

AmeriCorps Interpreter/Naturalist Team Leader Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

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

Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites AmeriCorps Interpreter/Naturalist Team Leader 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 Interpreter/Naturalist 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 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.

Team Leader Additional Responsibilities: In collaboration with the AmeriCorps Program Leader, the GSPHS AmeriCorps Resource Management Team Leader essential functions will include, but are not limited to:

- Provide leadership and guidance for team members to achieve high quality recreational, historical and natural resource programming;
- Motivate, direct, and coordinate a team in a structured program of service, education, and training; maintain order; develop positive team morale; foster teamwork; monitor standards of behavior; model a good service ethic and serve alongside members to set the pace;

- Plan daily and weekly team schedules that will result in the execution of project objectives and activities. Manage service-learning projects;
- Assist and support members in the development of leadership skills. Identify and nurture leadership opportunities at the service project site and otherwise;
- Coordinate project logistics with unit leaders, participate in staff and member meetings, and serve as programmatic and administrative liaison between members and key GSPHS staff;
- Conduct regularly scheduled team meetings designed to unify team members by building consensus, resolving conflicts, and providing structured feedback;
- Fostering a service environment with the goal of safety and well-being for the members;
- Facilitate, encourage, support, and model service-learning integration. Conduct or coordinate training such as skills building workshops, safe service practices, team-building exercises, mini-courses, and physical training in collaboration with GSPHS staff;
- Submit written reports on project progress, achievements, and accomplishments; member evaluations; and special activities or incidents. Maintain daily records, time off requests, service forms, etc.;
- Monitor clean-up of common areas of living quarters, room cleanliness, uniform appearance, desk-staffing, quiet hours, and adherence to all AmeriCorps policies. Support residential life experience through conflict mediation, crisis intervention, counseling, etc.;
- Represent GSPHS AmeriCorps to the media, as necessary.

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 function independently and with a team;
- Basic computer skills;
- A desire to learn;
- Flexible daily schedule;
- Flexibility to serve 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 providing recreational, historical and/or natural resource-based education. Experience implementing large events. 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 included. 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*.