

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

GEORGE MELENDEZ WRIGHT INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG LEADERS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the 2017 *George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change* (YLCC) to provide a pathway for exemplary students in higher education (graduate students, advanced undergraduate students, and recent graduates) to apply their skills and ideas to park-based challenges and solutions. The Initiative offers 12-week paid internships which allow students to gain valuable work experience, explore career options, and develop leadership skills through mentorship and guidance while helping to advance the NPS response to climate change. Successful students may be eligible for non-competitive hire into federal positions for which they qualify following completion of all academic requirements.

CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE COMMUNICATION IN THE NORTHEAST

Fire Island National Seashore
Patchogue, New York

INTERNSHIP BLURB

Lead an interdisciplinary, multi-park effort to share the science of coastal national parks through digital media. Work with park staff and scientists to communicate post-Hurricane Sandy research and monitoring outcomes to help staff and visitors better understand the impacts of climate change on coastal national parks.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT BACKGROUND

Climate change, and specifically projected sea level rise and increased storm impacts, poses a significant challenge to protecting the natural and cultural features of coastal national parks in the Northeast. It is critical that the information collected through post-Hurricane Sandy studies of these coastal parks is available to park staff and to the public, to ensure informed decision making into the future.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Climate Change Communication Intern will help expand and enhance science communication efforts at National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Region (NER) coastal parks with a focus on post-Hurricane Sandy research. The intern would be stationed at Fire Island National Seashore and would lead a multi-park effort to develop digital media content related to studies conducted at Assateague Island National Seashore, Cape Cod National Seashore, Fire Island National seashore, and Gateway National Recreation Area since Hurricane Sandy.

The goal of this internship is to develop digital media products on post-Sandy science; and, to cultivate a sustainable network of researchers, resource managers, and communicators in NER coastal parks who can work together to communicate science. While the network will originally be convened for coastal parks to focus on sharing post-Hurricane Sandy science, the goal is for the intern to design a structure and plan so that it can be expanded into a regional science communication community of practice.

The intern will work closely with small teams from multiple parks to coordinate the science communication network and develop four, 500-word web articles and an associated social media campaign to communicate post-Hurricane Sandy science. In addition the intern may shadow scientists in the field attend or contribute to science communication efforts at FISS.

Internship Tasks

The intern will be responsible for organizing calls with small teams across the NER coastal parks consisting of researchers, resource managers, and communicators. An agenda, background materials, and featured researchers will be coordinated and shared by the intern prior to each call. Throughout the process, the intern will maintain a list of appropriate science and climate change communication resources, which can be shared with the network and potentially through the NER Climate Change Toolkit Google Site.

The intern may take the opportunity to spend time in the field with staff and visiting researchers, to collect content including images and video for digital media product development. The intern will be responsible for leading an effort to write, edit, and finalize four articles and take and/or select images for use as shared content on NPS.gov, and to develop an associated social media campaign linking to content related to park and climate science.

Internship Products

Working closely with the network and the external researchers, the intern will develop content for four web articles on topics such as coastal change, habitat migration, and sea level rise and an associated social media campaign including at least ten social media posts. The intern will write and edit four, 500-word articles and will take and/or assist with selecting photographs for use on web or social media. The text and images used to create the digital science communication products would be available for expanded use on the web and social media, or for the development of waysides, newsletters, or handouts.

QUALIFICATIONS

This internship is targeted to science communication graduate students with a background in environmental science. A Bachelor's degree and/or current graduate program enrollment in science communication, with coursework in biology, natural resource conservation, or climate science is required. Excellent oral and written communication skills are a must.

The candidate selected will be self-motivated, have experience coordinating between scientists, managers and educators; synthesizing complex scientific findings; and skills in digital photography and photo editing. Familiarity with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube, and videography and video editing skills preferred.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This internship provides outstanding leadership development opportunities. The intern will enhance leadership skills through:

- Writing and editing digital science communication products with a team
- Convening, coordinating, and leading a community of practice
- Enhancing project management and communication skills

- Gaining exposure to park and climate science and the National Park Service, Northeast Region coastal parks, and university cooperators

DATES OF POSITION

Preferred start date is May 22, 2017, with 12-week internship ending August 11, 2016. Start and end dates are flexible within one week to 10 days of this date. Project must be completed by August 21, 2016.

COMPENSATION

This initiative supports one student at \$15/hour for 12 weeks, or 480 hours.

HOUSING

Park housing will be provided at Fire Island National Seashore, either at the Fire Island Lighthouse Dormitory or in a shared house at Watch Hill. The living arrangements are communal. The intern would have a private bedroom but share a kitchen, bathroom, and common area with 2-4 other interns. If housing is provided at Watch Hill, an area of the seashore accessed only by boat, a ferry pass will be provided.

Ocean washed beaches, dunes, maritime forests, the Fire Island Light Station, and the William Floyd Estate blend recreational opportunities with rich historic and natural resources at Fire Island National Seashore. The park is located one hour east of New York City, and is a world apart from the bustling communities surrounding it. The 26-mile long National Seashore contains significant natural features such as the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, the only federal wilderness in New York State; and the Sunken Forest, a globally rare 350 year old holly forest. The William Floyd Estate, a unit of the Seashore located on Long Island, showcases the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Floyd family's legacy over 250 years of change. Fire Island's maritime heritage is highlighted at the Fire Island Light Station, with the 1858 Lighthouse, still an active aid to navigation, out buildings, and historic first order Fresnel lens now on display. A wide range of temperatures, from 0 degrees in the winter to the high 90's in the summer, can occur. All services including shopping, doctors, hospitals and schools are available in gateway communities on Long Island. Services on Fire Island are limited.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The intern will spend the majority of their time in the office with at least once weekly opportunities to join staff and researchers in the field to collect content. A computer will be provided with appropriate software for office work. The intern's office will be located at the Seashore's headquarters on mainland Long Island.

Work at Seashore field sites can involve long periods of standing and walking, light lifting, and exposure to extreme heat and sun, as well as ticks and mosquitoes. It is expected that intern will spend approximately ¼ of their time in the field with researchers, staff, or at park sites engaging with park visitors. The remainder of the time will be in an office setting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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