



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Winter 2023

NPS UNIT: Cape Cod National Seashore

Position #: 1240

Position Title: Science Communication Assistant

Number of positions available: 1

Primary natural resource discipline: Communication and Education

Position Keywords: Cape Cod, CACO, Science Communication, Resource Management

Location: Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Can this position be fully remote: No

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: The participant will work as part of an interdisciplinary team composed of staff from both the Natural Resource Management and Science (NRMS) Division as well as the Interpretation, Education, and Cultural Resources Management (IECRM) Division. The purpose of the position is to develop science communication and education products using a variety of media to convey information and serve as an educational tool for a range of audiences.

Cape Cod National Seashore is host to the Atlantic Research Learning Center (ARLC), one of 17 Research Learning Centers (RLCs) in the National Park Service. The mission of the RLCs is to promote collaboration, research, stewardship, education, and science communication. The ARLC is managed by NRMS staff but leverages internal partnerships with other park divisions as well as external partnerships with academic or non-profit institutions to achieve its mission. The park also employs an education coordinator who works closely with local schools to support curriculum that incorporates aspects of science and resources from Cape Cod National Seashore. The park's education coordinator typically engages with school programs from kindergarten to 12th grade. While the ARLC also engages with these groups the focus of the learning center is college and post graduate students and researchers. This intern will bolster the Atlantic Research Learning Center, the Parks as Classrooms program, and our public education programming by distilling and packaging our science research into media, lessons, print and digital materials, and programs to increase public, student, and visitor understanding.

Work Products: The intern will develop science-based communication and education products geared towards students, park visitors, and park neighbors. Examples of potential products include:

- updating webpage content
- resource-specific fact sheets
- science stories based on interviews with researchers conducting work in the park
- lessons based on park resources
- videos and/or photographs documenting park resources.

In addition, the intern will also help develop an oral history program to capture and catalog stories and history of the park that have been amassed over many years by long-tenured staff and recent retirees.

Some communication products may be more directed at an internal park audience. Communicating the status of park resources through data dashboards would help inform managers during the decision-making process.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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Cape Cod is a large peninsula extending 60 miles into the Atlantic Ocean from the coast of Massachusetts. Located on the outer portion of the Cape, Cape Cod National Seashore's 44,600 acres encompass a rich mosaic of marine, estuarine, fresh water, and terrestrial ecosystems. These systems and their associated habitats reflect the Cape's glacial origin, dynamic natural processes, and at least 9,000 years of human activity. Geomorphic shoreline change, ground water fluctuations, tidal dynamics including rising sea level, and atmospheric deposition are among the many physical processes that continue to shape the Seashore's ecosystems. Marine and estuarine systems include beaches, sand spits, tidal flats, salt marshes, and soft-bottom benthos. Freshwater ecosystems include kettle ponds, vernal pools, sphagnum bogs, and swamps. Terrestrial systems include pitch pine and scrub oak forests, heathlands, dunes, and sandplain grasslands. Many of these habitats are globally uncommon and the species that occupy them are correspondingly rare. Cape Cod is a relatively mild coastal environment with summer season between May and September. Winter weather brings storms, winds and freezing temperatures with little snow accumulation in the long term. Beaches, ponds and hiking trails abound. Supermarkets are in Provincetown (8 miles from the Lab) and Orleans (20 miles). Local amenities include many restaurants and small specialty markets. Nearest Mall stores are in Hyannis.

QUALIFICATIONS

The intern must be highly motivated and willing to learn and try new things. The intern must have strong writing and communication skills. Experience in natural sciences, natural resource management, or conservation gained either through coursework or work experience is critical. Experience developing science communication products is preferred. The intern must be proficient in using Microsoft Word, and experience with digital publishing, photography, and video production is helpful, but not mandatory. Experience or skills with GIS would also be useful.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder"). Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.

If the SIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the SIP's ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. SIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a SIP from driving a park vehicle include: SIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver's search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver's liability insurance while the intern is driving a NPS vehicle for their SIP position. If the SIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

HOUSING

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. CACO offers housing for interns within close proximity to a number of work sites including the North Atlantic Coastal Lab, Park Headquarters and Salt Pond Visitor Center. Housing varies but is usually a shared furnished house with private bedroom. Residents bring their own linens. Kitchens are furnished with basic supplies. If possible, housing will be within a few miles of our primary worksite. Houses usually have other residents that are also seasonal employees, research technicians or interns; however given the timing of this internship the intern may be the only occupant of a house. Residents are responsible for cleaning the residence. Trash and basic utility costs are covered by the park but services such as internet/cable/phone are not provided and would be the responsibility of the resident.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 10/03/2022



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Number of Weeks: 36

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

36 Weeks (\$480.00/week = \$17280.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The SIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the SIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the SIP position, the SIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,638 - \$6,195 pre-tax education award that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 SIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional SIP position.

Partners

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.

