



Latino Heritage Internship Program



2017 – LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE	
<p>Position Title: Education and Community Outreach Intern Position Type: LHIP Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education Park or Program Website: https://www.nps.gov/fiis/index.htm Location: 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue, NY 11772</p>	
LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW	
<p>The Latino Heritage Intern Program is a component of an overarching service-wide strategy to address and correct the lack of Latino employment opportunities in the National Park Service. The National Park Service is committed to engaging the next generation through the strategic use of student internships with partner organizations under Cooperative and Task Agreements. These agreements allow the NPS to invest in cost efficient strategies geared towards recruiting entry level talent, predicting future performance, and building a more diverse workforce. Preparing and integrating this generation into the NPS workforce is critical for the future of the Service.</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: This project is an education and community outreach internship at Fire Island National Seashore for a Latino youth. The primary tasks and deliverables associated with the internship will be to assist with and provide community outreach, and formal and informal interpretive and education programming at the park, with a special focus on serving local underserved audiences. The intern will work alongside Park Rangers at park visitor centers, and assist with park programs and events at least three times per week. These opportunities will help orient the intern to park resources and the visitor experience, as well as provide a place-based venue for developing and practicing communication skills. The intern will assist with programs geared for youth and general public audiences on a variety of topics including shoreline dynamics, barrier island ecology, natural resource issues, marine seining, maritime history and more. Once the intern gains adequate content knowledge and progresses with interpretive skills development, she/he will be encouraged to lead programs as well as develop and conduct new programs on park topics of interest. He/she will also help implement volunteer events such as monthly pollinator gardening days and coastal cleanups. Community outreach will be an important component of the internship. The Latino Heritage Intern will assist with the development and implementation of bilingual youth programming at the Patchogue Watch Hill Ferry Terminal and the Patchogue Library; Patchogue is a gateway community to the park with a large Latino population. He/she will also staff tables at community events such as Patchogue’s “Alive after Five” and the Sayville Maritime Festival, and assist with offsite programming in other underserved communities on Long Island. The intern will contribute to social media and the development and distribution of bilingual information about park resources, programs and youth employment opportunities. While gateway communities to the park are ethnically and socio economically diverse, with large Latino populations, this demographic is not well represented in park visitors or park staff. Based on studies conducted by the</p>	

Environment for the Americas, this may be due to a lack of awareness of what the park has to offer, and its relevance to the needs and interests of local community residents. Engaging a broader demographic is a primary park goal identified in the Seashore's 2016 General Management Plan and the Long Range Interpretive Plan currently in development. The Latino Heritage Intern will play a critical role in furthering the park's efforts to engage Latino audiences and other underserved populations. It will also enable the park to address NPS Call to Action initiatives and realize the goal of the NPS Centennial of reaching and engaging the next generation of NPS stewards.

QUALIFICATIONS

The intern should be an upper level undergraduate, recent graduate, or graduate level student. Strong verbal communication, writing and media skills, as well as a background in ecology, natural sciences and/or education are strongly recommended. Enthusiasm, team spirit, flexibility, and a strong work ethic will be important qualities for the intern to bring to the internship.

VEHICLE/DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Since the park is spread out over 26 miles, with sites on mainland Long Island and Fire Island, the intern must possess a valid driver's license and be able to operate a motor vehicle independently to different park sites. If the intern is in need of park housing, a personal vehicle will be needed for the intern to travel to and from the duty station each day which is located 25 miles from the park housing location. If the intern lives locally, he/she will need to provide his or her own transportation to and from the duty station.

HOUSING

If necessary, park housing may be available to the intern at a very reasonable cost (approximately \$225 per month) at the Lighthouse Dormitory on Fire Island. The living arrangements are communal. The intern would have a private bedroom, but share a kitchen, bathroom and common area with 2-4 other staff members/interns.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

Start Date: Late May/Early June
End Date: Late July/Early August
Are these dates flexible? Yes

STIPEND PAYMENT

\$400/week for 10 weeks

PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical/Natural Environment: Ocean 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 only 60 miles 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 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. The gateway communities to the park are ethnically and culturally diverse and with large Latino populations. All services including shopping, doctors, hospitals, libraries, and schools are available in the communities on Long Island. Services on Fire Island are limited.

Work Environment: 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 the intern will spend approximately ¾ of their time either at various park sites engaging with park visitors, or at community events for the general public. The rest of the time will be in an office setting. Computer access will be provided with appropriate software for assigned tasks. The office is located at the Seashore's headquarters in Patchogue on

mainland Long Island. In addition to the Latino Heritage Intern, the park is planning to host several other interns as well during the summer of 2017 -in the Interpretation/Education and Natural Resource Divisions.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: Kathy Krause –Chief of Interpretation –will be the supervisor for this position and have primary responsibilities for project oversight. However, several other park staff will assist with mentoring and professional development throughout the internship. The following individuals will help mentor the intern:

- Irene Rosen –Interpretive Operations Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator
- Kristin Santos –Interpretive Specialist
- Elizabeth Rogers –Public Affairs Specialist and Webmaster
- Kaetlyn Jackson –Park Planner
- Lindsay Ries –Wildlife Biologist
- Chris Olijnyk –Cultural Resource Manager

The intern should expect a high level of supervision and training during the first 2 weeks of the internship and ongoing learning for the duration. Once the intern is comfortable with assignments and expectations, he/she should expect to work with minimal supervision but feel comfortable addressing his/her supervisor and peers, with questions and concerns; and to coordinate work and share ideas with others on a daily basis. The intern will participate in formal and informal web-based and park training on interpretation, science communications, park resources, operations, social/digital media, NPS, first aid/CPR/AED and other topics related to the internship. The intern will be offered opportunities throughout the internship to shadow knowledgeable and experienced park staff, network with other LHIP interns, and participate in self-study.

Learning Goals: While performing tasks associated with the internship, the intern will gain valuable learning experience and skill in conducting secondary research and synthesizing information about Fire Island’s resources and resource issues, communicating with and working with others in a professional setting, writing, education/interpretation, and community outreach. Increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation will be gained on topics including natural history, natural resource issues, and local history, with a special emphasis on marine topics. Most of these skills and increased understanding will be acquired through formal and informal trainings provided by NPS staff and partners, shadowing others, developing and contributing to programs and visitor operations, and through secondary research and self-study. In addition to education and community outreach, the intern will be able to assist with other program areas at Fire Island National Seashore to gain exposure to different NPS career fields. The intern will spend time with cultural resource managers, historians, park biologists, natural resource managers, the park planner, and public affairs officer.