

AmeriCorps Interpreter/Naturalist Member Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

Duration of Program: August 15th, 2017 – July 15th, 2018

Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites AmeriCorps Programming Members will serve as park programmers at state parks from the mountains in the northern part of the state to the Golden Isles along the Atlantic coast. They will create and provide quality, engaging interpretive, educational and recreational opportunities. Members will deepen their understanding of stewardship ethics and help park visitors make connections to the natural and cultural resources within the Georgia State Park system. AmeriCorps members will encourage community involvement at parks by targeting citizens and visitors in areas surrounding the parks, with an emphasis on rural and economically disadvantaged communities. They will offer recreational programs providing hundreds of Georgians more opportunities to engage in the outdoors as individuals, parents and young people, instilling healthy physical activity habits that will last a lifetime. Members will engage volunteers for specific projects throughout the program year centered on stewardship of our state's natural, cultural and historical resources. AmeriCorps members will gain experience as public speakers; developing and implementing unique programming; strengthening interpretive skills; and collaborating with talented park personnel across the state. Successful members will emerge with an excellent set of skills for possible continued work in Georgia state parks or other similar settings as well as funds to be used for education.

Position Description: The GA State Parks AmeriCorps Programming Members essential functions will include, but are not limited to:

- Provision of new outdoor recreational, educational, and interpretive programs, varying from Environmental Education, Cultural and Living History, Team Building, Hikes, Outdoor Adventure, Junior Ranger Camps, Archery, Paddling, Games and other activities;
- Liaison to the local communities surrounding state parks;
- Increase opportunities and participation in the volunteer program;
- Increase park visitation through outreach and engagement;
- Involvement in planning and conducting of special events at the Parks;
- Plan, promote, and implement large scale events;
- Will receive the following training: 1st aid, CPR, Wilderness Survival and Outdoor Skills, Archery, Canoe/Kayak Guide Certification, Play Worker, Project Wet/Wild programs, Black Powder Demonstration and Interpretation.

General Requirements:

- Positive attitude;
- Good communication and writing skills;
- Strong organizational skills;
- Outstanding customer service skills;
- Must be comfortable with public speaking and conducting presentations;
- Well-organized;
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and with a team;

- Basic computer skills;
- A desire to learn;
- Flexible daily schedule;
- Flexibility to work weekends and some holidays.

Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:

- 18+ years of age;
- U.S. Citizen;
- Must have a U.S. Driver's license.

Preferred (but not required): College Degree in Outdoor Recreation, Interpretation, Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Ecology, Biology, History or related field. Experience with camping, backpacking, wilderness survival or related outdoor skills. Ability to understand and speak Spanish.

Salary and benefits: Living Stipend. Eligible for health insurance coverage, childcare assistance, and student loan deferment and forbearance on qualified loans. Housing available. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (funds to be used for qualified educational expenses) upon service completion. Various trainings and certifications.

Housing: On-site dormitory housing is offered. Room assignments are decided on a first come first served basis. No rent. Utilities included. Rooms include heat/air, bedroom, bathroom, cooking and common room with a television. Laundry facilities are available. Members provide their own linens, towels, and food.

AmeriCorps members will frequently travel to parks around the state to conduct projects and may stay for extended periods of time. During these travels the crew may utilize an RV camper trailer with heat/air, shower/bathroom, and kitchenette.

Interested applicants should submit cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 2 references to: *Kent.Wall@dnr.ga.gov*.