

Winter 2015 National Park Service In My Backyard Internship

Background:

This internship is part of a long-term project initiated by Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KLSE) in Seattle. This project is the first of its kind within the NPS. The mission of the project is to connect urban youth with national parks and cultural and historical sites in Washington State. KLSE is a prime location for this project because it serves as a hub for national parks throughout the Pacific Northwest. We accomplish our mission by focusing on two communities: Seattle area undergraduate/graduate students and urban youth. Students in higher education will develop programming to benefit youth in our community.



Since summer of 2013, KLSE rangers, interns, teachers and volunteers have guided this project. Previous interns have researched and visited local national parks and cultural and historical sites. They wrote blog posts about their visits and opportunities for youth and promoted the project through social media and by attending local festivals. The objective of their efforts was to gather information and promote volunteer and job opportunities for youth as well as general information and travel suggestions.



In turn, interns also conducted interviews with professionals within the K-12 and higher education spheres to determine what techniques and resources are essential to developing quality, sustainable outreach programs. Within many outreach programs, developers often overlook a fundamental step: asking the opinion of the target audience, or, in our case, youth. A major goal for this team of interns is to engage with that primary audience: youth. Team members will have the opportunity to conduct research and interviews with community members, including community organizations, teachers and students. Interns will have opportunities to network within their own community while representing one of the most respected and beloved entities in the world. The work completed by this team will be invaluable to developing outreach materials, in particular, curriculum-based lessons.

Intern duties:

The internship will carry the project into 2015. Two or more interns will be working on the project in collaboration with Ranger Kelsey Johnson who helped start the project. The interns will be creating and distributing outreach and educational materials about special places in Washington. These materials will be based on research and trip reports conducted by the team in summer and fall of 2014.

Since the beginning of In My Backyard, the project has been team driven. Interns will have opportunities to shape their internships based on their interests and goals. This internship can be tailored to individual preferences and strengthening resumes. Duties may also include traveling to and exploring more national parks and historical/cultural sites. This internship is applicable for credit. It is unpaid. Hours are flexible and can be arranged around interns' class schedules. Expected work hours are 10-15 hours per week. The length of the internship is flexible, but is tentatively scheduled for approximately 10 weeks between January-March.

Students interested in and/or majoring in the following fields are encouraged to apply:

Community Outreach
Communications
Education
English
Environmental Justice
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Graphic Design
Journalism
Marketing
Museum Studies
Photography
Public Relations
Resource Management
Social Justice
Etc.

**Desired Qualifications:**

Proficient computer skills
Competent writing skills
Comfortable with public speaking
Able to work independently and as part of a team
Excellent communication skills
Self-starter

Contact information:

If you're interested in pursuing an internship with this project, email your resume to Kelsey Johnson at Kelsey_Johnson@nps.gov.

If you would like to learn more about the project, check out the website!

<http://inmybackyardnw.wordpress.com>

Or like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/inmybackyard.nw>

