Yellowstone National Park – Native American – Youth Program Internship 2018 (Summer)

Position Description:

The University of Montana Intern will receive training and work experience with the National Park Service’s Youth Programs Team based at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park. The intern will participate in park activities including assisting with youth work-based learning programs, co-leading educational activities, and helping to lead volunteer service projects. The Intern may also assist with other partner organizations conducting service work projects in the park. The work schedule will vary and consistent of mostly Monday through Friday schedules and also some Friday through Monday schedules. Most of the time the work schedule will be 8:00AM – 5:30 PM and typically be five 8 hour days.

The intern should have interest in working with youth ages 15-18. Both outdoor and indoor work is involved. While working as an educator, the intern will learn about presenting educational activities on the resources of Yellowstone. In addition to learning about connecting youth to park resources, the intern may have opportunities to work with other park divisions to explore other career paths and interests.

Youth Work-based Learning Programs

Yellowstone is involved with a number of youth work-based learning programs. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is an education, leadership, work, and outdoor recreation program with a purpose to encourage 15-18 year olds to work, play, learn, and serve in the park. The YCC program emphasizes work ethics, introduces youth to the spectrum of NPS career opportunities, supports resource education, and promotes recreational activities that encourage youth to build lifelong healthy habits. Two cohorts of 34 youth from across the country will each spend a month in the park.

This position will assist YCC staff with daily operations including: assisting YCC staff with packing for spike camps; presenting resource education lessons; assisting with leading weekend education and recreation outings such as hiking, rafting, touring, fishing; assisting YCC staff during evening hours;
assisting with kitchen duties; mentoring teens and setting a positive example for all; lead by actions, attitude, and enthusiasm; and providing general support.

Work projects might include trail work, building log fences, installing large food storage boxes in campsites, citizen science, etc.

Yellowstone also partners with Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and Groundwork USA to conduct work projects in the park. Part of this internship will be assisting with some of these groups as similarly outlined for YCC.

**Volunteer Service Projects**
Yellowstone receives a number of requests every summer from volunteer groups such as scouts or church groups who are interested in performing service projects in the park. This position will help with some of these groups as well.

**Educational Activities**
The Youth Program Team offers educational programs to visiting school or other organized groups year round. This varies from an hour talk on wolves to a full-day Citizen Science exploration. The intern will have the opportunity to participate and possibly lead parts of these programs.

**Position Requirements**
Basic intern requirements include a demonstrated interest in environmental stewardship and/or a pursuit of a career in conservation. Interest can be expressed through coursework, volunteerism, social activism, involvement in arts or sciences, or any other related experiences. The intern should possess strong leadership skills, demonstrated strength in their chosen educational field, and be active members in their own communities.

A valid State Driver’s License is required. Working with these programs requires a good deal of physical exertion while assisting with work projects and hiking in the backcountry. The intern should have the ability to hike 5 to 10 miles per day while carrying up to a 40 lbs backpack. This includes long periods of standing; walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities; and recurring lifting of moderately heavy items or hand tools. Work is performed both indoors and outdoors. Work is in bear and other large mammal habitats and safety training is required. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and training on safe handling of tools will be provided to the intern. Required PPE must be worn at all times when handling tools.
Logistics of Living and Working in Yellowstone National Park

**Background Investigation** – The selected individual will be required to pass a NACI (National Agency Check with Inquiries) background investigation in order to access government computers. This is a standard background check for federal employees who will not have access to classified information.

**Housing** – Intern housing will be shared occupancy. No family housing is available for this position. Housing will be in a dormitory setting with common kitchen facilities. Sleeping quarters will consist of up to 4 people per room (gender specific) with each individual sleeping area designated by a partitioned off area of personal space. A common room with television (no cable or satellite connection) is available in the dorm. Each person is responsible for cleaning their own space and kitchen area as well as removal of all trash and recycling. The dorm has coin operated laundry facilities and shared bathroom facilities. Pets are not allowed in shared government housing.

**Cell Service** – Yellowstone’s cell service can be very spotty. In Mammoth, Verizon is the best carrier to have. ATT typically does not work in Mammoth but does in Gardiner. There are cell towers at Old Faithful, Canyon, and Lake but other areas may not have cell service at all. Some carriers will work in one location and not another.

**Internet** – Intern will be granted internet access through the NPS network at the office once the individual’s background investigation clears and completes a required training. The NPS internet is monitored and certain restrictions will apply in accordance with government policy. Wireless internet service is not guaranteed at the dorm. Free Wi-Fi is available at the visitor center in Mammoth and the community library in Gardiner, MT.

**Weather/Climate** – Mammoth Hot Springs is located in a high desert climate. During the summer months the weather can change drastically and quickly. Yellowstone summers have temperatures that vary from 20 degrees Fahrenheit at night to 90 degrees Fahrenheit during the day. It is best to be prepared for hot, cold, wind, rain, snow, etc. at all times. A layering system of clothing is recommended.

**Nearby Communities** – Mammoth Hot Springs is the headquarters of Yellowstone National Park. Within walking distance of the dorm is a gas station, post office, medical clinic, hotel, restaurant, bar, and numerous NPS offices, and visitor center. Five miles north of Mammoth is the town of Gardiner, Montana. Gardiner has all of the major amenities of a small town including, gas stations, grocery store, drug store, bank, restaurants, bars, churches, library,
hotels, and post office. 51 miles north of Gardiner is the city of Livingston, Montana and Bozeman, Montana is 22 miles west of Livingston.

YNP Entry (Vehicle Registration) – There will be no charge for entry into Yellowstone National Park. A temporary entry pass will be given to the intern prior to arrival for the first day of work. Upon arrival, the intern will then register their vehicle with the NPS and receive an entry sticker for their vehicle which will allow unlimited entry and exit from the Park free of charge. To obtain an entry permit (sticker) the intern must provide current driver’s license, current proof of insurance and current vehicle registration.

Uniform – The intern will be provided a uniform shirt to wear for the duration of the internship. Sturdy hiking boots are required but not provided. Full length pants (dark brown) are required for this position (most employees wear sturdy pants i.e. Carhartt, Dickies, etc.). There is a cache of unused/lightly used uniform items that will be made available to the intern at no cost. Be aware that the selection of uniform items is limited and many sizes are not available.

Backcountry Camping – There is a possibility of joining a backcountry work crew for one week. This will require the ability to hike up to 6 miles. The intern will sleep in a tent outside of the cabin for the duration of the trip. Backpack, tent, and other gear will be provided. It is recommended that the intern provide as much personal gear as possible (i.e. sleeping bag, backpack, stove, fishing gear, camera, etc.) as our equipment can only be used during government work.