



MOSAICS IN SCIENCE DIVERSITY Internship Program

2020 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING AND MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL	PD #: 2020508
<p>Position Title: Biology Assistant Position Type: MIS Intern Primary natural resource discipline: Biological resources Project keywords: GIS, forests, trails, interpretation, science, restoration Park or Program Website: https://www.nps.gov/im/ngpn/index.htm Location: Rapid City, South Dakota and Keystone, South Dakota</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: While Mount Rushmore National Memorial is famous for a large mountain sculpture, it also protects the old growth ponderosa pine forest that surrounds the faces of past presidents. Nearly 3 million visitors per year and an active rock climbing area have increased the pressure on this forest and its understory vegetation. Informal “social trails” are being formed throughout the area as visitors walk off established routes. In many places, all vegetation has been denuded, soil has been incised, and tree roots have been exposed. The goal of the intern will be to assist the Northern Great Plains Network and Mount Rushmore with mapping off-trail visitor use and preparing for a restoration plan. Another task will be to increase public awareness of the forest resource by documenting and photographing native plants throughout the park. The images will be added to the park website and other outreach materials that guide visitors to stay on the trail.</p> <p>The intern’s tasks will include (1) visiting areas of the park that are seeing heavy visitor use, including existing trails, rock climbing areas, parking areas, concession facilities, and visitor center (2) learning to use mobile mapping technology and inventorying social trail locations and habitat types (3) photographing trails and common plants in the park (4) creating public outreach products to increase visibility of native flowers and leave-no-trace ethics (including social media posts and language for the park’s website) (5) working with park staff to develop recommendations for potential restoration projects and prevention of further resource damage.</p>	

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is located in the Black Hills and its purpose is to commemorate the founding, expansion, preservation and unification of the United States by preserving, protecting, and interpreting the mountain sculpture in its historic, cultural, and natural setting while providing for the education, enjoyment, and inspiration of the public. Visitor access and recreation must be balanced with the need to protect the natural setting. The MIS intern will assist the Northern Great Plains Network and the park by quantifying the extent of social trails, providing a better understanding of their impacts, increasing public awareness of native vegetation and the problems created by social trails, and brainstorming solutions to reduce degradation of park resources.

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

Work Products: The final products that will result from this project include: (1) a map of the existing social trails in the park (2) a collection of georeferenced photographs of trail damage and native plants (3) public outreach products that highlight native plants and encourage the use of existing trails (4) a briefing document summarizing the extent of social trails and potential areas for restoration.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required skills include: a good attitude, good communication skills, valid driver's license, and the ability to hike over rough terrain for short distances (approximately 1 mile) in hot and cold weather.

Desired skills include: biology degree or major, writing skills, basic computer skills (e.g. Microsoft Word and Excel), familiarity with GIS, science communication experience, previous exposure to botany and forestry (e.g. course work, gardening, etc.), and the ability to work independently. The best candidate would have experience with field biology, mapping, and GIS.

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, inclusive, 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's license and a good driving record. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. The intern will be required to drive between the office and Mount Rushmore National Memorial in a provided government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position. A vehicle is not required in Rapid City to commute between home and the office, however it would be more convenient for the applicant to have a personal car for commuting and weekend activities. There is a public bus system, taxis, Lyft, and rental bikes, and it is possible to meet basic needs without a car, but most residents access the grocery store and other amenities with a car.

HOUSING

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. Housing will be provided by the park in a college dormitory in Rapid City where interns would have a furnished room with kitchen and bathroom facilities available within a suite. It is possible to walk, bike, or take a public bus between the housing and the office. The other residents will not be affiliated with the National Park Service, but are typically summer interns at the University.

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: The position will be located in Rapid City, SD. Rapid City is a small city of approximately 75,000 people. It serves as a gateway city for visitors coming to see nearby national and state parks, such as Mount Rushmore and Badlands. There are endless outdoor recreational opportunities nearby such as rock climbing, mountain biking, camping, hiking, and kayaking. In addition to the tourism industry, Rapid City has a large Air Force base and it serves as a regional health care center. The city has numerous grocery stores and restaurants. There is a public bus system, taxis, Lyft, and rental bikes, and it is possible to meet basic needs without a car, but most residents access the grocery store and other amenities with a car. Summer is warm, usually dry, and sunny. July and August are the warmest months of the year, when daytime temperatures climb into the 70s and 80s--and sometimes 90s. Breezy winds and low humidity levels help make the hot days comfortable.

Physical Work Environment: This position will work in both a field and office setting, with approximately 75% of the time spent in the field. The office and housing is located in Rapid City, SD. For office work, a desk and computer will be provided. The intern will sit with the other staff of the Northern Great Plains Inventory Monitoring Network and some Midwest Regional Office employees (about 20 people).

The field work will be conducted in Mount Rushmore National Memorial. At the park, most of the work will be done near the main visitor center and within about 1 mile of roadways. However, the intern should be prepared to walk for up to 8 hours a day over rough terrain in a range of temperatures (45-100 degrees F) and weather conditions (a lot of sun and occasional rain). The intern should also be prepared to interact with visitors. The intern will receive proper safety training prior to any fieldwork. The intern will also spend time driving between their main office and Mount Rushmore in a government vehicle. The drive is approximately 35 minutes (23 miles).