



Latino Heritage Internship Program



2018 - LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NPS UNIT: Fire Island National Seashore

Position Title: Education and Community Outreach Intern
Position Type: LHIP Internship
Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education
Park or Program Website: www.nps.gov/fiis
Location: Fire Island National Seashore, 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue, NY 11772

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

This project is an education and community outreach internship at Fire Island National Seashore. 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 engaging and serving local underserved audiences. The intern will work alongside National Park Service 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, recreational canoeing, 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 plan for, implement, and participate in volunteer events such as the annual National Public Lands Day Patchogue River Cleanup, bi-weekly water quality testing on the Patchogue River with park partner Cornell Cooperative Extension, native plant/pollinator gardening days, and coastal cleanups. Community outreach will be an important component of the internship. The Latino Heritage Intern will contribute to social media and the development of bilingual information and programming about park resources, visitor experiences, and youth employment opportunities. Effort will be dedicated to a media campaign and programming celebrating Latino Conservation Week. This may include hosting a stewardship opportunity at the park and/or a bilingual program at the local library. The intern will also help plan and implement the Friends of Fire Island second annual "Multicultural Family Fun Day." In 2017, this event brought over 100 Patchogue-area Latinos to the park for a day of place-based recreation and education. For most of the event participants, this was a first visit to the national park in their backyard. Along with park staff, the intern will also staff community fairs such as Patchogue's "Alive after Five" and the Sayville Maritime Festival, and assist with offsite programming in other underserved communities on Long Island. While gateway communities to the park, such as Patchogue, 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 Environment for the Americas, and well as recent conversations with local Latino leaders, 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 2017 Visitor Experience Plan. 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 and career interest in ecology, the 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

Yes – 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 drive 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 their own transportation to and from the duty station.

HOUSING

If necessary, park housing may be available to the intern 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? Start and end dates are flexible

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, but 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 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 3/4 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. The Seashore is planning to host other interns as well during the summer of 2017, including those working across disciplines in park planning, interpretation/education and natural resource management.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: Kathy Krause – Chief of Interpretation and Education – will be the direct supervisor for this internship and have primary responsibilities for project oversight. However, several other park staff will also provide 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, mentors, 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, canoe safety, 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 park 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, public engagement, 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 assist with other program areas at Fire Island National Seashore providing an interdisciplinary experience and exposure to the various NPS career fields. The intern will spend time in the field alongside park biologists, natural resource interns and managers, cultural resource managers, historians, the Park Planner, and the Public Affairs Specialist.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Since Fire Island National Seashore is seeking to engage with the local communities surrounding the park, it would be helpful to have an intern that lives locally on Long Island and has an interest in and passion for supporting their community. Recruitment should especially target students studying elsewhere (including NY Metro area and Upstate NY) but that live locally, as well as local academic institutions on Long Island - including SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Stony Brook SOMAS, SUNY Old Westbury, St. Joseph's College (Patchogue campus), Suffolk Community College, Nassau Community College, Adelphi University, LIU Post, Hofstra University, Molloy College, and Farmingdale State College. It would be helpful if dedicated recruitment reached diversity and career development programs; natural, marine and earth science programs; as well as teaching/education departments.