

Yosemite NP Wilderness Internship 2009

Overview

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.

Skills and Values Learned

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.

Requirements

- 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)