Summer Internship with Washington State Parks

Application deadline: May 15th, 2016
Position: full time, 5 days/week
Timeframe: June 16th - September 15th (start and end date flexible)

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center is seeking to recruit an Interpretive Intern to help staff the information desk and assist with nature-based educational programming at state parks within the Upper Cowlitz Area this summer. This internship is unpaid, though course credit can be earned. No housing available, a campsite with full hook-ups is offered at Seaquest State Park.

➔ About the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center:

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center is located in Castle Rock, situated in a second-growth forest across the street from Seaquest State Park in Southwest Washington. We are a historical based museum; with a theater, functioning seismograph, walk-through volcano model, eruption timeline, extensive displays, and a mile-long boardwalk trail overlooking the Silver Lake wetland ecosystem. We are open year round, receiving over 50,000 visitors in the peak summer season. We are five miles from the interstate, located on the Spirit Lake Highway, about 50 miles from Mount St. Helens. The nearest large city is Portland Oregon, approximately 63 miles away. In closer proximity is the Longview/Kelso area which houses plenty of grocery/specialty stores, two libraries, and city parks. For additional information please visit our webpage: http://parks.state.wa.us/245/Mount-St-Helens

➔ Internship description:

- Fill the role of an educational park ranger in a busy visitor center
- Assist interpretive staff with front desk duties; which includes disseminating basic information about the local area, directions to nearby attractions, and answering questions about Mount St. Helens- such as the geology, ecology and history related to the region.
- Assist with roving (informal) interpretation with the use of visual aids and educational specimens.
- Research, design and develop an outline and accompanying family friendly evening program to offer at nearby parks (Seaquest State park and/or Lewis and Clark State Park).
- Perform evening Junior Ranger program(s) on the weekends as needed.
- Assist with program advertising and bulletin board updates
- Must be willing to assist with basic daily cleaning/maintenance of the visitor center and surrounding area. This could include dusting and sanitizing exhibits, emptying garbages and picking up litter.
- Gain experience in public speaking and become more confident in program development.
- Park staff will provide necessary training and help with skill development.
Desirable qualifications:

- Must be a recent graduate or currently enrolled in college and completing a degree in Natural Resource Sciences/Geology/Ecology/History or a related field.
- Interest in interpretation or teaching and expanding communication skills
- Good customer service skills and the ability to speak clearly to large groups of varying ages
- Have the ability to efficiently and effectively meet visitor needs in a busy Visitor Center.
- Positive attitude and ability to work well with others; being a team player
- Ability to communicate with fellow staff, and follow guidance
- Arrive on time daily and perform duties in a timely manner
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule as needed, required to work weekends
- Bilingual communication may be beneficial (many foreign language speakers) but not required.
- Must have a valid driver’s license and the ability to provide their own transportation to visitor center, and to town as needed (for personal runs). May be asked to drive park vehicle to and from parks to give programming.

Applying:

To apply please visit our park’s volunteer webpage: http://parks.state.wa.us/279/Individual-Volunteers and complete the individual volunteer application.

Please email your completed volunteer application, a detailed resume, and cover letter describing your interest in this internship opportunity to Silver.Lake@parks.wa.gov no later than May 15th, 2016.

If you have any further questions please contact:
Alysa Adams
Parks Interpretive Specialist
360-274-0962

Application material will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be contacted within two weeks. Background check will be required upon internship offer.

Thank You for your interest in volunteering with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission! We look forward to hearing from you!