



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RTCA) AUSTIN, TX OFFICE	PD#: 12
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Position Title: RTCA Indigenous/Native Partnerships Outreach Coordinator
Position Type: LHIP Direct Hire Authority Resource Assistance (DHA-RA)
Primary natural resource discipline: Outreach/Public Affairs
Location: 1901 E Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741 (or remote)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Position Description: This internship is not located in a national park. In addition to protecting and managing America’s 401 national parks, the National Park Service also operates programs in communities throughout the nation to connect all Americans to their parks, trails, rivers, and other special places. This internship is within the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, which helps community groups, nonprofits, state and local governments, and tribes plan parks and trails, conserve and improve access to rivers and natural areas, and create recreation opportunities through locally led partnerships.

The National Park Service endeavors to engage all Americans in protecting our special places—both nationwide and close to home. This rigorous internship provides an opportunity for someone with strong communications, community organizing, and outreach skills to

help advance the National Park Service’s community assistance efforts in Texas.

For this project, the intern will develop strategies for the Texas RTCA office, with a focus on increasing assistance to indigenous communities in Texas and Oklahoma.

The project goals are to:

- Establish relationships with indigenous communities and tribal officials in Texas and Oklahoma.
- Identify potential projects with indigenous communities in Texas and Oklahoma that might benefit from RTCA assistance.
- Showcase three RTCA success stories involving collaboration with indigenous communities
- Increase awareness about RTCA assistance among BIPOC communities in Texas and Oklahoma

The intern will research local organizations, community groups, and key stakeholders in indigenous communities in Texas and Oklahoma. The intern will engage with those organizations, through direct interviews, site visits (as appropriate) and focus groups, to identify recreation and conservation needs/goals, as well as the necessary support to meet the identified conservation/recreation goals. The intern will also research case study examples and document successful collaboration between RTCA and indigenous communities.

With support from TX RTCA staff, the intern will interact with the targeted communities and present information about RTCA and how it can assist with conservation and recreation planning.

The final products of the internship will be

1. A detailed strategy that will help RTCA staff effectively engage with and assist Indigenous communities in Texas and Oklahoma.
2. Three or more RTCA success stories involving Indigenous/Native communities
3. List of potential RTCA projects in Indigenous/Native communities in Texas and Oklahoma

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

The intern will develop the following skills:

- Researching and writing stories and case studies
- Creating print and web materials for outreach and program promotion
- Outreach and engagement to underserved or underrepresented communities

MENTORING

The mentor and relevant program staff will meet with the intern at least weekly to advise and review progress. The mentor will be available daily as needed to guide and advise (in person if intern is located in Austin office and virtually if intern is remote).

PROJECT RESULTS

The intern will: 1) present the project results to RTCA managers and staff nationally and regionally via webinar, 2) create an informational report to share best practices and lessons learned (shared via the RTCA program's online communications site), and 3) present an in depth briefing on the project results to Texas RTCA field office staff and regional manager

LEADERSHIP

The supervisor will meet with the intern at least weekly to review progress and advise intern. At the beginning of the internship period, the supervisor will identify the strengths, potential growth areas, and professional development goals of the intern. The supervisor will periodically assess intern's skills and growth as project progresses and offer constructive advice and recommend training and professional development opportunities for growth.

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

The final products of the internship will be

1. A detailed strategy that will help RTCA staff effectively engage with and assist Indigenous communities in Texas and Oklahoma.
2. Three or more RTCA success stories involving Indigenous/Native communities to be showcased on promotional material
3. List of potential RTCA projects in Indigenous/Native communities in Texas and Oklahoma

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: The Austin metropolitan area has a population of over two million and is located at a low elevation of about 400 feet and experiences mild winters and hot summers. Outdoor and indoor recreation and entertainment options abound. There are Latino communities (primarily Mexican-American and Tejano) located near the office in South Austin and throughout the region. The RTCA Austin Field Office is a typical office setting located in a building operated by a local non-profit focusing on youth education and conservation corps programming.

Work Environment: Work will be primarily in-office with possible field visits (depending on pandemic travel restrictions and intern's availability to drive/travel).

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

No. Public transportation (although not ideal) and bicycling are an option for Austin-based interns; remote interns can work from residence. An intern with a drivers license and vehicle would be able to more easily conduct field visits, but it is not a requirement.