters, and hammers, or motorized hand tools such as electric or battery powered drills, saws, or other necessary tools. All tools are to be handled in safe manner at all times. Intern may remove decrepit or damaged fences or sections of fences. Depending on the type of fence they will be digging holes to set post, fitting rails in to post, stringing cable through post, cutting cable, tightening cable clamps, stacking rails, pounding nails, twisting wire, and attaching signs.
- Intern will perform other restoration activities such as obliterating social trails or illegal campsites, riverbank stabilization, or other restoration duties as assigned. Intern may also perform monitoring or survey of hydrology and vegetation utilizing GPS, cameras, compass and other survey equipment.
- Intern will de-compact soil, mulch, seed, plant, water, fence, and/or monitor native plants in restoration sites. Native plants stored in nurseries or gardens will be watered, re-potted, and/or maintained for future restoration projects. Intern may assist with collection of seeds, cones, plant cuttings or other activities related to procurement of materials needed for restoration sites.

**Qualifications:**

Work will take place outdoors in variable working conditions. Interns should dress appropriately for the work & weather, including leather gloves, long pants, long sleeved shirt, eye protection, and sturdy shoes/boots etc. Work involves hiking over uneven, potentially rocky &/or wet, slippery terrain. Potential hazards include exposure to scratchy or thorny vegetation, irritating vegetation (i.e. poison oak), biting or stinging insects, snakes, wildlife, allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, etc) and other hazards typical of outdoor work environments. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion is required, potentially at high elevation. Intern should drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration, protect against exposure to elements (i.e. sunscreen, hat, protective clothing) and take breaks as necessary. Work will involve crouching, bending over, and lifting (proper bending and lifting technique should be used by Intern). Ability to lift up to 40 pounds or 1/3 body weight (whichever is less) is recommended. Tools should be handled in a safe manner at all times. Intern should be aware of safety rules pertaining to the equipment utilized and maintain a “safety circle” when using tools. Damaged or unsafe equipment should be reported to the crew leader.

Intern must have the ability to learn to identify target plant species (native or non-native depending on task). Intern must be able to properly identify target plants and safely use appropriate tools and techniques when removing vegetation. When performing ecological restoration activities, Intern must be able to plant native plants correctly so they survive in new area while safely using whatever tools are necessary to perform the restoration related tasks. Intern must perform all tasks in a safe manner using the appropriate tools for the task and wearing the necessary personal protective gear required for the task. Care must be exercised when working on/off-trail and/or near rivers/streams. Basic outdoor skills including use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, maps and compass also recommended.

- 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).
- Knowledge of or ability to learn database management, word processing, and specialized software programs essential to resource management activities.
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- 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 Sciences. Interns will collect data on recreational patterns of visitor use in both front-country and wilderness settings. This is a great opportunity to be part of park-wide monitoring program and interact with the public. Opportunities are also available to participate in other aspects of the user capacity monitoring program. The User Capacity Monitoring Program is seeking a motivated intern to assist in the implementation of a resources monitoring program in Yosemite National Park. The User Capacity Program allows the park to address broader resource protection and experiential issues through a comprehensive monitoring program. It does this through the monitoring of social, cultural and ecological indicators, which will be used to inform actions aimed at protecting the cultural and natural resources within Yosemite National Park.



### **Description of Duties:**

Collect social science data on visitor use patterns. This includes:

- Wilderness trail counts in popular and less visited areas of the parks.
- Performing person counts to understand use levels of various recreational activities.
- Administering visitor experience surveys to public at popular park destinations.
- Data entry and organization.

### **Qualifications:**

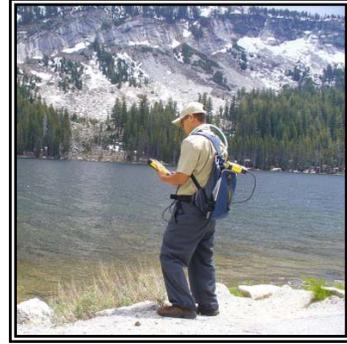
- A love of nature, outdoor work and getting your hands dirty.
- Interest in social science, recreation management, and land use planning.
- Ability to work well within a team; sense of humor, flexibility and collaboration a must!
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- Great verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy, Microsoft Word and 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. Resources Management and Science; Physical Science and Landscape Ecology:

**Purpose:**

This position is located in Yosemite National Park, Division of Resources Management and Science. The purpose of the position is to perform routine physical science technical tasks (e.g., in chemistry, geology, geophysics, hydrology, physics, atmospheric science, and/or other physical sciences).

This position entails assistance with implementation of resource management projects related to water quality, air quality and soundscape data collection. Field data will be collected according to established protocol. The volunteer will collect water samples and process them for shipping to laboratories for analysis. Air quality monitoring equipment will be checked on a weekly basis for filter changes and quality assurance. The volunteer may be required to assist with installation, calibration and maintenance of monitoring equipment. At least 50% of the work is outdoors. The weather in Yosemite varies from hot, dry and clear to cold and windy with rain and snow. Some hiking may be required to access sites. The volunteer should be in good physical condition and able to carry equipment in a backpack to remote sites.

**Description of Duties:**

Collect data related to air quality, water quality, and soundscapes in all parts of Yosemite National Park. This includes:

- Maintains an acoustic monitoring system for quantification of Yosemite soundscapes.
- Operates acid precipitation monitoring sites, ozone monitoring stations, particulate samplers, and other air quality monitoring equipment on a weekly schedule.
- Collects and processes stream water, groundwater, and precipitation samples.
- Data entry, reduction, and management.

**Qualifications:**

- Knowledge of established principles, practices, and techniques of one or more of the physical sciences.
- Knowledge of data collection techniques, including operation and maintenance of testing and sampling equipment.
- Ability to follow detailed sampling and laboratory procedures, and recognize departures from established quality control/quality assurance guidelines.
- Knowledge of database management, word processing, and specialized software programs essential to resource management activities.
- Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
- Desire to work both outdoors and indoors.
- A valid driver's license, clean driving record.

**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 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 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

**9. Concessioner (DNC Parks and Resorts); Interpretation:**

**Purpose:**

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 2010, we seek an enthused, passionate, committed Interpretive Services intern who will help us achieve this mission!



**Description of Duties**

As an intern with DNC P&R at Yosemite's Interpretive Services Department, you will:

- Present interpretive programs in English and Spanish for diverse audiences, including slide shows, hikes, children's activities, historic tours, and informal visitor interactions
- Practice and improve interpretation skills, including resource and audience research, outline preparation, and presentation techniques
- Help create an audio/video interpretive podcast
- Learn about Yosemite's cultural and natural history
- Explore Yosemite and have fun!

**Qualifications:**

We require you to possess the following skills and experience:

- In the process of earning an undergraduate degree in education, science, and/or tourism
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills in *both* the English and Spanish languages
- Experience with the use of digital audio and video recording equipment and computer editing technology for digital audio and video files
- Ability to work successfully both independently and as a member of a team
- Enthusiastic, innovative, self-directed, flexible, motivated, and punctual
- Possession of (or the ability to obtain) current first aid, CPR, and AED certifications

- Possession of a valid driver's license

We hope that you also possess the following skills and experience:

- Three months of experience teaching in the traditional and/or non-traditional learning environments
- Experience or interest in the visual or performing arts
- Knowledge of Sierra Nevada ecosystems and cultural history
- Experience with different age levels

## **10. Concessioner (DNC Parks and Resorts); Greenpath Environmental Management System:**

### **Purpose:**

The program is designed to provide training and practical experience in the environmental management field and corporate sustainability.

### **Description of Duties:**

The intern will be introduced to GreenPath, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite environmental management system (EMS). Developing an understanding of the EMS is the key to a successful internship. GreenPath is ISO 14001 certified (International Organization for Standardization; Environmental Management Systems requirements) and the intern will have the opportunity to get familiar with ISO policies and procedures and learn how they translate into action items. The intern will take part in environmental audits and receive hands-on experience with the compliance, planning, initiating and documenting successful environmental projects. Depending on the skills and interests of the intern other possible areas of experience could include waste reduction, solid waste, integrated pest management, wildlife, environmental compliance, vegetation and hazard tree issues.



### **Qualifications:**

The trainee must have a minimum of two years of education and/or experience in this field.

### **Potential Research Projects:**

DNC EMS would benefit from an updated way to evaluate significant environmental aspects, which are an important part of how we determine new environmental initiatives within the organization. DNC would also benefit from the development of marketing strategy regarding educating the public about the important work of the Greenpath program. This can include print, video, and audio components.