

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

FUTURE PARK LEADERS of EMERGING CHANGE

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to support the *Future Park Leaders of Emerging Change* (FPL) program as a pathway for exemplary students in higher education (advanced undergraduate students, graduate 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 NPS efforts on emerging management issues. Successful students may be eligible for non-competitive hire into federal positions for which they qualify following completion of all academic requirements.

CONDUCTING COMMUNITY-BASED DIALOGUES ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN LOS ANGELES

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Los Angeles, CA

INTERNSHIP BLURB

Engage with urban communities in Los Angeles on how climate change relates to pressing community issues, like access to healthcare, sustainability, clean water, safe public spaces, and public transportation. Develop and facilitate programming that is replicable and relevant to community needs.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT BACKGROUND

Santa Monica Mountains NRA (SAMO) seeks to host an intern to facilitate climate change dialogues with vulnerable communities in Los Angeles, picking up where last year's intern ended. This project takes a radically different approach to science communication by implementing facilitated dialogue techniques, which are particularly effective at addressing controversial issues and inviting active and civic participation. Moving to be more audience-centered, participants identify their most pressing social issues first, then find personal relevance within climate change. The new portion of this project is to work with three museums in the Los Angeles area that have an overlap with communities that NPS represents through the NPS history - Japanese, Chinese and Latino.

Sustainability Issue: Southern California is already affected by changing climate. Future models predict that Los Angeles will experience hotter weather more frequently, rising oceans, and water shortages. Models also show that high density populations will be the most negatively affected by those changes, in part because they lack access to green space (concrete and industrial infrastructure raise local temperatures). Based on these models, under-served communities are more at risk than surrounding affluent neighbors who have the means to live near the ocean or parks. This current and projected

inequity raises questions about climate change resiliency and adaptation, park access, and environmental justice.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intern will engage with urban communities in Los Angeles on how climate change relates to pressing community issues, like access to healthcare, sustainability, clean water, safe public spaces, and public transportation. The intern will utilize programming that is replicable and relevant to community needs based off of what was developed last year. The intern will also benefit by learning facilitation and community organizing skills.

Audiences: The intern will work with a variety of communities in Los Angeles by working through several established park partners, especially local museums . The intern would interface directly with museums to conduct programming with targeted local audiences in the museum space, ultimately establishing training and models for long term programming.

Impacts: With a better understanding of the concerns and priorities of its local communities, the intern will create a series of audience-centered products and replicable programs that will benefit the park's and museum programming beyond the length of the internship. Dialogues will also positively benefit the community participants, as their discussions and solutions are self-generated and personally relevant.

Internship Tasks

- Learn about current climate change research and impacts at Santa Monica Mountains and in Southern California
- Attend facilitated dialogue and interpretive techniques training
- Utilize dialogues that were created by last year's intern and tweak to ensure it fits with the communities that they are working with
- Lead at least 6 dialogues with community members in Los Angeles
- Coordinate 1 field trip to the park for the dialogue participants
- Train museum & park staff on facilitated dialogues towards the end of their internship

Internship Products

- The intern will provide a dialogue model that can be replicated by future SAMO interpretive staff and museum staff. This model will focus on engaging communities on the issue of sustainability/ climate change with space for the participants to provide their own concerns about environmental and social issues in their own communities.
- The intern will create community profiles (one for each dialogue) that represent what issues matter most to each group.
- Intern will create 3-5 impact messages that integrate climate change research with concerns of urban residents.
- Intern will make a final presentation to SAMO staff regarding their internship and experiences. The intern will also virtually present to the environmental justice network with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong interpersonal skills and high emotional intelligence., as intern will work with diverse, urban communities
 - These traits include empathy, cultural competency, positivity, compassion, patience, and humility.
- Basic scientific literacy and a solid understanding of climate change causes and impacts AND an ability to communicate science clearly and creatively to non-scientists
- Coursework might include: sociology, psychology, anthropology, communications, political science, environmental science, and urban planning
- Extracurricular activities should demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and working with urban communities
- Spanish, Japanese or Chinese-language fluency is desired, but not required
- Drivers License, ability to government vehicles will be required.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The intern will be supervised by a Los Angeles-based park ranger, who will provide extensive training at the onset of the internship, not just about interpretation and local climate change impacts, but also the skills required to be successful in a professional work environment, working with senior managers, park partners, and urban communities. An individual development plan will be established at the beginning of the internship to identify personal and professional goals. The park commits to sending the intern to a week of facilitated dialogue training, which teaches a formal structure and skill set for leading groups through deep, personal, and highly-participatory dialogues on today's most pressing issues. Daily interactions and regular meetings between supervisors and intern will provide opportunities for feedback and discussions about leadership growth.

DATES OF POSITION

The position will run from June 4, 2018 to August 24th, 2018 – 12 weeks in total. The internship is flexible by 1 week.

COMPENSATION

This initiative supports one student at \$16/hour for 12 weeks, or 480 hours.

HOUSING

Local candidates are especially encouraged to apply, as the primary workspace will be the downtown office where the Los Angeles district staff work. If the selected intern is non-local, there are many short-

term rentals or sublet options available within commuting distance. The intern's supervisors are available to help identify ideal neighborhoods and housing. A housing subsidy may be available to non-local interns for rental housing.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Intern will spend time in the office and field, approximately 60% in the field and 40% in the office. Field conditions will be in the City of Los Angeles (75%), Santa Monica Mountains (10%) and adjacent natural parks (15%) near Los Angeles in potentially rugged terrain. Los Angeles in the summer generally experiences hot and sunny weather with temperatures sometimes exceeding 100 degrees F. Potentially hazardous wildlife and plants that may be encountered includes; rattlesnakes, stinging insects, ticks, and poison oak.

Office space will be provided in the LA District office located at El Pueblo State Historical Monument in Downtown Los Angeles. The office location is limited in parking, therefore a taking metro or other type of public transportation is required.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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