



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: THE ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTER	PD#: 27
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Position Title: Alaska Virtual Education and Outreach Specialist
Position Type: LHIP Traditional Internship (Public Land Corps)
Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education
Location: 605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 105

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Position Description: The intern that would work in this position would be attached to community outreach programming, and visitor services. The primary goal of this project is to reengage with Anchorage’s most diverse communities. Anchorage has over 100 languages spoken in schools and has a large diverse population which we have been working with since 2016. In 2020 we had less staff and working at re-scripting the center’s primary message through virtual means, due to COVID-19. My goal is to get the site back on track providing community outreach that provides awareness of our public lands, access to our public lands, and opportunities to work in our public lands. If/when programming returns to normal the LHIP would take part in activities in the Mountain View community with Park Rangers, at Potter Marsh refuge alongside Rangers, on the Joint Air Force and Army base (JBER) with youth and new soldier briefings alongside Rangers, and at the newly developed visitor center with Rangers and other interns. If COVID-19 still persists and programs are still only by virtual visitation, then the LHIP will continue to programming, however by still using safe means and measures as outlined by the National Park Service. My interest is the continued engagement with populations that are not connected with our public lands to help bridge the gap.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Latino Heritage Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas.

COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

Yes

LEARNING GOALS

Week one: Seasonal training with introduction to site staff. Training will be other interns and summer seasonal staff. Introduction to the AAPLIC projects and their part in them (the expectation of one presentation for the public to be developed for week 9 & 10 before the end of internship).

Week two: Introduction to Park Partners, community and agency contacts.

Week two/three: Resource immersion with trip to state or federal public land (possible overnight field trip with summer education team).

Week four: Work closely with Rangers at JBER (joint military base) and Mt. View Library (also getting involved in Mt. View farmer's market program, street fair, and international day events). Discussion of final presentation ideas with site manager and secondary supervisor.

Week five: Introduction to Youth Conservation Corp and other interns projects (opportunity to work closely with the youth and to take part in the career development program via the Alaska Regional Office). Great opportunity to network with

Week six: More Mt. View programming opportunities with a Ranger (also getting involved in Mt. View farmer's market program, street fair, and international day events), skills training in interpretation, and assist with visitor center programs for audience understanding.

Week seven: Work on presentation, assist with visitor center programs for audience understanding, take part in outreach activities with Ranger.

Week eight: Discuss final presentation to hash out any concerns with site manager & secondary supervisor. Work on changes if needed and finalize presentation.

Week nine: Present final presentation for first time, make changes if needed to program, assist with visitor center, assist with out reach programming.

Week 10: Present final presentation again for public.

MENTORING

I am a graduate from Langston University a HBCU in Oklahoma. I was never aware that jobs in the wilderness existed and I had never been to a National Park or any other public land. In 1990 I was sent to Yellowstone with the Student Conservation Association. The experience I had that summer changed my life goals and in 1991 I joined the National Park Service. I worked in a number of sites and took part in a ton of recruiting activities. Through my years working at Fort Larned NHS, Carlsbad Caverns NP, Oregon Dunes NM, Sitka NHP, Alaska Regional Office, and now the Alaska Public Lands Information Center I have found that building the awareness that these places exist, providing the access to those who have never been and giving the opportunities to live, work, and play in these places is what will help protect them for future generations. I maintain a diverse staff by working in our diverse communities.

PROJECT RESULTS

Interns have direct contact with professionals in multiple fields of the National Park Service. With the Alaska Regional Office just three blocks staff have been able to tap the expertise of several different disciplines. What is not offered from the NPS is often found in the community. Anchorage is the jumping off point to Alaska. In this city interns have taken part in and learned about everything from dog mushing, flora and fauna like no other, unique cultural people and their stories, and cultures like no other.

The intern will be responsible for presenting on their accomplishments at the end of program career and leadership workshop.

LEADERSHIP

As the site manager all interns have a direct line of communications with me. I will take part in the training and mentoring of each employee. It is my number one duty to look after the welfare of my staff. Without them we are nothing.

We have had a number of interns in the past that are working on projects and the HBCUI can expect incredible assistance from everyone. With direct connection to the site manager, Regional staff, and extremely knowledgeable Rangers the intern will have all they need. Time is always available for the accomplishment of their program.

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

Interns will be responsible for creating new and innovative ways to attract and retain school students through the use of social and virtual means. Through live video presentations, to video enhanced products that today's modern students are more familiar with.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: The Alaska Public Lands Information Center is in downtown Anchorage. The center is a one-stop-shopping destination for all things public lands. The center has exceptional new exhibits that were just installed this year, a beautifully updated theater, and a classroom for education programs. We provide walking tours, multiple film selection, interpretive & educational programs. Anchorage zoo provides animals in the summer, BirdsTLC provides a series of different birds throughout the summer, and multiple scientists provide presentations within the theater.

Summers are long in Anchorage with about 19.5 hours of sunlight you may find the morning sunrise at 4:30 AM and sunset as late as midnight. This makes for the joy of having two days (the work day and many hours of fun after work).

The city has all the amenities one would expect in a 300,000 plus community such as large grocery stores, movie theaters, malls, buses, taxis, medical centers, Universities, rec centers, and much more, but in Anchorage we live with the wilderness. It is not uncommon to see moose in the heavily populated downtown portions of the city. The city is nestled between the ocean and the mountain range and always has something going on.

Work Environment: The site has a great team of Rangers, Interns, and partners that keep the place rolling well. The center has all new exhibits, refurbished offices, updated classroom and theater. The site also has partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which allows us to work at their refuge talking with the public about public lands, the Anchorage School District which allows us to work with youth at the summer camps at Denali and Kenai Fjords, and with the BLM which allows us to assist at Campbell tract with their programs. We are truly involved in all things public lands.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Yes a valid license is required, however not necessarily for housing purposes. There are many programs that are held off site and the use of a government vehicle will be utilized to reach sites where programs are held.