



## MOSAICS IN SCIENCE DIVERSITY Internship Program

### 2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>NPS UNIT: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK - CONTINENTAL DIVIDE RESEARCH LEARNING CENTER</b>	<b>PD #: 2019519</b>
<p><b>Position Title:</b> Science Communication Assistant</p> <p><b>Position Type:</b> MIS Intern</p> <p><b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Multidisciplinary</p> <p><b>Project keywords:</b> science communication, public engagement, park research, resource management</p> <p><b>Park or Program Website:</b> <a href="https://www.nps.gov/rlc/continentaldivide/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/rlc/continentaldivide/index.htm</a></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Estes Park, Colorado</p>	
<b>MOSAICS IN SCIENCE INTERN OVERVIEW</b>	
<p>The Mosaics in Science Program is focused on persons that are under-represented in STEM fields. Students and recent graduates that are African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American are encouraged to apply for these internships. In order to be eligible for a MIS intern position, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 35 years old.</p> <p>A Mosaics Intern within the Mosaics in Science Diversity Program is an entry level natural resource science internship that focuses on career exploration and building fundamental natural resource science skills. Each Mosaics Intern will receive a weekly stipend of \$400, park-provided housing or a housing allowance and paid travel expenses. Interns who successfully complete 640 hours of work in one or more eligible internships and are under the age of 30 will be eligible for the Public Land Corps Non-competitive Hiring Authority for two years following the completion of the internship. Successful completion of a Mosaics in Science internship does not guarantee that the participant will be hired in to a federal position.</p>	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS</b>	
<p><b>Position Description:</b> With the support of the Continental Divide Research Learning Center (CDRLC), the Science Communication Assistant (SC) will research, design and develop an array of communication tools to meet the CDRLC’s internal and external communication goals. The intern will work on three primary internal communication tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Research library</b> – This will involve research and consolidation of written reports, journal articles, synthesis papers, articles, and briefs on current and past park research topics. Over the years, these written materials have been organized in a variety of ways (databases, digital folders, etc). The intern will consolidate the materials on one to three topics into an accessible and readily available collection through the Integrated Resource Management Application (IRMA) data store.</li> <li>• <b>Institutional memory</b> – During the internship, the SC will research one of the park’s long-term resource management challenges. They will write up a synthesis document that will provide the park with a comprehensive administrative history on the work done on the issue, including an annotated bibliography of the documents written on the topic. They will also interview the park’s subject matter expert on the topic to better understand some of the reasons behind particular projects, challenges that the park has faced on the topic, and how the park has used the research to support management decisions and actions.</li> </ul>	

- Resource/research briefs – The intern will work with resource stewardship staff to develop one to three resource and/or research briefs that provides a brief 2-page synopsis of a topic. Depending on the topic, the brief will be written for the park's upper level managers to provide an overview of an issue that needs management level action, or for the Interpretation and Environmental Education division to support their staff training needs.
- Material for external communication – The intern will also have the opportunity to develop material to engage the public in park science and research, and to promote citizen science opportunities to potential volunteers. This will involve working with park staff and external researchers to develop web content for the CDRLC's website, update resource content on Rocky Mountain National Park's webpage, and communicate park science and research through the park's social media platforms.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Mosaics in Science Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas and Greening Youth Foundation.

**Work Products:** By the end of the internship, the intern will provide these products to the CDRLC:

- One to three topic-based IRMA collections containing all relevant publications, reports and briefs on the topic's park relevant research.
- A synthesis document detailing one long-term resource challenge that the park has been tackling. This will give an administrative history on the issue and what the park has done to address it. It will include an annotated bibliography.
- One to three 2-page resource or research briefs detailing a resource of significance or a prominent research effort by the park. These documents will be written for an internal audience.
- New web content on park research for the CDRLC website.
- Updated web content for resource pages on the park website.
- Social media posts highlighting park research and citizen science projects and activities.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and organized person for this internship. Applicants should possess good communication skills in both speaking and writing. Prospective interns should have experience in research, an understanding of natural and/or cultural resource management concepts, and strong organizational skills. Experience in project management would be an asset.

Experience working with volunteers and youth, and basic data collection and monitoring experience is preferred but not required. Backcountry hiking and safety skills are highly encouraged.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.

#### **VEHICLE/DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

A vehicle is not required for this position, but is recommended. Laundry and office space are located near both potential housing areas. The grocery store is several miles from the housing areas. Staff can help interns find rides to and from housing to access the local grocery store.

A driver's license is required so that the intern can drive a park vehicle to meet and observe park staff and external researchers in the field to support the development of the communication products.

#### **HOUSING**

Park housing is provided at no cost to the participant. Housing will be provided either at:

- 1) McGraw Ranch (a former cattle and guest ranch) that is located five miles from Estes Park, Colorado. The Main ranch house has offices, a shared kitchen and dining area, laundry and small conference room. Interns would have individual sleeping space with a shared bathroom, and access to internet and a phone line from the main ranch house (no cell service).

- 2) The Research Dorm which is located near the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, three miles west of Estes Park, Colorado. The dorm has 16 beds, shared bath, and a furnished living room and kitchen. Each bedroom will be shared by person of the same gender. It is available for long-term, short-term or infrequent visits. Wi-fi and cell phone reception are available.

Interns will need to bring their own bedding and towels. Pets are not allowed in park housing.

#### **INTERNSHIP START/END DATES**

**Start Date:** 5/20/2019

**End Date:** 8/8/2019

Mandatory Career Workshop will be held in Washington, DC from August 4 – 8, 2019

**Are these dates flexible?** Yes

#### **STIPEND PAYMENT**

\$4,800, all travel and housing costs will be covered

#### **PHYSICAL/NATURAL & WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Physical/Natural Environment:** Both McGraw Ranch and Park Headquarters (location of the Research Dorm) are located within five miles of downtown Estes Park, Colorado. The town of Estes Park has several grocery stores, a library, restaurants, a hospital, and several clinics and doctor and dentist offices. Recreational and educational opportunities in town include educational classes through the library and adult education learning program, a running club, walking trails and bike paths, and trivia – events and activities that many park staff attend as groups. Rocky Mountain NP also lies within a short drive to several metropolitan areas. The park embraces 415 square miles of pristine, uninhabited mountains in north-central Colorado and, as such, is one of the most spectacular, yet easily accessible high mountain areas. The park encompasses glacier-sculptured valleys, rugged gorges, alpine lakes, and vast areas of alpine tundra. Estes Park is at 7,500 feet and the park's highest peaks are over 14,000 feet. Summer weather is generally sunny with averages in the 70's and 80's with frequent afternoon lightening showers. Recreational activities in the park include scenic drives, 355 miles of hiking trails, horseback riding, climbing, fishing, and wildlife watching.

**Work Environment:** This internship is primarily office based; however, there will be opportunities to meet and work with researchers and park staff in the field (approximately 10-20%). Office space will be furnished with a desk (which will include a varied desk platform allowing for sitting and standing), computer, phone line, and close access to a shared printer. When in the field, the intern will need to be aware and cognizant of steep and rocky terrain, changing weather, and wildlife. These topics will be covered as part of safety training and park orientation. Travel in high elevation, and symptoms of elevation sickness, will also be included.

#### **MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** The CDRLC is working to foster a culture within Rocky Mountain NP to encourage and support the development of interns for the benefit of the entire NPS community. As part of the Resource Stewardship division of Rocky Mountain National Park, we pride ourselves in our focus on professional development for employees at all levels. We have a robust and continually successful internship program partnership with the Eagle Rock High School that has been mentoring and preparing interns for over 6 years. Continuing in the spirit of engaging and building up the next generation, we have an additional internship program with Colorado State University, in which we train, mentor and place interns across multiple divisions within the park. The RMNP Resource Stewardship division has substantial experience in mentoring interns, both in developing technical and soft skills. We have developed internship manuals and workbooks for supervisors and interns through the Eagle Rock program, outlining responsibilities, expectations, check-ins, goals etc. that can be modified and repurposed for this individual. We are committed to supporting the Science Communication Assistant. The intern will be included in the Resource Stewardship's annual Focus Group Assembly professional development series, provided extensive park-based training (including resource training, backcountry training, job-based training, and access to

webinars), and provided job-shadow opportunities with other workgroups of interest to them. As a park, we also provide several 6-hour Federal Resume Workshops, supported by individual resume review opportunities that all interns will be encouraged to attend. Interns also have opportunities to meet other interns working throughout the park, to share experiences and learn about other park programs and operations. Past interns have also been encouraged to meet directly with staff who work in careers they may want to pursue, including the Superintendent. The supervisor/mentor will develop a detailed workplan and Leadership Development and Mentoring Plan in collaboration with the selected intern.

**Learning Goals:** The intern will gain valuable and diverse experience and skills over the internship:

- The intern will gain an understanding and appreciation of the NPS mission and culture.
- The intern will learn and develop skills in research, organization and project management.
- The intern will develop writing skills through the development of a synthesis document and project briefs.
- The intern will gain skills and experience in science communication – writing outreach materials and web content; developing social media posts; designing outreach materials using design software.
- The intern will learn about citizen science and data collection methodologies and processes.
- The intern will gain experience working with volunteers.
- The intern will participate in available trainings to gain a better understanding of Park Management and safety protocols.