



## **Alcatraz Island Interpretive Intern**

Golden Gate National Parks; Alcatraz Island, San Francisco  
Part Time, Spring Semester 2016 (possible summer extension)  
Available only to students currently enrolled at SFSU and CCSF

### **OVERVIEW**

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is a destination for both local and international visitors—its most famous site being Alcatraz Island, the former Federal Prison. Five thousand visitors from all around the world visit Alcatraz daily. Alcatraz Island has many layers of history—from a military fort that defended the bay, a U.S. Army disciplinary barracks, a Federal Prison that housed high-profile prisoners, a Native American occupation that started in 1969, to the National Park site that we are today. Today, we also host an extensive waterbird nesting site along with beautiful gardens that cover much of the island. From September 2014 to April 2015 Chinese artist and political activist Ai Weiwei will have art located around the island focusing on prisoners of conscience.

The mission of the Alcatraz staff is to interpret the layers of Alcatraz history and educate park visitors about this fascinating history. By sharing these layers of history with a diverse population, we build a sense of ownership, care, and a love of history, for this unique place. The Alcatraz Rangers will assist the academic interpretive interns in learning how to interpret and share the layers of history with the public. We are currently seeking student interns whose primary responsibility is to research Alcatraz history and work with Rangers to learn all aspects of Ranger duties. Significant time will be dedicated to interpreting the island's history.

### **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**Do you love to read books, learn from videos or interview guards or prisoners? Do you have an interest in Alcatraz history from the people that lived it?**

Research and create interpretive programs, rove the island telling the stories of natural and cultural Alcatraz history. Meet and greet visitors from all around the world. Demonstrate the cell doors; learn behind the scenes tours for all the different layers of island history.

We are looking for an interpretive intern who is excited about working with Alcatraz staff to share the island's history with visitors from around the world.

The interpretive intern will work closely with island staff to provide tours on interpretive themes such as incarceration, freedom, and justice. The intern will create short programs, do demonstrations, and provide tours into behind-the-scenes areas.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES**

As the interpretive intern on Alcatraz, you would conduct research using historic documents, books, videos, and other reference materials. You will create summary documents that will provide staff and/or visitors with a deeper knowledge of the Alcatraz history. In doing this, you would support the National Park interpretive rangers working on Alcatraz Island.

- Research federal prison and assist interpretive staff in their duties

- Research prison history
- Create files and pictures of the island
- Interpretation
  - Create summary documents
  - Maintain and create new exhibits
  - Develop short programs
  - Lead tours into behind-the-scenes areas
  - Make suggestion for improving the visitor experience to the island
- Assist with special projects

## **BENEFITS**

- Gain knowledge of the National Park Service and its mission.
- Work in National Historic Landmark.
- Opportunity to take six personal/professional development days to pursue an interest, including training and education opportunities in various departments within the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.
- Opportunity to attend Park Academy Classes on a variety of topics including resume building and interview skills, park orientation and history, flora and fauna, mapping and monitoring, computer skills, and much more.
- Opportunity to learn and enjoy the scenery, wildlife and cultural resources of a spectacular National Park.
- Opportunities to work with Ranger staff and volunteers from diverse backgrounds that share a common interest in learning the layers of history.
- Learn about preserving and protecting our natural lands.
- Weekly food and transportation allowance.
- Gain new experience in researching and interpretation.
- Make new friends and learn from the Alcatraz staff.
- Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) per day taxable stipend available, plus academic credit.

## **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Enthusiasm for researching and educating others.
- A love of history and working with others.
- Interest in learning the stewardship of the National Park Service and Alcatraz.
- Energetic, flexible, self-motivated, and a sense of humor.
- Desire to work with a diverse group of people with different backgrounds, ethnicity, races, genders, sexualities, ages, and viewpoints.
- Ability to work independently and to learn new skills as needed
- Good communication skills; treats others with respect; speaks and writes clearly and effectively.
- Bilingual skills are a plus.
- Knowledge of interpretation.
- Interested in art.

## **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENTS**

- Must enjoy working inside, outside and can maintain a sense of humor.
- Able to work in cold, windy environments.
- Able to walk steep hills and across rough terrain.
- Able to stand for long periods of time.

## TERMS

- Desired Start Date: January 2016
- Schedule and length: 3 days per week, January through May. Summer extension possible.
- Available only to students currently enrolled in SF State and City College of San Francisco.

**To Apply:** please send a **resume, thoughtful cover letter, and [completed application](mailto:AcademicIntern@parksconservancy.org)** to [AcademicIntern@parksconservancy.org](mailto:AcademicIntern@parksconservancy.org). Please indicate the position title(s) in your email.  
No phone calls please.

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