

**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
North Carolina and Tennessee**



## **Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internships**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting for several 3-4 month Internships available for college students and recent graduates who would like to gain valuable work experience while helping us protect the cultural and natural resources in the park through education, research, and management.

Ridge upon ridge of forest straddles the border between North Carolina and Tennessee in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM), the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Mississippi River. World- renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, it is America's most visited national park.

GRSM has the most biological diversity of any area in the world's temperate zone and is a sanctuary for a magnificent array of animal and plant life. Outdoor recreational opportunities also abound in the park and local area. GRSM alone contains 10 campgrounds, 2,000 miles of stream, more than 800 miles of trails, and 89 backcountry campsites. The park boasts sections of three long-distance trails, including over 70 miles of the world-famous Appalachian Trail.

Interns receive dorm housing, uniform shirt, and a weekly stipend (\$125), but are responsible for their own travel expenses to the park. A personal vehicle is encouraged to facilitate off-duty use since public transportation is limited in the area.

The following Internships are available in 2013. Please see the attached position descriptions for duties, responsibilities, skills needed, and application procedures.

**Please pay careful attention to the application material due dates!**

For general questions about the internship program, you may contact:

Christine Hoyer, Volunteer Coordinator  
(865) 436-1265  
christine\_hoyer@nps.gov

The funding for these positions has been provided by our partners:  
**Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains Association**



## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

**POSITION TITLE**                      **Vegetation Management Intern**  
2 positions (Summer)



**LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT**      12 weeks

**STIPEND**                                \$125 per week + dorm housing included

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Control invasive exotic plants involves mechanical (pulling) or chemical control of 50 species of invasive plants, mapping sites and developing treatment plans. Training is provided for safe pesticide use as well as plant identification and use of GPS, though basic botanical skills are helpful. Exotic plant control involves about 30%-40% of scheduled time.

Several forest insect pests impact Park forests. Hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect from Asia, has been in the park since 2000 and caused tremendous changes in the eastern hemlock forests. The Park has old growth hemlock (some exceeding 500 years old) and mixed hemlock forest types, some of which are globally rare. We treat high value hemlocks with chemicals and biocontrol predator beetles to keep hemlocks alive, conduct monitoring and scout for new treatment areas. The park is also infested with balsam woolly adelgid (BWA), a European insect that has killed 80+% of the park's Fraser fir trees. BWA populations are monitored on four mountain tops. Emerald ash borer was recently found in the Park and planning for treatment includes mapping ash trees and implementing treatment plans. Forest insect and disease work involves about 50% of work time. Various projects including replanting areas impacted by construction, maintaining grassy balds with weed eaters to suppress woody species and maintaining native meadow seed plantings for restoration use. Restoration work involves about 10% of work time.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Ability to hike/backpack in mountainous terrain in hot or cold humid conditions; may require overnight backcountry stays and off trail navigation. Ability to work cooperatively and safely as a group member and learn new skills. Note: Exposure to poison ivy and biting/stinging insects is likely so those highly allergic should carefully consider this issue. Must be able to use pesticides in safe manner following required handling, application and disposal instructions, including wearing of personal protective equipment. Ability to learn safe use of cutting tools (manual or powered). Uniform (Volunteer in Park (VIP) hat and/or shirt) is required to be identifiable to the visiting public and act as a representative of the National Park Service while serving as an intern.

### SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in biology, agriculture, forestry, recreation and resource management among other disciplines. Plant and/or invertebrate identification skills beneficial.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

**Glenn Taylor**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(865) 430-4748; glenn\_taylor@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

**POSITION TITLE**                      **Vegetation Monitoring Intern**  
3 Positions (Summer)



**LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT**      12 weeks (May through August)

**STIPEND**                                \$125 per week + dorm housing included

### BACKGROUND

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified applicants for a summer internship in the Inventory and Monitoring Branch (I&M). The Position is primarily field oriented and will assist in collecting and compiling data to:

- Monitor the status and trends of vegetation communities and other natural resource elements throughout the park
- Assess impacts to target plant species and vegetation communities
- Protect rare and endangered plant species

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- Vegetation Plot Monitoring: Assist with field sampling of overstory and understory communities, forestry measurements, and plot set-up.
- Rare Plant Monitoring: Assist with field monitoring of threatened and endangered plants.
- Wetlands Identification: Serve on a field crew that locates, inventories, and maps wetland communities in select watersheds.
- Elk Exclosure Monitoring Project: Assist crew with field sampling of exclosure and control plots to assess elk impacts to vegetation composition.
- Other short-term duties include: Laboratory work on plant specimen identification and preservation; Herbarium specimen preparation; Computer data entry; Assisting with other ecological projects in the park
- *All projects will involve backcountry navigation, utilizing Trimble XT and DNR Garmin software, field sampling, and detailed data collection.*

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Academic background in biological sciences. Preferred knowledge in botany/ecology, vegetation sampling methods, and GPS/GIS. Must be able to hike in mountainous terrain in hot humid or inclement weather conditions, carrying a backpack and other field equipment. Good fitting hiking boots and raingear are important personal items to have prior to arrival. Stinging insects, poison ivy, slippery footing, and venomous snakes are known field hazards. Intern will be a part of a team that operates safely and communicates effectively.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Materials may be sent electronically or by mail. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

**Joshua Albritton**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(865) 436-1200 ext. 769; joshua\_albritton@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

### POSITION TITLE

**GIS Intern**  
4 Positions



### LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT

12 weeks

### STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

GIS interns needed beginning June 2013 and lasting for 12 weeks for assistance with GIS data creation data management, and technology transfer. Duties will include using ArcGIS Desktop software and Trimble GPS Equipment to create and manage new GIS data layers; Coordinating with park staff to organize existing spatial data and create and document procedures for updating geo-spatial datasets; Use of GIS to support GIS and database development in the following areas: Wildlife Management, Cultural Resources, Fisheries and Water Quality, Inventory and Monitoring; Developing base-mapping programs for the continued collection and analysis of monitoring data.

Must be able to hike in mountainous terrain in hot humid or inclement weather conditions carrying a daypack or backpack and other field equipment. Good fitting hiking boots and rainwear are important personal items to have prior to arrival. Stinging insects, poison ivy, slippery footing, and venomous snakes are known field hazards. Work schedule is ten hour days 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday-Thursday.

### SKILLS NEEDED

Some education or experience in geographic information systems (GIS), computer cartography a must, specifically experience using ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMap/ArcCatalog). Experience with geodatabase formats is a plus, as is understanding of geodatabase tables. Applicant should have the ability to write and follow detailed technical information documents and be self-motivated and flexible. Valid state vehicle operator's license desired. Ability to pass Federal Computer Security Background Investigation.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

**Thomas Colson, GIS Program Manager**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
1316 Cherokee Orchard Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(865) 436-1701; thomas\_colson@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

### POSITION TITLE

**Wildlife Management Intern**  
2 Positions  
(1 Spring/Summer, 1 Summer/Fall)



### LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT

12 to 16 weeks  
May – August, August - November

### STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Wildlife Branch. The positions are primarily field oriented and assist with elk management, black bear management, and other wildlife management activities.

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- **Elk Management:** Perform radio-telemetry to monitor elk movements and survival. Assist in the capture, handling, and radio-marking of newborn elk calves (spring position only). Patrol areas where elk commonly feed providing education and assistance to visitors.
- **Black Bear Management:** Assist with the monitoring, capture, and handling of nuisance and injured black bears. Post warning and/or closure signs as needed. This work can often be physically strenuous for extended hours.
- **Wild Hog Control:** Hike and scout area for wild hog activity. Set and monitor wild hog traps. Utilize a firearm to humanely euthanize trapped wild hogs.
- Hike and backpack (up to 15 miles) in remote mountainous terrain.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Practical knowledge of radio-telemetry; ability to work with/handle animals (farm, zoo, etc. work experience); ability to hike/backpack; ability to use firearms; ability to work with and carry heavy backpacks in steep mountains terrain; ability to operate vehicles including towing and backing trailers.

### SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in wildlife or related disciplines; outdoor related skills in hunting, trapping and backpacking.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Send resume, 3 references and copy of transcripts to:

**Joe Yarkovich, Wildlife Biologist**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(828) 497-1928; joseph\_yarkovich@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

<b>POSITION TITLE</b>	<b>Wildlife Management Intern</b> 3 Positions
<b>LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT</b>	12 to 16 weeks April/May through August/September
<b>STIPEND</b>	\$125 per week + dorm housing included



### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Wildlife Branch. The positions are primarily field oriented and assist with black bear management, wild hog control and other wildlife management activities.

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- **Black Bear Management:** Monitor campgrounds and picnic areas for nuisance black bears. Set and monitor bear traps. Assist with the capture and handling of nuisance and injured black bears. Post warning and/or closure signs as needed. This work can often be physically strenuous for extended hours.
- **Wild Hog Control:** Hike and scout area for wild hog activity. Set and monitor wild hog traps. Utilize a firearm to humanely euthanize trapped wild hogs.
- **Wildlife Monitoring:** Assist with wildlife surveys. Gather and record wildlife data. Utilize computers to input, review and edit wildlife data.
- Hike and backpack (up to 15 miles) in remote mountainous terrain.

### SKILLS NEEDED

Ability to work with/handle animals (farm, zoo, etc. work experience); ability to hike/backpack; ability to use firearms; ability to work with and carry heavy backpacks in steep mountains terrain; ability to operate vehicles including towing and backing trailers.

### SKILLS DESIRED

Academic background in wildlife or related disciplines; outdoor related skills in hunting, trapping and backpacking.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Send resume, 3 references and copy of transcripts to:

**Bill Stiver, Supv. Wildlife Biologist**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(865) 436-1251; bill\_stiver@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

### POSITION TITLE

**Fishery Management Intern**  
4 Positions (2 Summer, 2 Fall)



### LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT

12 weeks  
2 Positions: June-August (dates are negotiable)  
2 Positions: August-November (dates are negotiable)

### STIPEND

\$125 per week + dorm housing included

### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified students for spring/summer internships in the Fisheries Management Branch. The positions are field and lab oriented and assists with fishery assessments and management.

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) is the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Mississippi River boasting over 2,100 miles of cool and coldwater streams. There are nearly 60 species of fish found in GRSM representing 12 families from prehistoric lampreys to wild brook trout, to three federally protected fish species that were extirpated but have recently been reintroduced and are being monitored in Abrams Creek. You will serve as a fisheries intern being trained and assisting in small stream monitoring efforts of trout populations using backpack electrofishing gear throughout this 520,000 acre National Park. Major training and skills acquired through this position include the use, construction, and maintenance of backpack electrofishing gear, small stream sampling guidelines, population enumeration using depletion estimates, identification of 20-40 fish species, physical and chemical stream measurements, data entry and editing techniques, and backcountry sampling and camping techniques. Interns will work with a team of federal, state, and private biologists, as well as university researchers.

Specific responsibilities will include: monitoring fish using backpack electrofishing gear and snorkeling - 40%, physical and chemical stream measurements - 20%, fish identification – 10%, data entry and editing techniques – 10%, equipment repair, maintenance and construction – 10%, and backcountry camping and sampling techniques - 10%.

Training: use, repair and maintenance of backpack electrofishing gear, stream snorkeling techniques, fish identification, and remote backcountry field operations.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Interest in the profession of fisheries biology or fish management, good physical conditioning, ability to carry heavy loads of gear (40 lbs.) over rough terrain for up to 5 miles on a daily basis, willingness to work outdoors, possibly overnight(s) in variable weather conditions.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 1, 2013** for Summer Positions and **May 10, 2013** for Fall Positions. Send resume, 3 references, and copy of transcripts to:

**Matt Kulp, Fishery Biologist**  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
865-436-1254; matt\_kulp@nps.gov

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2012 Internship

**POSITION TITLE**                      **Backcountry Management Intern**  
1 Position (Summer)



**LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT**      12 weeks (June – August)

**STIPEND**                                \$125 per week + dorm housing included

### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified individuals for a summer internship in backcountry management. The position is primarily field-oriented and assists the Backcountry Management Specialist.

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

Assist the park's Backcountry Management Specialist with monitoring conditions of trails, backcountry signs, campsites, shelters and privies. Lead or assist with backcountry campsite clean ups. Assist with maintenance of backcountry information stations. Perform campsite assessments. Provide support to the Backcountry Information Office. Assist the Backcountry Management Specialist with backcountry and wilderness related research and projects.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants must have an interest in backcountry and wilderness management. No specific academic background is required. However, a background in parks and recreation management is preferred. Applicants must possess the following skills and abilities:

- Be in excellent physical condition and have a demonstrated ability to hike up to 10 miles per day, in steep terrain and a variety of weather conditions, while carrying up to 40 pounds
- Significant multi-day backpacking experience, including experience backpacking alone in the wilderness (A backpacking class does not constitute significant experience)
- Willingness and ability to hike and camp alone for several days at a time in remote wilderness where help is many miles away
- Skill and ability to self-rescue and not endanger oneself or others in the course of executing his or her duties.
- Be well-grounded in the principles of Leave No Trace
- Possess exceptional interpersonal skills and be able to effectively communicate with a variety of individuals.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 15, 2013**. Applicants should include the following in their application:

- Resume including supervisor's names and contact information
- 3 references and contact information
- A copy of transcripts
- Detailed description of backpacking experience and how applicant meets the skills required for the position

This internship is highly competitive. Applicants who do not provide all of the above information will not be considered for the position. Applications for this position may be sent by mail or email. However, all application materials must be received in one package or email.



Mail applications to:

**Melissa Cobern, Backcountry Management Specialist**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Applications may be emailed to: [melissa\\_cobern@nps.gov](mailto:melissa_cobern@nps.gov)

Inquiries about the position may be made through the same email address.

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship

**POSITION TITLE**                      **Publications & Photography  
Collection Management  
Internship--Backcountry**  
1 Position (Summer)



**LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT**      12 weeks (June – August)

**STIPEND**                                \$125 per week + dorm housing included

### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recruiting qualified individuals for a summer internship in backcountry publications and photography collection management. The position is both field and office oriented and assists the Backcountry Management Specialist.

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

Write and design a backcountry trip planner for the park using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Capture high-quality photos of the park's backcountry based on park needs. Input photos into collections based on topics and image resolution/size. Collections will be created and managed using an NPS computer. A background investigation is required for the position.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants should have some interest in backcountry and wilderness. No specific academic background is required. However, a background in parks and recreation management is preferred. Applicants must possess the following skills and abilities:

- Be in good physical condition and be able to hike several miles a day, in steep terrain and a variety of weather conditions, while carrying photographic equipment and personal items.
- Be comfortable hiking alone in the backcountry where help may be many miles away.
- Possess excellent writing and digital photography skills.
- Have solid experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Experience with Adobe Illustrator is a plus.
- Applicants must have good organizational skills and be self-motivated
- Backpacking experience is helpful, but not required.
- Familiarity with the park's backcountry and Leave No Trace principles is a plus.

### HOW TO APPLY

Application materials must be received by **March 15, 2013**. Applicants should include the following in their application:

- Resume including supervisor's names and contact information
- 3 references and contact information
- A copy of transcripts
- Detailed description of how applicant meets the skills required for the position
- At least one sample of applicant's writing skills. Applicants making it to the final round of consideration may be asked for additional examples of writing skill.
- At least 6 photos demonstrating applicant's photography skills. Applicants making it to the final round of consideration may be asked for additional examples of photographic skill.

This internship is highly competitive. Applicants who do not provide all of the above information will not be considered for the position.

Applications for this position may be sent by mail or email. However, all application materials must be received in one package or email. Please do not send multiple packages or emails. Providing links to photography or writing samples is acceptable as long as the link is part of the application package and not submitted separately.

Mail applications to:

**Melissa Cobern, Backcountry Management Specialist**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

107 Park Headquarters Road

Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Applications may be emailed to: [melissa\\_cobern@nps.gov](mailto:melissa_cobern@nps.gov)

Inquiries about the position may be made through the same email address.

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## Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2013 Internship



### POSITION TITLE

Resource Education Intern

7 Positions

1 Spring Position  
(Oconaluftee Visitor Center)

3 Summer Positions  
(2 Positions at Sugarlands Visitor Center, 1 Position at Oconaluftee Visitor Centers)

2 Fall Positions  
(Sugarlands Visitor Center)

1 Winter/Spring Position - 2014  
(Sugarlands Visitor Center)

**LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT**      12 weeks

**STIPEND**                              \$125 per week + housing included

### OVERVIEW

Great Smoky Mountains National Park interns in Resource Education acquire experience and training in presenting thematic naturalist and cultural programs, become familiar with operations at a visitor center in a large national park, and gain knowledge on a variety of topics including wildlife biology, botany, forest ecology, geology, Native American culture, history, and park management. In addition, there are many recreational opportunities either in Park or the surrounding area to hike, bike, backpack, canoe, kayak, raft, fish, rock climb, and observe wildlife.

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Resource education/ interpretation interns deal directly with park visitors. After completing a training session, the work involves answering questions at visitor centers and providing trip planning help at an information desk, researching, preparing, and presenting short guided walks and talks, leading children's programs, providing information to individuals you may encounter on trails or overlooks, providing roving interpretation in the field, assisting with traffic/visitor management around wildlife, assisting other park operations in the field, and completing a wide variety of special projects. The intern wears a volunteer in parks (VIP) hat and/or shirt to be identifiable to the visiting public and act as a representative of the National Park Service.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Applicants must be high school graduates with a solid academic background or college students in a declared major field of study such as natural or physical sciences, history, education, communications, natural science interpretation, or recreation and resource management. An interest or experience in interpretation or environmental education, natural or cultural history would be helpful, but is not required. Applicants should have the ability to communicate ideas effectively, and enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others.

### BENEFITS

Interns selected for the program will participate in all training and orientation normally attended by the resource education staff, and will receive rent-free housing, a stipend of \$125 per week for a 12 week assignment and a uniform. Interns will be paid bi-weekly. Travel to and from the park is at the intern's personal expense. Personal vehicles are encouraged to facilitate off duty travel.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Submit a detailed resume which lists education, work experience, hobbies and other interests, and at least three references. College students or graduates should also include a college transcript. Applicants should specify their subject matter interests and can seek information on park programs by reviewing information on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm).

### **For Sugarlands Visitor Center, Send Application materials to:**

#### **Caitlin Worth**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(865) 436-1263; [caitlin\\_worth@nps.gov](mailto:caitlin_worth@nps.gov)

### **For Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Send Application materials to:**

#### **Florie Takaki**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
(828) 497-1905; [florie\\_takaki@nps.gov](mailto:florie_takaki@nps.gov)

Application materials must be mailed to the appropriate supervisor by the following dates:

Spring Internship Position	<b>February 15, 2013</b>
Summer Internship Position	<b>March 1, 2013</b>
Fall Internship Position	<b>June 1, 2013</b>
Winter Internship Position	<b>September 1, 2013</b>