



MOSAICS IN SCIENCE DIVERSITY Internship Program

2020 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK	PD #: 2020514
<p>Position Title: Biology Assistant Position Type: MIS Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Biological resources Project keywords: Science, entomology, endangered species, invasive species Park or Program Website: https://www.nps.gov/vick/index.htm Location: Vicksburg, Mississippi</p>	
MOSAICS IN SCIENCE INTERN OVERVIEW	
<p>The Mosaics in Science Diversity Internship Program is focused on persons who are under-represented in STEM fields. Students and recent graduates who are African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American are encouraged to apply for these internships. In order to be eligible for a MIS intern position, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veterans up to age 35.</p> <p>A Mosaics Intern within the Mosaics in Science Diversity Internship Program is an entry level natural resource science internship that focuses on career exploration and building fundamental natural resource science skills. Each Mosaics Intern will receive a weekly stipend of \$400, park-provided housing or a housing allowance and paid travel expenses. Interns who successfully complete 640 hours of work in one or more eligible internships and are under the age of 30 will be eligible for the Public Lands Corps Non-Competitive Hiring Authority for two years following the completion of the internship. Successful completion of a Mosaics in Science internship does not guarantee that the participant will be hired in to a federal position.</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: The Biology Assistant's primary duties will be to survey Euarthropoda species (such as spiders, millipedes/centipedes, and insects) throughout the nearly two square miles of park within city limits and potentially two more square miles of newly acquired land outside of the city limits. The intern will initially work hands on with the Biologist/Natural Resource Manager to learn procedures for collecting, identifying, and preserving the various euarthropods found within the park. After these initial two weeks of training the participant can expect to work independently. The participant can expect doing extensive research on the various euarthropods and their ecology. Secondly, the participant will make an interpretive brochure indicating some of the common euarthropods found within the park. This brochure will be used by interpretive staff and potentially given to visitors. If desired, the participant may also help with ongoing surveys which include herpetological surveys (such as amphibians, lizards, and snakes), and/or avian surveys (birds), and/or vascular plant surveys in order to gain a more varied experience of field biology.</p> <p>Vicksburg National Military Park provides a prime locality for an euarthropod survey since it is one of the few remaining public land tracts of loess bluff hardwood forest and diverse transitional habitat in the lower Mississippi Delta and Mississippi River corridor. To date there has been no inventory of euarthropods within Vicksburg National Military Park, providing a lack of baseline information essential for mitigating invasive species, monitoring endangered species, and general management planning. The participant will help fill this gap by collecting data (i.e., euarthropods) to create the baseline inventory which will help identify, if any, endangered</p>	

species reside within the park which are federally protected by the Endangered Species Act. However, the park's management team cannot plan to protect these species without knowing if they reside within the confines of the park. The Vicksburg National Military Park Foundational Document also mandates that the park monitors invasive species, including euarthropods, and with the exception of fire ants, we lack any information about other invasive species, which would be resolved by this inventory.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Mosaics in Science Diversity Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas.

Work Products: The participant's work on the inventory will provide a baseline survey of the euarthropods within the park, which will be used for mitigating invasive species, monitoring endangered species, and general management planning. The interpretive brochure will allow other staff and potentially visitors to explore some of the euarthropods within the park. This inventory will also have a collection component, which will provide a comparative collection of euarthropods for participant, researchers and staff to study.

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimally the participant should have 2 years towards a bachelor's degree in a biological science field (or similar field). The participant should have taken a course in entomology or an equivalent at the participant's university. The participant should be skilled in Microsoft Word, able to hike steep terrain, have a driver license. Preferably, the participant should be skilled in Adobe illustrator (or similar programs), insect pinning, and microscope use.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, or veterans up to age 35. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. The participant will work independently after the initial two weeks of training, which will include driving to an insect trap location for collection or re-sampling purposes.

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position. The participant is far enough away from grocery stores that a car is recommended. However, other park personnel can help coordinate store runs and events so the participant is not isolated.

HOUSING

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. Park housing consists of a shared house, with private bedrooms. The participant will be sharing the living spaces including bathroom, kitchen, and living room.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

Start Date: 5/18/2020

End Date: 7/31/2020

Eleven weeks of the internship will be in the park. A mandatory Career Workshop will be held in Washington, D.C. from August 2 – 6, 2020.

Are these dates flexible? Yes

STIPEND PAYMENT

\$4,800, all travel and housing costs will be covered

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment: Vicksburg National Military Park is located along the Mississippi river in within the town of Vicksburg, MS. The elevation is approximately 240 ft above sea level. Summer time temperatures hover in the high 80s to low 90s, humid, and occasional showers. The location is approximately one mile from downtown Vicksburg and numerous grocery stores are within three miles.

Physical Work Environment: This position will be on average a mix of about 60% field work (3 days a week) and 40% office work (2 days a week). The participant will have to hike steep terrain usually under 1 mile distance. The participant will also have to wear pants, snake gaiters, and boots when in the field, as snakes are a hazard at the park.