



# Indian Youth Service Corp (IYSC) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM Diversity Internship Program

## 2021 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: Office of Native American Affairs National Park Service, Washington, DC Headquarters Office  (Could be station at a Park Site depending on Location of Intern)	PD#: 1
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**Position Title:** Tribal Liaison Specialist (Communications)

**Position Type:** Public Lands Corps (PLC)

**Primary Natural Resource Discipline:** Social Science, American Indian Law and Policy

**Project Keywords:** Communications, Technology, Indian Law, Indian Policy

**Location:** Office of Native American Affairs, Washington, DC (virtual)  
(remote location: office may be at nearest park to intern's home location)

### INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) was established by the Dingell Conservation, Management and Recreation Act (PL 116-9, March 2019) under the John S. McCain 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act (21 SCS) which amends and expands the Public Lands Corps Act. The purpose of the IYSC Program is to provide a direct benefit to Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian youth through meaningful education, employment and training opportunities. Participants enrolled in the program must be between the ages of 16 and 30 inclusive and veterans up to age 35 or younger. Projects may include assisting federal and tribal governments in performing research and public education tasks associated with natural and cultural resources. The primary goal of IYSC is to provide employment opportunities for youth and young adults with the goal of developing gainful careers, in the public or provide sectors, in conservation careers by exposing them to conservation professionals in Federal or Tribal land management agencies. Program areas which may be included through the IYSC include climate change, race equity, cultural resources, education, recreation, tourism, facilities management and natural and cultural resource stewardship and science.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Position Description:** The Office of Native American Affairs has been impacted the past several years with first the passing of the American Indian Program Manager, then the retirement of the TRAC Program Manager. The past two years, the Office was maintained by two people detailed into the position. It has recently been brought back to be housed in the Office of the Director.

The proposed internship position (Tribal Liaison Specialist - Communications) is in support of the ONAA. We are proposing two specific tasks for the intern:

**Task 1:** Update and re-design the Office of Native American Affairs webpage.

**Task 2:** Develop a draft Communications and Outreach Strategy in concert with the Native American Affairs Liaison and Washington Office of Communications staff.

The long-term goal of the completion of these two projects is to bring greater relevance to the Office of Native American Affairs by providing current information to the National Park Service, Tribes, Tribal representatives, Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian organizations and the general public on topics and issues related to Indian Country.

In addition to the work products outlined above, the intern will observe government-to-government consultations with federally recognized tribal government officials and may communicate directly with indigenous communities, federal agencies, and other partners about project needs and priorities. This work will be in direct support of the federal government's tribal trust responsibilities, a critical function of the federal government with wide-ranging implications.

## QUALIFICATIONS

This internship is designed to provide employment opportunities for youth and young adults with the goal of developing gainful careers, in the public or private sectors, in conservation careers by exposing them to conservation professionals in Federal or Tribal land management agencies. Program areas through the Indian Youth Service Corp may include climate change, race equity, cultural resources, education, recreation, tourism, facilities management and natural and cultural resource stewardship and science

The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate their skills and experience through their resume and application and be in pursuit of obtaining or within two years of having obtained a bachelor/master/PhD degree in history, government, Native American studies, or another relevant field.

The intern selected for the position basic requirements includes:

- Must be Native American, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian.
- Must be 18 to 30 years of age, or a Veteran 35 years of age or younger.
- Must have substantial experience productively working with tribal nations and indigenous communities.
- Must be able to demonstrate a degree of familiarity with fundamental concepts including tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and federal trust responsibilities to tribal nations.
- Must be able to demonstrate outstanding oral and written communication skills.
- Must have experience communicating clearly, concisely, and effectively with diverse audiences.
- Must be able to work independently and with minimal supervision.
- Must be able and willing to travel occasionally to visit tribal communities and other federal offices as necessary.
- Must have a good grasp on working with computer programs to update and redesign the Office of Native American Affairs webpage.

## COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

Yes, working virtually, until conditions are permitted.

## LEARNING GOALS

The intern will gain skills in webpage design and upkeep and oral and written communication skills. In addition they will gain firsthand experience working within the National Park Service on issues related to Tribes, working with interagency partnerships at the federal level, the intern will gain direct experience observing government-to-government consultations between federal agencies and federally recognized tribal nations. The intern will have the opportunity to work with federal partners outside of the National Park Service and tribal representatives. The intern will develop a comprehensive understanding of federal responsibilities to tribal nations, best practice for meaningful consultations, balancing federal needs and tribal expectations, and putting partnerships in practice to advance mutual federal/tribal priorities. Of greater importance, the intern will have an opportunity to develop firsthand connections to places of oral stories and traditions of their respective tribe.

## MENTORING

The intern will be immediately supervised by the Native American Affairs Liaison, Office of Native American Affairs. Additionally, the intern will work with Regional and Park Tribal Liaisons who will be available to assist should any questions or related issues come up throughout the duration of the project. The intern will meet, initially daily, then less frequently with the Native American Affairs Liaison. The Midwest Regional Tribal Liaison will act as a secondary supervisor for the Intern if the Native American Affairs Liaison is unavailable for questions or assistance on related projects. Once the intern has a full grasp of the project, an outline will be generated by the intern with project goals and deadlines. We will meet regularly to get updates, reporting both successes and additional assignments which remain to be completed.

It is better to have very specific tasks that are the responsibility of the intern, but to also leave open a venue for exploration. Although the main task will be to work on updating and editing the Office of Native American Affairs webpage and development of a draft Communications and Outreach Strategy in concert with the Liaison and Regional Tribal Liaisons, an additional component will be to familiarize the intern with the National Park Service and culturally relevant park sites as a whole.

This can primarily be accomplished through working with Regional and Park Tribal Liaisons and becoming familiar with the various projects the regions and parks are working on. This will provide the intern with a good grasp of what may be of interest to them to further their educational and career goals. It will also provide excellent networking opportunities both within the National Park Service, on a national and local level, as well as meeting other interns through the program. The networking opportunities can develop into lifelong friendships. It will also provide contacts for future mentoring either within the National Park Service, tribal organizations or other federal agencies.

## PROJECT RESULTS

The Tribal Liaison Specialist (Intern) will develop a draft presentation to the Native American Affairs Liaison, Office of Native American Affairs Work Plan Team and Regional Tribal Liaisons. The Work Plan Team consists of indigenous and non-indigenous NPS employees throughout the Service. From Alaska, Hawaii, to Maine, all being in upper level National Park Service positions. Following critiques of the initial presentation, a second presentation will be given at the monthly NPS Tribal Liaisons Teams call. This will provide the Intern an opportunity to develop oral skills in addition to their written communication skills. It will also provide park level tribal liaisons and similar situated NPS personnel an opportunity to see what all has been accomplished in the ONAA through the IYSC internships. The presentation will introduce the deliverables of the project: 1) An updated webpage which can be presented either through an outline format or doing a screen share presentation of the page to show the various edits and updates. 2) The completed draft of the Communications and Outreach Strategy for the ONAA. The presentations will allow input from the various regions and park sites as to edits and improvements of both deliverables.

## LEADERSHIP

The intern will have the opportunity to work closely with tribal government representatives, tribal historic preservation officials (THPOs), professional federal staff, and staff of partnering agencies and organizations. The Intern will work with and develop materials about the intersection of federal and tribal law for distribution to partners, communicate the goals of their projects, and assist with consulting tribal nations. The intern will have substantial opportunities to network, give professional presentations, and learn more about a variety of careers in tribal and cultural affairs.

## OUTCOMES

The deliverables for the Tribal Liaison Specialist intern project are: 1) Updating the ONAA webpage. 2) Development of a draft Communications and Outreach Strategy for the ONAA; 3) A year end Intern report documenting all that has been accomplished through development of a PowerPoint presentation for presentation to the NAAL, ONAA work plan team and Regional Tribal Liaisons. These 3 goals of the ONAA Internship, two of which are identified in the ONAA Work Plan (FY21) will help the NAAL to focus on other issues, assignments and daily job routines.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The purpose of the IYSC is to provide a direct benefit to Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian youth through meaningful education, employment and training opportunities. The Intern will work closely with the Native American Affairs Liaison who has worked within the federal government for 29 years, 15 of those within the National Park Service, 8 years with the US Forest Service, as a Regional Tribal Liaison and with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Water Rights Specialist. She is also an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota from the State of South Dakota. All of her experience has been to advancing initiatives pertaining to NPS tribal cultural sites, tribal sovereignty and racial justice within the federal government. This work is core to the mission of the Office of Native American Affairs, an office dedicated to the values of relevancy, diversity, equity and inclusion. The intern will have the opportunity to regularly participate in ONAA meetings and programming and will be encouraged to collaborate with fellow interns. We are committed to provide a safe and welcoming environment to all our interns and staff. The opportunities provided through this internship will expose the individual to a wide range of cultural experiences as well.

## HOUSING

Housing is dependent upon the possibility of being placed within a National Park Service site and if housing is available beyond the park needs for their own permanent and seasonal staffing. If the intern is able to work in the Washington, DC office a housing allowance, in addition to the salary, will be made available.

## NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: This is also dependent upon where the intern will be located. At the present time with the offices being closed due to COVID, the intern will be working virtually from their home.  
Work Environment: The majority of the work is office work. However, there may be travel involved dependent again upon COVID related travel restrictions.

## VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Dependent upon where intern will be housed. If virtual from interns' home, then there will be no requirement for vehicle and/or driver license requirements.

WILL THE SUPERVISOR BE ABSENT?

No