

Great Smoky Mountains National Park 2019 Internship



POSITION TITLE

Vegetation Monitoring Intern
2 positions (Summer-Fall)

LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT: 24 weeks (May 20 through November 1)
STIPEND: \$125 per week + in-park housing included
AMERICORPS EDUC. AWARD: \$3000 education award
DUTY STATION: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, TN

BACKGROUND

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

- 1) Monitor the status and trends of vegetation communities, rare and endangered plants, and other natural resources throughout the park; 2) Assess impacts to target plant species and communities; 3) Assess accuracy of vegetation mapping program.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- Vegetation Plot Monitoring: Collect plot-based vegetation data and forestry measurements in a variety of forest types, assist with plot establishment, and assist with community-type classification.
- Vegetation Mapping Accuracy Assessment: The main duty of this position will be to assist with collecting field-based vegetation plot data as part of an accuracy assessment for an ongoing vegetation mapping project. These plots will be located throughout the Tennessee section of the park, and will primarily be accessed through the park's trail network.
- Wetlands Inventory: Perform wetland delineations, utilize Trimble and Garmin GPS to collect location data, conduct plant surveys, assist with wetland community classification.
- Data Management: Assist with data entry, GPS data download, GIS tasks, and other data management tasks as needed. Experience with MS Access and GIS a plus, though not required.
- Other additional / short-term duties include:
 - Aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring, Rare plant monitoring, Laboratory/Herbarium work on plant specimen identification and preservation

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, both on and off trail. High-mileage (5-20 miles) hiking days are the norm. Good fitting hiking boots and raingear are important items to have prior to arrival. Some overnight backpacking is a requirement. Stinging insects, poison ivy, slippery footing, river crossings, ticks, and venomous snakes are known field hazards. Intern will be a part of a team that operates safely and communicates effectively at all times.

HOW TO APPLY:

Application materials are currently being accepted. Send resume, contact information for 3 references, and transcripts (unofficial okay) via email to:

Alix Pfennigwerth, alix_pfennigwerth@nps.gov