OVERVIEW

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is a destination for both locals and international visitors with its sweeping vistas, immense biological diversity, and unique cultural resources. With over 15 million visitors annually and over 80,000 acres of land, the GGNRA is the largest urban national park in the country. The National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program (I&M) collects, organizes, analyzes, and synthesizes natural resource data and information in GGNRA and other parks in the San Francisco Bay Area Network of National Parks. This internship will support the I&M vegetation ecology program in GGNRA.

The mission of the I&M program is to monitor natural park resources and inform park managers and the public about their status and trends. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the National park service I&M program is involved in a variety of vegetation ecology projects related to understanding native plant species and the communities or vegetation types they form, and also invasive plant threats to the ecological integrity of the parks. To this end, the I&M program is currently engaged in two monitoring plans: 1) Plant Community Monitoring and 2) Invasive Plant Early Detection Monitoring. Both of these monitoring plans utilize state-of-the-art sampling designs and field techniques to achieve their objectives.

For more information about the San Francisco Inventory and Monitoring Program and the natural resources it monitors, please visit: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm and http://www.sfnps.org/.

POSITION

Are you interested in learning more about inventory and monitoring in your local national park?

We are looking for an intern that is excited to work with both of the I&M vegetation monitoring plans in the Golden Gate National Parks through a variety of service and learning opportunities.

Working as part of a team, the intern will assist the I&M Botanist in the implementation of the Plant Community and Invasive Plant Early Detection monitoring plans. The primary responsibilities of the intern will be to assist with data collection and processing, field preparation, and photographic image management. Further details on specific duties are included below.
DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- Plant Community Monitoring Program
  - Assist in field data collection, including recording data and reading vegetation plots that utilize Point line intercept and point quadrat techniques.
  - Enter field data in a Microsoft Access database and perform quality-control checks.
- Invasive Plant Early Detection Monitoring Program
  - Assist in surveys for invasive plants, including field data collection using GPS units and/or tablets.
  - Upload/download field data on a web-based and/or GIS database and perform quality-control checks.
  - Create survey track logs and other map products in GIS and Google Earth.
- Office/Organizational
  - Assist with various preparations for the 2017 field season.
  - Digital herbarium work, including:
    - Scan fresh specimens with a computer scanner.
    - Label and store images.
    - Populate species accounts.
    - Process pressed plant specimens for herbarium accession.

BENEFITS

- Gain experience identifying plants of the Bay Area, one of the most diverse regions of the California Floristic Province.
- Learn vegetation sampling techniques that are industry standards in land management and research.
- Become proficient in using GPS units to record field data.
- Gain experience with photography, plant scanning and image management.
- Opportunity to enjoy the scenery, wildlife, and cultural resources of a spectacular National Park while engaging park stewards.
- Opportunity for personal/professional development days to pursue an interest, including training and education in various departments within the Park Service and Parks Conservancy.
- Opportunities to work with staff and volunteers from diverse backgrounds that share a common interest in preserving and protecting our natural lands while engaging park visitors.
- Fifty Dollar ($50.00) per day stipend available, plus academic credit.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Completion of one or more of the following college courses or related courses:
  - General Botany
  - Plant Taxonomy
● Field Methods in Ecology
● Plant Ecology
● Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
● Biostatistics
● A valid driver’s license and clean driving record.
● Energetic, flexible, self-motivated, and a sense of humor.
● Desire to work in a team and to work with a diversity of people with different backgrounds, ethnicity, races, genders, sexualities, ages, and viewpoints.
● Ability to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed.
● Good communication skills; treats others with respect; speaks and writes clearly and effectively.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT
● This is a mixed position with field and office time each week. Must enjoy working in an office setting and outside in various weather conditions and terrains while maintaining a good attitude.
● Occasionally, field work can include up to 8 miles of hiking/day. Most often, approximately 1 mile/day.
● Field work is both on and off-trail, and frequently involves bushwacking through tall vegetation.
● Ability to lift, carry and position objects weighing up to 40 pounds.
● Intern is likely to encounter poison oak, ticks, spiders, mosquitoes, and snakes.

TERMS
● Desired Start Date: January 2017.
● 2 days per week, January through May. Summer extension based on funding, performance, and need.
● Available only to students currently enrolled at College of Marin, SF State, and City College of San Francisco.
● Fifty Dollar ($50.00) per day taxable stipend, plus academic credit available
● Intern must have a Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to receive stipend
● Available only to students currently enrolled in SF State, City College of San Francisco, and College of Marin
To apply for this position, please submit an application and send a resume and a thoughtful cover letter to AcademicIntern@parksconservancy.org. Please indicate the position(s) that you are applying for in your cover letter. No phone calls please.

The Parks Conservancy and National Park Service seek to increase diversity in the workplace and reflect our Bay Area community. People of color and of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.