General Description of Program

The Yosemite Leadership Program Summer Internship is a 12-week professional development program that focuses on leadership, professional skill development, environmental awareness, stewardship, and positive change. It is an exciting opportunity to live inside a national park, to work side by side with experienced staff, and to see the impact one person can have on the future of public land.

The Job

Each internship has unique and exciting job responsibilities, based on the specialty of the supervisor and park operations. The rewards of assisting with park research, working on long term park plans, or giving Junior Ranger programs to name a few duties, are endless. Every intern contributes valuable support and perspectives to Yosemite National Park.

Intern’s job descriptions are provided in order to detail what interns can expect from specific positions. These important duties may involve outdoor work or alternatively, work time at a desk, depending on the type of internship. Schedules vary depending on the position; internships may entail working during a regular work week or on weekends and evenings. Intern supervisors will be able to provide further details regarding specific positions.

In addition to the internship job placement, interns are required to attend and fully participate in a weekly Environmental Leadership Class along with all other interns. Throughout the summer, interns will be working to complete a presentation, detailing a major project within their internship. The presentation will be a part of the park’s Youth Symposium, which is open to the public as well as all park staff. This is a key part of the internship and requires completing benchmarks throughout the 12 weeks.

Interns will also have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, together as an intern cohort. This may include hiking or overnight camping. Camping and backpacking equipment will be provided, and no prior experience is required as training will be provided.

Day to Day Living

All interns will be living in shared housing inside Yosemite National Park, these shared living spaces including cooking facilities. Individual interns are responsible for purchasing food and cooking their own meals. Two small convenience stores are available close by. Major grocery stores are a 30 minute drive from the living area. There are no laundry facilities available in the housing areas. However, interns often carpool together for grocery shopping and laundry.

Vehicles will be available for transportation between work sites, but not for personal use. Along these lines, it is very common for interns to carpool using government vehicles to work sites.

The Internship Community

Interns are supported not only by their direct supervisors of their jobs, but also receive mentoring through Environmental Leadership classes, weekly check ins, via youth leads, and other staff fully dedicated to helping interns succeed. This is a highly competitive program with clear expectations. Although the program is rigorous, the rewards are immeasurably high, with the chance to grow both professionally and personally, in the ultimate outdoor classroom.

Note
Accommodations may be possible with those with special needs.
1. **National Park Service - Interpretation:**

**Purpose:**
Field interpreters connect people to parks. They play a key role in ensuring that visitors have a meaningful, satisfying and safe park experience. These individuals help visitors decide how to spend their time in the park, and inform visitors about the wonders that await their discovery. Field interpreters are specially trained to engage the public so that each park visitor may find personal connections 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, field interpreters promote stewardship and the opportunity for visitors to care for park resources. Through their interpretative and education programs, field interpreters encourage the development of a personal stewardship ethic, broadening public support for preserving and protecting park resources, so that they may be enjoyed by present and future generations.

**Description of Duties:**
Interns will develop and present a walk and/or talk in a park location such as the Wawona Campgrounds or Yosemite Valley. The guided program (60 – 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. Interns will also provide informal interpretation and information/orientation to culturally diverse visitors encountered during visitor center desk and trail/public area roving duties. The job also involves orienting visitors to Yosemite National Park (and surrounding areas) and answering frequently asked questions. Interns will be expected to share up-to-date information on park features, facilities, and services to park visitors during informational contacts. Duties may vary slightly based on location.

**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.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.
2. Concessioner; DNC Parks and Resorts; Interpretation:

Purpose:
Through interpretation, the Interpretive Services Department of Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts of Yosemite (DNC P&R at Yosemite) catalyzes those we interact with to be engaged, informed, impassioned participants in the valuing, protection, and restoration of the natural world through their actions. For the summer of 2015, 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 receive training as well as practice in interpretive skills including research, program preparation, presentation techniques, working with children, and comfort speaking to large audiences. You will research, design, and present interpretive programs in English as well as Spanish for diverse audiences. These programs include but are not limited to evening film presentations, children’s activities, informal Spanish roving interpretation, and Lower Yosemite Falls Family Activities. You will complete a project which will benefit present as well as future interpretive Services staff, DNC P&R at Yosemite, or visitors of Yosemite National Park. You will also discover Yosemite’s cultural and natural history, explore Yosemite National Park and have fun!

Qualifications:

Required Skills
- Be in the process of obtaining a bachelor’s degree, preferably in education, science, and/or tourism.
- Have exceptional written and verbal communication skills in both English and Spanish.
- Work successfully both independently and as a member of a team.
- Be enthusiastic, innovative, self-directed, flexible, motivated, and punctual.
- Possess or be willing to obtain first aid, CPR, and AED certifications.
- Possess basic computer literacy skills including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook.
- Be willing to work indoors in a professional office setting as well as outdoors in a variety of weather situations including inclement, if needed.

Desired Skills
- Experience teaching and/or public speaking.
- Customer service skills.
- Experience working with a variety of age levels.
- Experience or interest in the visual or performing arts.
- Knowledge of Sierra Nevada ecosystems and cultural history.
- Strong leadership skills.
3. **National Park Service - Education:**

**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;
- Computer proficiency including use of email, shared folders, drop boxes, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
- A valid driver’s license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills desired.
- Foreign language skills and WFR certification are a plus but not required.
4. National Park Service - Youth Program Lead:

Purpose:
Yosemite National Park features an exciting and diverse array of education and youth programming designed to engage participants of various ages and backgrounds, while providing relevant and empowering connections to public lands, stewardship and youth development opportunities. This internship position is specifically designed to provide a returning Youth in Yosemite program participant the opportunity to build on their previous program experience, sharing their knowledge and skill development with other youth. This lead will hone existing leadership and mentoring skills. Additionally, the lead will continue professional skills development and taking on increased responsibility which will support the completion of a professional applied project—a product that can be utilized in a professional portfolio for years to come.

Description of Duties:
This internship position will be responsible for proactive and positive mentorship of other youth program participants, with a focus on modeling safety, a positive attitude, diligent work ethic, excellent customer/visitor service, follow through and teamwork. This position will work directly with the Director of Education and other lead positions to assist with various program logistics for multiple youth programs and partners. This position will assist other Yosemite Leadership Program Summer interns with Environmental Leadership class assignments, job preparedness, coaching, and project completion. The Youth Lead is a critically important role requiring a self-motivated, responsible individual with a strong desire to grow professionally in leadership and mentoring abilities.

Qualifications:

Required Skills
- Ability to serve as a positive and proactive role model to other youth
- Willingness to further develop leadership and mentoring skills
- Computer proficiency including use of email, shared folders, drop boxes, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Proficiency with one or more: video editing, creating podcasts, blogging, website design or maintenance, social media platforms and uses
- Willingness to work indoors in a professional office setting and participate in outdoor work experiences and field programs.
- Willingness to travel throughout the park or to local communities as a representative of the program.

Desired Skills
- Strong leadership skills, demonstrated experience as a positive role model
- Excellent references reflecting diligent work ethic and teamwork
- Successful academic progress in educational endeavors
- Knowledge and experience with video software, social media platforms, or document design
- Ability to be forward-thinking and anticipate program or participant needs, while seeking solutions
5. National Park Service - Indian Cultural Demonstrator:

Purpose:
The intern will perform duties to demonstrate the lifestyle of the Yosemite Indian people during the 1870-90 era within the Division of Interpretation and Education of Yosemite National Park. The purpose of contacts is to impart knowledge, understanding and respect of Indian traditional beliefs and lifestyles both past and present. This applies not only to park visitors but also other employees of the National Park Service in achieving an overall team effort in developing interpretive presentations.

Description of Duties:
The intern will demonstrate historically accurate and gender appropriate duties. A female intern will learn and present various stages of acorn production, sewing of aprons and garments typical of the time period demonstrated; cooking; crafting soap root brushes; basket production using techniques of the local area, coiling and twining; making of cordage and other various uses of native cultural materials. The male intern will learn and present the production of projectile points, foreshafted arrows, sinew-backed and non-sinew backed bows; manufacture of traps; feather work such as top knots; making of cordage for snares and nets etc.; production of other obsidian tools; quivers of animals skins and other various native cultural materials. As a demonstrator they will develop and present interpretive demonstrations, lectures, structured talks, impromptu talks, guide tours and other presentations about the Indian Cultural resources of the park to a variety of individuals and groups, using teaching methods and devices geared to the characteristics and interests of the audiences. The intern will wear time era appropriate clothing of local native people during demonstrations in the Indian Cultural Village and the Indian Cultural Museum (ICM), provide detailed information to visitors on the history of local Indian People from the pre-contact times to present day; involves visitors in various activities such as acorn preparation, game playing, cordage making, etc., provides demonstrations on non-gender specific life skills, and provides documentation of programs and program statistics.

Qualifications:

Required Skills:
- Basic knowledge of history and local native people, of archaeological work done in the park and its implications, and of a traditional socio-political religious organization of local native people.
- A good knowledge of traditional life arts of local native people.
- Demonstrated skill in traditional techniques of food preparation, tool manufacturing, and native materials collection.
- Skills must be demonstrable without instruction.
- Communication skills in meeting and dealing with a wide variety of people in an effective and tactful manner and in speaking before sizable and variable audiences.
- Must be in good physical condition to gather and prepare materials.
- Must be able to sit for extended periods in the Indian Cultural Museum.
- Be able to perform both in and out of doors and is subject to weather and lighting variance.
6. Business and Revenue Management/Concessions Management:

Purpose:
This internship seeks to provide a student with practical business skills necessary for an entry level position with a governmental or private organization. The intern will be responsible for three main tasks over the summer of 2015 - records management for concessions oversight, photographic asset creation and organization, and financial analysis. The intern will be responsible for following an existing records management policy to organize files for concessions management. The intern will also take photographs of concessions operations, and will conduct an analysis of concessioner financial information.

Description of Duties:
The intern will organize files based upon the National Park Service records management policy. The intern will also travel throughout the park to take photographs of concession operations, and will organize these photos into a searchable format for use in future publications. The intern will also conduct an analysis of concessioner financial information including trend analysis of revenue, creating a profit and loss statement, analyzing direct expenses, and looking at statistics influencing profitability of the concessioner. Daily contacts are made with employees at all levels, representatives from other park divisions and park management for the purposes of information exchange, projects development and implementation, and project or program coordination. Contacts between the intern and the park concessioner may also be required. The intern will often require individual interpretation.

Qualifications:
- Computer skills including the use of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Attention to detail
- Good eye for photographs
- Some knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) including standard profit and loss statement analysis.
- Be able to work that may involve occasional exposure to harsh or severe environmental conditions in and around the park.
- Be in good physical condition to hike and camp in the back country environments.
- Initiative is expected in developing processes and solutions to complete assigned work.
Purpose:
Yosemite Conservancy is offering a unique internship opportunity for a creative individual, to live in, learn about, and share the wonders of Yosemite National Park with visitors through hands-on art workshops. This unique internship explores art and the creation of art as a valuable way to engage children and youth in interpretive education programs. You will work under the guidance of the Art Center Coordinator.

The intern will be integrally involved in this season’s Yosemite Art Center program 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 inspired 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 primarily participate in the interpretive work of the Yosemite Art Center offering a schedule of art experiences for children and youth. They will familiarize themselves with Yosemite Valley and the range of interpretive information offered to park visitors. The intern will work with the coordinator of the Art Center to develop and present children’s and youth programs using art as a tool to explore the natural beauty of Yosemite Valley, its flora and fauna. The intern will also explore the range of programming offered by the Conservancy and will at all times serve as a representative of Yosemite Conservancy serving as an advocate for Yosemite Conservancy’s message and programs in Yosemite National Park.

Description of Duties:
The duties will vary in respect to the program needs of the Art Center but will include time participating in and learning about art programming, developing skills in both art and program presentation as well as the opportunity to put these skills into practice.

This internship will include time spent outdoors, working with an ever changing diverse group of visitors. The intern will take responsibility for a program of art classes geared toward ages 6-14 and working with the Art Center Coordinator on tasks related to the daily functioning of the Art Center. In addition, the intern will join guided naturalist walks, volunteer sessions and other activities as assigned to explore various aspects of Yosemite Programming to document with photography and video for the Communications Department.

Qualifications:
- Good physical condition
- Interest in art design, especially multimedia/photography
- Interacting 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
8. National Park Service - Visitor and Resource Protection; Wilderness:

Purpose:
As a Wilderness Ranger working in both the front and backcountry the intern will encounter a wide variety of situations requiring the individual to use personal best judgment, problem solve and work as a team both in the field and in the Wilderness Center. From this array of encounters the intern will develop customer service and communication skills, learn visitor and resource management tools, Wilderness skills and values, and develop a deeper understanding of themselves. 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, the intern position 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 the intern will be teamed up with another ranger. The wilderness intern will need to have and maintain a high degree of physical fitness. On patrol hikes the individual may encounter a variety of conditions and weather. Conversely, when working at the wilderness center the selected candidate 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

Strongly Recommended:
- 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
- Wilderness travel skills, radio use, bear awareness and hazing
- Park Orientation and specific job duties
9. National Park Service: 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). The intern will work on a variety of vegetation management and ecological restoration related activities that help restore and maintain the ecological integrity of Yosemite for present and future generations. Possible projects that he/she will contribute to include: seed collection and seed cleaning, invasive plant removal and monitoring for the "Staying Ahead of the Invasive Plant Spread" project, data collection for the Black Oak Project, phenology monitoring for the National Phenology Network, assistant leader of volunteer groups, and advocate for the volunteer program at public events.

**Description of duties:** The intern’s ecological restoration activities may include a range of tasks from monitoring a plant's lifecycles to hiking through meadows to remove and map invasive plants. Some work may occur in the wilderness and require overnight travel and weekend work. Methods often utilized for ecological restoration projects include de-compacting soil, mulching, seeding, planting, watering and/or fencing. In addition, intern may assist with collection of seeds, cones, plant cuttings or other native materials needed for restoration sites. To help determine the success of a restoration project, the intern may also perform monitoring or survey of hydrology and vegetation utilizing GPS, cameras, compass and other survey equipment. Additionally, the intern will assist in the survey and documentation (using GPS) for non-native plants to check the spread and to focus removal efforts. Removal typically involves non-chemical (hand clippers, loppers, bow saws, handsaws, shovels, weed wrenches, hand pulling) means to remove exotic (non-native) plant infestations or other unwanted vegetation (i.e. conifers in meadows). Although not personally handling herbicides, interns may assist RMS staff or Trained Crew Leader when herbicides are used in the work area. Finally, the selected individual may assist in cataloging vascular and non-vascular (lichens) plant specimens (indoor activity).

Job skills learned include: identifying native and non-native plants in Yosemite's front-country vegetation communities; utilizing a GPS unit in the field, data management with both MS Excel and MS Access; and people management skills.

**Qualifications:**
**Skills required:**
- Interest in managing and restoring Yosemite’s front country vegetation communities and is excited to engage with Yosemite’s diverse volunteers.
- Must be able to work safely and efficiently both independently and as a part of a team.
- Both office work and field work are required.
- Must accept the challenge of monotonous work and be able to engage others in it as well.
- Must be responsible for maintaining our shared volunteer tool cache, and must be a responsible and safe driver.

**Desired Skills:**
- Knowledge of or ability to utilize a GPS unit in the field
- Knowledge of data management with both MS Excel and MS Access
- People management skills.
10. National Park Service – Division of Administration

Purpose:
This internship position provides the participant with an exciting opportunity to see how a national park is managed, getting a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes of what it means to be part of the federal government. The Division of Administration includes several areas of responsibility: Human Resources, Information Technology, Budget, Management Analysis, Housing, and Supply. Although this internship will be housed within the Human Resources branch, the participant will have a variety of opportunities to choose from across these areas of responsibility.

Description of Duties:
The intern will serve in a supporting role for a variety of functions across the Division. This internship will largely be guided by the interests of the participant, but some duties may include creating training modules for Park managers on topics related to Human Resources, leadership, ethics, and Information Technology; re-designing the handbook for new employee orientation; learning basics of budgeting within the federal government; coming up with innovative communication solutions to proactively get the word out to Park staff about changing policies and procedures; and identifying options for process improvement within the HR office.

Qualifications:

- Interest in business administration, human resources, or communication.
- Professional, positive attitude, excited to learn and be an important part of a dynamic team.
- Ability to work well within a team environment: sense of humor, flexibility and collaboration a must.
- Ability to work independently and take the initiative to move a project forward as needed.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy; proficiency in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint
- Experience working with culturally and economically
11. National Park Service - Superintendent's Office:

Purpose:
This internship position provides the participant with an exciting opportunity to see how a national park is managed, learning first-hand about park management plans, partnerships, operations, outreach initiatives, safety requirements and the forethought that goes into managing critically important cultural and natural resources. This internship provides experience in creating outreach materials, drafting strategic communications and messaging, monitoring the effectiveness of park communications, and providing support for events and meetings. This intern will also gain administrative skills by assisting with data entry, file maintenance and reporting. This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in business, recreation or land management, policy or a public lands career.

Description of Duties:
The intern will act as support for public affairs processing news clippings, updating fact sheets, assembling press kits, and coordinating and participating in press visits. Other projects will involve taking photos and/or creating graphics/videos that could be used in the Merced River Plan public involvement process. The intern will also assist in documenting public involvement and processes, through photo and/or video. Other duties include supporting and setting up for special park events, open houses and public meetings. Other projects include support for the safety office to include database entry for test results and creation of fact sheets, data entry in outreach contact database, and filing in Superintendent’s Office as needed.

Qualifications:

- Interest in business, recreation management or land use planning.
- Professional, positive attitude, excited to learn and be an important part of a dynamic team.
- Ability to work well within a team environment: 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.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Basic computer literacy, Word, Excel, Experience with database operations or Photoshop, video program editing a plus.
- A valid driver’s license, clean driving record.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.
12. National Park Service - Visitor and Resource Protection; Fire and Aviation Management:

Purpose:
An intern working within the branch of Fire and Aviation Management will be exposed to many of the duties of both wildland fire managers and fire engine and crew modules. Yosemite’s diverse fire program embraces many disciplines including wildland fire suppression, management of natural (lightning caused) fires, prescribed burning, hazardous vegetation removal, fire science and ecology, structural fire, aviation, and fire prevention. The intern will interact with captains and managers within these disciplines and gain exposure to wildland fire operations. The intern may also have the opportunity attend Basic Wildland Firefighter Training to become qualified as a federal wildland firefighter.

Description of Duties:

The intern will be based in the Wawona fire management office however work locations include fire stations in Wawona, Yosemite Valley, El Portal and Hodgdon.

50% of the duties are to collect, weigh, calculate and distribute live and dead vegetation moisture content from samples taken throughout the park’s front country. The intern will also track remote automated weather station (RAWS) weather data and conduct station maintenance on the park’s five RAWS stations. This data informs fire personnel of potential fire activity and is used to track seasonal dryness and potential fire severity. This information is critical to make informed operational and management decisions; and in determining appropriate strategic and tactical decisions.

50% of the duties will be to participate on Yosemite’s fuels crew and fire engine modules. The intern will develop a working knowledge of fire suppression and fuels management techniques, practices and terminology. Duties may include fireline construction, use of pumps and engines, hoselays using appropriate nozzles, working in and around helicopters, and learning safety rules and basic fire behavior. The intern will chop brush, fell small trees, and move dirt to construct fireline using various hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, McLeods and may use power tools including chainsaws and portable pumps to control spreading of wildland fire and/or to prepare control lines prior to burning. Intern will conduct hazard fuel reduction projects to protect communities and cultural and natural values at risk from potential catastrophic wildfire. Intern may assist Fire Marshall with residential or facility fire inspections.

The intern will participate in fire and safety training in the techniques, practices, and methods of fire suppression and management and in the safe, efficient operation and use of tools, equipment and vehicles used in fireline activities. The intern participates in safety sessions and fire critiques. Ensures own and others’ welfare and safety in all aspects of the assignments.

Qualifications:

- Ability to conduct physical labor and camp outdoors under arduous conditions
- Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing
- Perform as a member of the Fire and Aviation Management Team
- Candidate should be open minded with a positive attitude and willingness to learn