



YOSEMITE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Position Descriptions

2017

Yosemite Leadership Program Summer Internship



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 them-selves. 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
- 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

National Park Service: Resources Management and Science-Vegetation and Ecological Restoration, Volunteer Program

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: the Mariposa Grove Restoration Project, invasive plant removal, data collection and monitoring for the Black Oak Project, phenology monitoring for the National Phenology Network, and leading volunteer groups doing all of the above work.

Description of duties:

The intern will be an integral part of a small team of employees leading volunteer groups for Vegetation and Ecological Restoration branch, spend several weeks working with the Mariposa Grove restoration crew, perform conifer removal for black oak protection projects, and protect Yosemite's biodiversity by removing invasive plants. Work will occur all over Yosemite and will require overnight travel, camping, and weekend work. Activities in Mariposa Grove include de-compacting soil with shovels, collecting and spreading soil and mulch, collecting and spreading seeds, planting, watering, and fencing. Several weeks of the internship will be dedicated to the survey (using GPS) and removal of non-native plants with volunteer groups. Invasive plant removal typically involves hand-pulling and shovel shearing of plants to effectively control their spread. Finally, the selected individual may assist in data collection and management by collecting data in the field and entering data in MS Excel or Access.

Job skills learned include: identifying native and non-native plants in Yosemite's 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 vegetation communities and enthusiasm for engaging with Yosemite's diverse volunteers.
- Must be able to work safely and efficiently both independently and as a part of a team.
- Must be able to perform physically challenging work in an outdoor setting.
- 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:

- People Management Skills, knowledge of or ability to utilize a GPS unit in the field, knowledge of data management with both MS Excel and MS Access.

National Park Service: Raptor Intern

Purpose:

The Raptor Intern will work with professional ornithologists from the National Park Service on Yosemite's Raptor Projects: (1) researching the effects of fire on Spotted Owls; (2) quantifying foraging behavior of Great Gray Owls to learn ways to mitigate roadkill risk; and (3) managing for the protection of nesting Peregrine Falcons. The rare California Spotted Owl and the endangered Great Gray Owl both face significant threats that park biologists are trying to better understand and mitigate. The Spotted Owl project investigates the owl's response to fire and how a protected area like Yosemite can serve as a refuge. The Great Gray Owl project involves monitoring historically occupied breeding sites and studying the owl's foraging ecology for the purposes of mitigating the threat of roadkill. Yosemite's Peregrine Falcon program adaptively manages climbing closures to protect nesting peregrines. Park biologists survey and monitor nest sites in cliff habitat to learn current information on nesting status, promptly re-open climbing routes where nesting is not occurring, and close climbing routes in areas where nest sites are discovered.

Description of Duties:

The Raptor Intern will receive expert training in a variety of wildlife field techniques. The intern will survey for Great Gray Owls, Spotted Owls, and Peregrine Falcons in remote wilderness and front-country locations. Primary field duties on the owl project include surveying for owls, feathers, and pellets, making behavioral observations, and searching for nests. Primary field duties on the peregrine project include conducting surveys using established protocols and recording observations of breeding behaviors of peregrines at potential and historical cliff habitat and assisting with determining areas where recreational rock climbing may be closed to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Field work involves using binoculars and spotting scope to carefully observe and record peregrines at the nest and cliff side vicinity. The internship also includes opportunities for shadowing biologists on other Yosemite wildlife projects, including songbird and bat projects.

Qualifications:

- Must have a strong desire to learn more about birds and natural history; bird identification skills and a background in wildlife biology preferred
- Must have experience using binoculars to observe birds
- Must have impeccable attention to detail and have excellent observations skills
- Must be comfortable camping and backpacking in the wilderness for consecutive nights
- Must be in good physical condition
- Must face the rigors and unpredictability of field conditions with good humor and flexibility
- Must be communicative and get along well with other crew members and supervisors
- Must work long night-time hours and/or early morning hours with a positive attitude

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

National Park Service: Facilities Management/Design & Engineering

Purpose:

An internship with the Design & Engineering Branch is intended for individuals interested in working on a variety of infrastructure project types. Typical projects include planning and designing for new construction, observing on-going construction, and responding to emergency operational issues. The intern will work with experienced professionals who can guide and provide feedback on their efforts. It is anticipated that the intern will interact with multiple project managers, front-line supervisors from other Facilities Management Branches, and other stakeholders as part of their efforts.

Description of Duties:

Under supervision and guidance from park engineering staff, the intern will learn about and assist with performing the following:

- Conduct field measurements such as percolation studies to assist with planning and design efforts
- Assist with topographic surveys, including both field data collection and digital representation using AutoCAD Civil3D
- Prepare reports listing technical findings
- Prepare hydraulic models of water/sewer systems
- Complete drainage and storm water analyses
- Design and drafting efforts using AutoCAD Civil3D
- Analyze existing infrastructure systems for deficiencies or needed improvements
- Inspect utility systems and construction projects within the park

It is anticipated that efforts will include both office and field work. In addition, opportunities to work with different managers will provide opportunities to learn from staff with different backgrounds, on-going responsibilities, and management styles. Where possible, the duties will be tailored to the individual's technical interests, goals, and education.

Qualifications:

- Computer skills including the use of Microsoft Word and Excel
- Knowledge of AutoCAD and Civil3D
- Attention to detail
- Interpersonal skills
- Being able to work in an office setting with prolonged periods of sitting as well as an outdoor environment that may involve occasional exposure to harsh or severe environmental conditions
- Initiative in developing solutions to assigned work
- Positive attitude and a willingness to learn

National Park Service: VRP, Chief Rangers Office- Emergency Services/Climbing Mapping

Purpose:

The Visitor and Resource Protection Division is responsible for coordinating the response and management of all emergency incidents within Yosemite National Park. As technology changes we continue to look for new and better ways to help our Field Ranger's do their job. This internship will focus on our Map App which is used during emergency response. So far we have added over 17,000 common place names into the Map App making the searching tool much more robust. Students with an interest in Emergency Management, GIS, Climbing or Structure Fire would excel in this program.

Description of Duties:

There are two major projects that we hope to accomplish this summer with the help of an Intern:

- 1) **ADD NEW LOCATIONS:** a) Add all climbing routes into our Map App by field collecting GPS points at the base of the climb. Then using guidebooks, add in the number of pitches, the difficulty rating, and any route specific info that would be helpful for Search and Rescue responders. Since GPS Units do not work well at the base of El Cap and Half Dome, the Intern would need to use Aerial Imagery to place the points in ArcGIS. b) Add all River Rapid Names using GPS, then add rapid rating information and any additional info for rescuers, such as best access point, etc.
- 2) **LOCATE AND ATTACH BUILDING FLOOR PLANS:** Now that our Map App is widely used by Protection Staff, we would like to make it more useful to our Structure Fire team members. By gathering all the available building floor plans and attaching them within the App, the Fire responders will have a much better picture of the incident prior to arrival.

The above duties involve a variety of field and office work. Likely 60% of the work would be completed in the Chief Ranger's Office using a desktop computer with ArcGIS and CarryMap software. The remaining 40% of the time would be spent in the field collecting data and driving out to the outlying districts to get the Map App installed on Field Staff's phone and tablets.

Qualifications:

- Strong computer skills
- Driver's License
- Interest in: GIS, Mapping, Incident Management, Climbing, Structure Fire
- Good Attitude, Friendly

National Park Service: Wilderness Stewardship Planning Intern

Purpose:

This internship will assist the planning team during the production of the draft environmental impact statement for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. The incumbent will acquire knowledge of the NPS organization and planning procedures. Depending on the volunteer's educational background and experience, they will be expected to assist with the planning process, including problem solving, public consultation, data visualization, and general administrative duties.

Description of Duties:

The intern will be based in the El Portal NPS Maintenance Complex, and will be working for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan project manager to help with the development of the plan. The intern will assist with technical writing, copy editing and other tasks based on their abilities. The intern will have the opportunity to explore a variety of subject matters including, but not limited to, fire management, wildlife, wilderness, plants and much more. At the completion of the internship, the student should have a comprehensive understanding of the NPS planning process. On top of the duties described above, there will be ample time for the intern to learn about the many programs under the Chief Ranger's office. Accompanying field staff on ride-alongs and participating in training offered during the summer to give the intern a well-rounded overview of the opportunities our division provides. This is an excellent internship for students interested in a career in environmental compliance, landscape architecture, outdoor recreation planning, resource management, or other similar field.

Qualifications:

Skills required:

- Ability to work well in a team setting and be a strong collaborator
- Ability to work autonomously with minimal instruction
- Strength as an analytical and critical thinker
- Strength in technical writing
- Be comfortable with working at a desk/computer for long hours at a time
- Interest in performing research, both digitally and analog
- Ability to be forward thinking and solutions oriented
- Professionalism, positive attitude, and excited to learn

Skills desired:

- Strong computer skills, including the use of various Microsoft and Adobe programs
- Interest in recreation management and/or land use planning

National Park Management: 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 creating outreach materials, drafting strategic communications and messaging, monitoring the effectiveness of park communications, and providing support for events and meetings. The 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 management career.

Description of Duties:

The intern will act as support for the superintendent's office, which includes public outreach, public affairs, safety, lands, and partnerships. The selectee will monitor and process news clippings, update fact sheets, assemble press kits, and coordinate and participate in press visits. Other projects will involve the international affairs program and the park mentoring program. The intern will also assist in documenting public involvement and processes, through still photos and/or video. Other duties include supporting and setting up for special park events, open houses, and public meetings.

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.
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills are a plus.

National Park Non-Profit Partner: Yosemite Conservancy

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 artistic experiences. This unique internship explores the creation of art as a valuable way to engage visitors in interpretive educational arts programs. You will work under the guidance of the Art Center Coordinator.

The intern will be integrally involved in the Yosemite Art Center summer schedule. Since the beginning of Yosemite National Park, art has played a vital role in public awareness and involvement in environmental preservation. The National Park Service and Yosemite in particular, have inspired generations of artists. Through their art, artists and art-makers of all kinds speak with a dynamic and persuasive voice for the appreciation and preservation of the park. This summer internship will primarily participate in the interpretive work of the Art Center, creating and delivering Art Center programming. This internship offers the opportunity to create and document artistic experiences and participate in facilitating educational art experiences for children and youth. The intern will familiarize themselves with Yosemite Valley and the range of interpretive information offered to park visitors. The intern will also explore the range of programs 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 may vary with respect to the program needs of the Art Center but will include: participation, learning about, and delivering: art and educational programming, classes for children and youth, and interpretive arts experiences for visitors and guests.

This internship will include time spent outdoors working with a diverse group of visitors of all ages, including children and youth. The intern will be create and present art classes for adults and children ages 3 and up. The intern will work with the Coordinator on content and/or programming creation for the Art Center. The intern will document guided naturalist walks, volunteer sessions and other activities as assigned, using photography, video and additional media as required.

Qualifications:

- Good physical condition.
- Creative and interest in arts, crafts, and design; skills in multimedia/photography an asset.
- Interacting with park visitors with patience, kindness, and courtesy at all times.
- Must enjoy sharing the joy and beauty of Yosemite's resources through the arts.

National Park Service: Indian Cultural Demonstrator

Purpose:

The intern will perform duties to demonstrate the lifestyle of the Yosemite Indian people during the 1870-90s 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.

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

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 Campground 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:

- Communication skills
- 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.

National Park Service: Education/Audio Visual Production

Purpose:

This internship provides the remarkable opportunity to explore, learn, develop and hone professional skills in the field of environmental education and audio visual production. Working along-side experienced Education Rangers and Yosemite's Production Specialist; interns will be guided through the process of researching, developing and delivering environmental education programs for visiting school groups youth programs, and provide audio visual support within Yosemite National Park.

Description of Duties:

This intern 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.

While working with audio visual production, the position requires assistance with equipment setup for multimedia events, working with audio visual equipment including microphones, sound mixer, video projectors and switchers, wireless devices, remote devices, lighting control and media players. Duties will also include assisting with equipment maintenance and theater system control. 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.
- Familiarity with basic audio visual system control
- Interest in interpretation, education, and park preservation through the inspiration of others.
- Interest in technical work and troubleshooting systems
- Ability to work well both independently and within a team;
- Basic computer literacy e.g.: Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.
- Interest in technical work and troubleshooting systems
- Experience working with culturally and economically diverse people.
- Bi-lingual skills desired.

National Park Service: Education/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