

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.

Climate Change Interpretation through Centennial Partnership with the American Solar Challenge

Midwest Regional Office
Omaha, NE

INTERNSHIP PROJECT BACKGROUND

The American Solar Challenge is a long-standing event in which university teams from around the world design and build solar-powered cars, and then drive them 1,800 miles on the open road during an 8-day rally. In celebration of the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial and to highlight the Green Parks Program, American Solar Challenge and the NPS will partner in 2016 to host every stop at an NPS site in the Midwest Region. Each stop typically attracts a large number of visitors in addition to the hundreds of people represented on the university teams and event staff.

This internship will be critical to ensuring that we can capitalize on this unique opportunity to interpret the effects of climate change at our national parks. This event is a stage on which to showcase efforts big and small to reduce our impact on the environment and slow the pace of climate change with alternative transportation and energy innovation.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intern will be responsible for developing the interpretive program around the American Solar Challenge, focusing on climate change science. This includes:

1. Organizing calls with parks and meeting with interpreters to plan site offerings on the day the rally visits their location.
2. Creating lessons and activities to use with the public leading up to and during the rally. Some of these activities will be carried out by the intern directly, and the intern will also train other park staff and volunteers to teach the content.
3. Participating in the entire 8-day rally and providing support to activities at each stop.

4. Developing climate change educational content related to the American Solar Challenge to be shared on park websites, social media, newsletters, centennial pages, and Green Parks pages.
5. Coordinating with NPS climate change and sustainability programs to incorporate existing research and programming into event.
6. Interfacing with university teams to further understanding of the National Park Service, the centennial, and green parks programs.

The primary deliverable of this project is a suite of conducted activities for the public. Each of the formal programs will be fully described and documented for use by parks and programs during the American Solar Challenge and in the future. The intern will also provide assistance to parks as they develop their related programs. A traveling exhibit is being developed for the American Solar Challenge, and the intern will coordinate the movement and use of that exhibit across NPS sites. Finally, the intern will produce written (or video) content highlighting the key messages of the American Solar Challenge related to the NPS Centennial for media, web, and social media.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will have completed or made significant progress in an undergraduate degree program. Strong understanding of climate change science, enthusiasm for teaching the public, and an ability to clearly articulate scientific data regarding the causes and effects of climate change is desired. Many of the materials and concepts around the American Solar Challenge are complex and inaccessible to the general public. The intern needs to be able to make innovative technology understandable and interesting. The intern should have knowledge of causes and effects of climate change. The intern should be familiar with innovations that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, successful candidates for the position should have interest in teaching various audiences (adults and kids), ability to research independently, and strong writing skills.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This project presents opportunity for the intern to develop leadership skills by coordinating the educational aspects of a complex event with long-term relevancy. The existing NPS project team represents professionals from diverse backgrounds including the natural sciences, visual information, and interpretation. The intern will work closely with team members and gain a background in these fields. Critical thinking skills will be necessary to translate the complexity of solar car engineering, existing climate change data, and other scientific innovations to the general public in a way that is meaningful and inclusive. The multifaceted event itself will present opportunities to problem solve and plan for variables of a situation. The intern will have responsibility over the science education aspect of the overall project management. Team members will be available to help the intern work through a timeline, follow-up, and reporting. The intern will represent the organization to stakeholders including the public, NPS personnel, and partners.

DATES OF POSITION

The dates of the position are flexible. Ideally the intern will work 480 hours between May 31 and September 15 with flexible start and end dates. The intern must work July 30-August 6.

COMPENSATION

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

HOUSING

Government housing is not available. A housing stipend may be available for students who require one.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The intern will be working primarily in an office setting. The Midwest Regional Office is located in downtown Omaha near the Missouri River. She or he will need to dress in appropriate professional attire. Desk, phone, and computer at a shared workspace will be provided. The student will be required to acquire a Department of the Interior Personal Identification Verification Credential in order to utilize and access NPS computers and associated drives. The eight days of the rally will be spent in travel status with possible 12 hour work days. Hotel accommodations will be provided during that time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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