



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

PD#: 81

Position Title: Engage Diverse Communities in Learning about Rock Creek Park!

Position Type: LHIP Traditional Internship (Public Land Corps)

Primary natural resource discipline: Interpretation/Education

Location: Rock Creek Park Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, DC 20015

(Depending upon COVID-19, some or all of the internship may be developed virtually or in a hybrid format.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Position Description: Rock Creek Park is committed to core values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our goal: To welcome everyone to the park by telling more inclusive stories of the park's history and sharing other topics of interest to people (e.g., natural resources, recreation, etc.).

Approximately 5.3 million people live in the Washington Metropolitan Area making it the eighth-largest and one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the United States. While over two million people visit the park each year, there is a prime opportunity for growth, especially with reaching underserved audiences.

This is an exciting opportunity for an intern to:

--Review and analyze research about park audiences

--Expand a draft community outreach plan for Rock Creek Park as part of a team

--Develop, present and pilot at least two new interpretive programs related to Rock Creek Park designed to reach children with community groups like YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, recreation centers, etc. with advance input into program development from park and partners

--Help develop, schedule, and/or coordinate two new public programs for a general audience (primarily adults) as part of a park-partner series to explore the racial history of northwest Washington, DC

--Participate in development of at least one new product to better tell the stories of one or more diverse populations connected to the park's history (e.g., develop an exhibit or brochure OR create a series of social media posts OR complete significant research OR develop a webpage OR create an interactive online activity for elementary school children related to this topic)

--Add to the park's stakeholder lists of community groups and individuals

--Present an update about the project at the end of the internship to park management and partners

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

Interns will receive training in formal and informal interpretation, customer service skills, and an orientation to the National Park Service and Rock Creek Park. The interns would be invited to attend training provided by the National Capital Area Youth Program, as well.

MENTORING

The intern will receive mentoring from his/her supervisor, other division and park staff, park partners, etc. This will be done both individually and in team environments depending upon the projects.

For example, interpretive program development will obtain feedback from both the interns supervisor and two staff from the Division of Interpretation to include review of the draft outline and presentation and feedback after mock interpretive programs.

The intern would work on teams for the outreach/community engagement planning and racial history series planning components of the internship. The intern will present ideas to team members for feedback.

I will ensure the intern will be introduced to other staff within the park and to other interns in the park and region.

PROJECT RESULTS

N/A

LEADERSHIP

N/A

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

N/A

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: The Rock Creek Park Nature Center, where the Division of Interpretation, Education, and Outreach is located, is located slightly above sea level on a ridge. In summer, the park is especially beautiful, lush, and tree-lined with lots of shade. This is especially good because DC summer temps can be in the 80s and 90s and muggy. Grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations are located within 2 miles of the park.

The Columbia Heights area, which borders part of the park, has the largest Latino population within the city with Latinx heritage evident in businesses and publications in the area. However, the entire Washington Metropolitan Area is very diverse, and Latino businesses can be found throughout the area.

Work Environment: A lot of this will depend upon COVID-19. In-person would be 50% office, 40% in communities, and 10% hiking in the park. Outdoor hazards can include poison ivy, ticks, and tripping hazards in rough terrain.

We expect to host at least two summer interns this year.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Yes, a driver's license is required as the intern would need to drive a government vehicle to present programs for community organizations. Metro may be available in a reasonable timeframe or not depending upon where the intern decides to live.