



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE	PD#: 50
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Position Title: Education and Community Outreach Intern
Position Type: LHIP Traditional Internship (Public Land Corps)
Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education
Location: 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue NY 11772

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Position Description: This professional development opportunity is an education and community outreach internship at Fire Island National Seashore. The primary tasks and deliverables associated with the internship will be to assist with media development; and provide community outreach, interpretive and education programming at the park, in communities and virtually, with a special focus on engaging local underserved populations and underrepresented audiences. While gateway communities to the park, such as Patchogue, are ethnically and socio-economically diverse, with large Latino populations, this demographic is not well represented in park visitors or park staff. Based on studies conducted by the Environment for the Americas, as well as recent conversations with local Latino community leaders, this may be due to a lack of awareness of what the park has to offer, and its relevance to the needs and interests of local community residents. Engaging a broader demographic is a primary park goal identified in the Seashore’s General Management Plan (2016), Visitor Experience Plan (2017) and Strategic Plan (2020). The Latino Heritage Intern will play a critical role in furthering the park’s efforts to engage Latino audiences and other underserved populations. It will also enable the park to support the National Park Service-wide goals outlined in the “Achieving Relevance in Our Second Century” strategy, including fostering the next generation of NPS stewards. Community outreach using a variety of virtual platforms will be a key component of the internship. The Latino Heritage Intern will contribute to social media and the development of bilingual information and programming about park resources, visitor experiences, and youth employment opportunities. Effort will be dedicated to a media campaign and programming celebrating Latino Conservation Week. This may include hosting a stewardship opportunity or recreational family day at the park, and/or conducting virtual Spanish language or bilingual programs for local libraries, churches and community enrichment programs. Along with park staff, the intern will staff community fairs such as Patchogue’s “Family Fun Night,” and career fairs at local schools and colleges, and assist with offsite programming in other under-served communities on Long Island. The intern will work alongside National Park Service Park Rangers at park visitor centers to assist with park programs and visitor operations. These opportunities will help orient the intern to park resources and the visitor experience, as well as provide a place-based venue for developing and practicing communication skills. The intern will assist with programs and media geared for youth and general public audiences on a variety of topics including marine life, recreational fishing, barrier island ecology, shoreline dynamics, maritime and American history, and more. Once the intern gains adequate content knowledge and progresses with interpretive skills development, she/he will be encouraged to lead programs and develop media on park topics of interest. He/she will also help plan for, implement, and participate in volunteer and partner events such as fishing clinics, coastal cleanups, and native plant/pollinator gardening days.

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

While performing tasks associated with the internship, the intern will gain valuable learning experience and skill in conducting secondary research and synthesizing information about Fire Island's resources and resource issues, communicating with and working with others in a professional setting, media development, writing, education/interpretation, public engagement, and community outreach. Increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation will be gained on topics including natural history, natural resource issues, and local history, with a special emphasis on marine topics. Most of these skills and increased understanding will be acquired through formal and informal trainings provided by NPS staff and partners, shadowing others, developing and contributing to media, programs and visitor operations, and through secondary research and self-study. It is anticipated that the intern will assist with delivering approximately 10 interpretive and/or education programs during the internship, develop at least one original program or presentation, and represent the park at approximately 5 community events. In addition to education and community outreach, the intern will assist with other program areas at Fire Island National Seashore providing a blended interdisciplinary experience and exposure to the various NPS career fields. The intern will spend time in the field alongside park biologists, natural resource interns and managers, cultural resource managers, historians, and planners.

MENTORING

Kathy Krause – Chief of Interpretation, Education and Volunteers – will be the direct supervisor for this internship and have primary responsibilities for project oversight. Ms. Krause has over 25 years of experience as an interpretive program manager with the National Park Service. She has mentored dozens of diverse student interns, including 5 recent Latino Heritage Interns at Fire Island National Seashore. Several other NPS staff, also experienced with guiding, supervising and mentoring diverse youth, will also provide professional development and serve as mentors throughout the internship. The following Fire Island staff will help mentor the intern: Christopher Olijnyk – Interpretive Operations Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator; Kelsey Sucena – Visual Information Specialist; Kristin Santos – Interpretive Specialist; Kaetlyn Jackson – Park Planner; Jordan Raphael – Biologist. The intern should expect a high level of supervision and training during the first 2 weeks of the internship and ongoing professional development for the duration. Once the intern is comfortable with assignments and expectations, he/she should expect to work with minimal supervision but feel comfortable addressing his/her supervisor, mentors, and peers, with questions and concerns; and to coordinate work and share ideas with on a daily basis. The intern will participate in formal and informal web-based and park training on interpretation, science communications, park resources, operations, social/digital media, NPS, first aid/CPR/AED, and other topics related to the internship. The intern will be offered opportunities throughout the internship to shadow knowledgeable and experienced park staff, network with other LHIP interns and park interns in other program areas, and participate in self-study.

PROJECT RESULTS

N/A

LEADERSHIP

N/A

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

N/A

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: Ocean beaches, dunes, maritime forests, the Fire Island Light Station and the William Floyd Estate blend recreational opportunities with rich historic and natural resources at Fire Island National Seashore. The park is located only 60 miles east of New York City, but is a world apart from the bustling communities surrounding it. The 26-mile long National Seashore contains significant natural features such as the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, the only federal wilderness in New York State; and the Sunken Forest, a globally rare 350-year-old holly maritime forest. The William Floyd Estate showcases the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Floyd family’s legacy over 250 years of change. Fire Island’s maritime heritage is highlighted at the Fire Island Light Station, with the 1858 Lighthouse still an active aid to navigation, out buildings, and historic first order Fresnel lens now on display. A wide range of temperatures, from 0 degrees in the winter to the high 90’s in the summer, can occur. The gateway communities to the park are ethnically and culturally diverse and with large Latino populations. All services including shopping, doctors, hospitals, libraries and schools are available in the communities on Long Island. Services on Fire Island are limited.

Work Environment: Work at Seashore visitor sites can involve long periods of standing and walking, light lifting, and exposure to extreme heat and sun, as well as ticks and mosquitoes. It is expected that the intern will spend approximately 1/2 of their time either at various park sites engaging with park visitors, or in local communities on Fire Island and Long Island. The rest of the time will be in an office setting. Computer access will be provided with appropriate software for assigned tasks. The office is located at the Seashore’s headquarters in Patchogue on mainland Long Island. The Seashore will be hosting other interns as well during the summer of 2021, including a Community Volunteer Ambassador who will entrance on duty in February 2021, and those working across disciplines in cultural and natural resources, interpretation and education.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Yes – Since the park is spread out over 26 miles, with sites on mainland Long Island and Fire Island, the intern must possess a valid driver’s license and be able to operate a motor vehicle independently to drive to different sites within the park. If the intern is in need of park housing, a personal vehicle will be needed for the intern to travel to and from the duty station each day which is located 25 miles from the park housing location. If the intern lives locally, he/she will need to provide their own transportation to and from the duty station on a daily basis. Public transportation on Long Island is limited.