

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2016 Internship

POSITION TITLE

Vegetation Monitoring Intern
1 position (Summer-Fall)



LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT 24 weeks (May 16 through October 27)
STIPEND \$125 per week + housing included
AMERICORPS EDUC. AWARD \$2800 education award

BACKGROUND

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) is recruiting a qualified applicant for a summer/fall internship in the Inventory and Monitoring Branch (I&M) in the Resource Management & Science Division. The Position is primarily field- oriented, and will assist GRSM I&M staff in collecting and compiling data to:

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

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- Vegetation Plot Monitoring: Collect plot-based vegetation data, conduct standard forestry measurements, assist with plot establishment in a variety of forest types, assist with community-type classification.
- Rare Plant Monitoring: Assist with field monitoring and mapping of threatened/endangered plants.
- Wetlands Inventory: Perform wetlands delineations throughout the park, utilize Trimble and Garmin GPS to collect location data, conduct plant surveys, assist with wetland community classification.
- Macroinvertebrate Monitoring: Stream sampling using various protocols, microscopy and sorting, experience or coursework in macroinvertebrate identification a plus, though not required.
- Data Management: Assist with data entry, GPS data download into GIS, and other data management tasks as needed. Experience with MS Access a plus, though not required.
- Other short-term duties include:
 - Laboratory/Herbarium work on plant specimen identification and preservation
 - Assist other Resource Management branches as needed with field projects

QUALIFICATIONS

- Academic background in biological sciences. Applicant should be self-motivated, highly organized, and able to follow detailed protocols. Preferred knowledge and skills in ecology/botany/forestry, plant identification and the use of technical plant keys, vegetation sampling methods, map reading and orienteering, and GPS. Must be able to hike in mountainous terrain in hot humid or inclement weather conditions, carrying a backpack and other field equipment. Experience with river waders a plus. Good fitting hiking boots and raingear are important items to have prior to arrival. Stinging insects, poison ivy, slippery footing, ticks, 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, 2016**. Materials must be sent electronically through email. Send resume, contact information for 3 references, and transcripts to Joshua Albritton.

Joshua Albritton

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