

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

GEORGE MELENDEZ WRIGHT INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG LEADERS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the *George Melendez Wright Initiative for Young Leaders in Climate Change* (YLCC) to provide a pathway for exemplary students in higher education (graduate students and advanced undergraduate students) 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.

Yellowstone Climate Change Impacts Archaeological Project

Yellowstone National Park
Mammoth Hot Springs, WY

Archaeological resources in Yellowstone are highly vulnerable to climate change-driven landscape changes, including disappearing high-altitude ancient ice patches, increased wildland fire extent and severity, and dramatic lake and river level fluctuations. In this project, the intern, as part of a multidisciplinary science team, will: identify processes of landscape change impacting archaeological resources; conduct intensive archaeological studies in high risk areas; generate information necessary for the development of management options for vulnerable archaeological resources, including data recovery efforts, wildland fire fuels reduction, stabilization of eroding archaeological sites, and other mitigation measures; and participate in public communication of project results.

This project will help NPS both prepare an effective climate change response to archaeological resources and mitigate ongoing threats. In the first phase the intern will use topographic, geomorphological, archaeological, and wildland fire data within a GIS framework to model areas most likely to contain archaeological sites, and areas critically at-risk from processes of landscape change. The team will then conduct intensive field surveys of at-risk areas identified, documenting sites and assessing threat severity and impacts, then complete laboratory analyses and reporting. The intern will also create and share new information on the region's Native American past resulting from the project with park Resource Education staff for use in visitor interpretive materials, teacher packets, science colloquia, and park social media, including updates on the research process and interesting discoveries. We expect park social media will create broad awareness of climate change effects on this endangered resource. The YNP Facebook page is the most followed page in the NPS, with 400,000 people regularly updated on interesting park news.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will result in scientific, managerial, and interpretive work products. The intern and park archaeologist will collaborate to produce a professional, peer-reviewed report of investigations, and a new park-wide geospatial layer that represents climate change-driven threats to archaeological resources. This layer will be invaluable for developing management alternatives, including recommendations on the use of scarce funding for mitigation measures for years to come. The project will also result in updates to NPS databases with information on damage and threats to known and newly discovered resources. The intern will also be expected to present findings of the project within Yellowstone, including briefings to Yellowstone Center for Resources and park social media staff. The intern will have opportunities to present findings at public lectures in the park, at museums, or at professional conferences in the area.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required: Completed or current pursuit of a BA/BS degree including completion of at least one archaeology course, with a preference for applicants who have also completed an archaeological field school; computing skills including proficiency in office productivity suites and working familiarity with Geographic Information Systems and relational databases.

Desired: Pursuit of a degree or a minor in archaeology or anthropology, and/or documented interest in either discipline and a career in public service is highly desired.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The intern will be part of a team of subject matter experts from the Spatial Analysis Center and the Branch of Cultural Resources within the Yellowstone Center for Resources. The Park Archaeologist (the mentor) fosters a results-driven workplace with an emphasis on teamwork, accountability, and research ethics. However, the intern will from the outset be expected to solve problems on a day to day basis by using common sense, by applying lessons learned during the course of the project, and by developing good working relationships with knowledgeable park staff. Over the course of the summer, we would like to see the intern observe and hopefully absorb at least these values of successful leaders: to be inspiring, to foster a collaborative and respectful workplace for achieving a common purpose, to demonstrate high ethical standards, and to take a positive and optimistic approach to their work and how it relates to the NPS mission. We will assist the intern in gaining these leadership skills via active participation in planning meetings, park management briefings, stakeholder consultations, and by giving them the opportunity to present their finding to park leadership. The mentor can help build networking relationships in a thriving professional community of government and academic resource specialists. The intern will also gain an impressive CV entry by co-authorship on any presentations and publications resulting from this high-profile internship.

DATES OF POSITION

June 1 to Aug. 22, 2015. Start/end dates are flexible, and days may be taken off with advance notice, provided that at least 480 hours are worked. An extension may be possible dependent upon availability of funding and housing.

COMPENSATION

This initiative supports one student at \$14 / hour for 12 weeks, or 480 hours.

HOUSING

Park housing will be provided by Yellowstone National Park at no expense to the awardee. Provided park housing will be dormitory style or other shared housing at Mammoth Hot Springs, WY, within Yellowstone National Park. Various local rental housing options in Gardiner, MT may also be available, at intern's expense. Applicants may contact the Internship Mentor for more information.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

This position is a field and laboratory based internship with the Archaeology Program in Yellowstone National Park, based at the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner, MT. The intern must be able to work both independently and as a member of a team. The intern will have a 40 hour work week, Mondays-Thursdays, 7AM-5:30PM. Compensatory time off for any additional hours worked during extended projects will be determined by the Park Archaeologist and discussed in advance with the intern. While the intern will be based at the Heritage Research Center, overnight stays involving backcountry camping or use of cabins or dorms in the interior may occur. Field work and backcountry camping may expose the intern to wildlife including elk, deer, wolves, and bears. Intensive training on Yellowstone workplace safety must be completed by the intern. The intern should be able to hike up to fifteen miles in one day at high elevations (over 6,000'), carrying loads up to 30 lbs., in cold, hot, or inclement weather. The intern must be comfortable living in a small town and dorm environment for eleven weeks. A personal vehicle must be available for the duration of the internship. The nearest city (Bozeman, MT) is 90 miles away.

Related Links:

Yellowstone NP home page:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>

NPS Yellowstone Archaeology page:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/historyculture/archeologyindex.htm>

Info on backcountry travel and camping in Yellowstone:

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>

General info on natural and cultural resource management in the park:

<http://www.greateryellowstonescience.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Staffan Peterson

staffan_peterson@nps.gov

307-344-2290