



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK		PD#: 49
<p>Position Title: Outreach Assistant Position Type: LHIP Traditional Internship (Public Land Corps) Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education Location: 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304</p>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION		
<p>Position Description: The outreach assistant at Indiana Dunes National Park will continue the work begun in 2020 by the first LHIP intern, Araceli Figueroa. We would actually love to continue working with Araceli and continue the work she began virtually by offering her the opportunity to live and work in the park in the summer of 2021 and be able to build on the projects she initiated in 2020. Whether it is Araceli or another intern, though, they will be working with a vibrant team of committed staff working on serious, authentic equity and inclusion projects with partners from a variety of communities in our region. Because the park is uniquely poised and universally accessible to so many people, we are committed to equitable programming and relationships. In recent years, we have been focusing on the Latinx communities in East Chicago, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. However, the outreach assistant would be able to work with a variety of groups over the summer. The park has established a good working relationship with a group of 8-10 different organizations that serve diverse audiences from northwest Indiana and Chicagoland. We have made successful strides and started new partnerships with these groups to bring youth and adults out to the park. However, we recognize that this cannot be one and done field trips. We need to develop lasting relationships that meet the needs of both groups. To that end, this outreach assistant will work with a GS-09 Park Ranger focused on outreach to follow up on the work began last summer but was put on hold due to the pandemic. Some of the potential projects include: --attending summer family/outreach events in local communities to bring the face of the NPS to the community; --translating materials and web site information into Spanish; --creating social media and other non-personal interpretive materials that are more reflective of diverse audiences and are engaging to these audiences; --connecting with Spanish speaking radio stations as a way to market to the Latinx community. The work of the intern will greatly enhance and inform the overall goals of the park in its inclusion and equity work. See the link below for an article on the recent summer work done on this project: https://www.informalscience.org/news-views/finding-way-forward-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-indiana-dunes-national-park</p> <p>This position is offered through the National Park Service's Latino Heritage Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas.</p>		
COVID ACCOMMODATIONS		
Yes		
LEARNING GOALS		

The intern will gain valuable experience working with a strong diverse interpretive team at a multi-faceted national park which works with urban, suburban and rural audiences. With the new National Park designation, the opportunities for outreach and education and grown dramatically. The intern will learn about the unique aspects of the park and what makes it significant. He or she will gain valuable interpretive experience going out working with a variety of groups. The intern will be able to participate in the park's annual seasonal training and participate in other informal training opportunities in the region. The intern will be able to work with NPS staff in other divisions as needed and upon request.

MENTORING

Indiana Dunes has a mentoring program for new and seasonal staff and interns. This LHIP intern will be paired with a more experienced NPS staff person to gain insight and career advice. In addition, the intern will receive guidance and work alongside a veteran outreach coordinator who has been working in this field for over 20 years.

PROJECT RESULTS

NA

LEADERSHIP

NA

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

NA

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: The park is located along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The summers are warm but rarely above the 90s. The lake provides fresh breezes and varied weather all season. There are lots of opportunities for outdoor recreation in the park and nearby as well as urban fun. Chicago is only an hour away and can be accessed by a commuter train system. Local communities include Chesterton, Michigan City, Gary, Portage and Lake Station, Indiana. There are significant Latino populations in Lake Station, East Chicago and Hammond, not to mention Chicago.

Work Environment: Summer at the dunes can be a lot of fun with a varied work force. We hire a good number of seasonals for the summer and they typically work together and also recreate together socially. The weather is great for summer recreation--swimming, beach going, paddling, hiking and biking. There are lots of fun things to do in the park and nearby communities, not to mention Chicago and all that it has to offer. The park often has several interns working in different work groups too.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A driver's license is helpful but not mandatory. The park is bicycle friendly.