

## Summer 2015 National Park Service In My Backyard Internship

### Background:

This internship is a part of a long-term project initiated by the 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 work on developing programming specifically aimed at benefitting youth in our community.



Since the 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. During the 2014/2015 school year, the intern teams worked on projects ranging from website design to curriculum development.

The major goal for the Summer 2015 interns is to finalize curriculum-based lesson plans. This includes writing lesson plans, filming short videos and developing curriculum-based activities. The team will accomplish this by splitting its time between office work and traveling to National Parks in the area. These parks include:

- Mount Rainier National Park
- North Cascades National Park
- Olympic National Park
- San Juan Island National Historical Park

The goals of these trips are to:

- Conduct research about National Parks
- Network with NPS and partner professionals
- Film informational videos about each of the sites

The informational videos will supplement the curriculum-based lesson plans we plan to make available to middle and high school students in the urban Seattle area.

**Intern duties:**

Four or more interns will be working on the project in collaboration with Ranger Kelsey Johnson who helped start the project. Interns will have opportunities to represent one of the most respected and beloved entities in the world. The interns will be creating outreach and educational materials about special places in Washington.

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 will also include traveling to and exploring national parks and historical/cultural sites. Interns are not responsible for travel costs, such as gas and lodging at National Park sites, associated with the internship. This internship is applicable for credit. It is unpaid. Expected work hours are 20-30 hours per week. The length of the internship is scheduled for 13-14 weeks between June-September. The internship start date is Monday, June 15, 2015.

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  
Positive attitude

**Contact information:**

If you're interested in pursuing an internship with this project, email your resume and cover letter to Kelsey Johnson at [Kelsey\\_Johnson@nps.gov](mailto:Kelsey_Johnson@nps.gov) by **May 4, 2015**.

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?fref=ts>

