Summer 2016 National Park Service
In My Backyard Community Outreach Mentor Position

Background:
This internship is part of a long-term project initiated by Seattle Area National Parks and based out of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Seattle (KLSE). In My Backyard is a National Park Service program dedicated to conservation leadership development and youth outreach. We enable students in higher education to give back to our community. Through the In My Backyard experience, student interns build conservation leadership skills by developing programs that connect urban youth with the nature and culture in our backyards. KLSE is a prime location for this project because it serves as a hub for national parks throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Since summer of 2013, KLSE rangers, interns, teachers and volunteers have guided this project. As the National Park Service steps into its second century, the In My Backyard team is striving to increase youth engagement and connect urban populations to parks.

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. As the NPS enters its next century, one of its goals is to connect with and create the next generation of park stewards. This is a unique time to work for the NPS and the Community Outreach Mentor would have the opportunity to be an agent of change. For more information about the call to action In My Backyard is answering click here.

Community Outreach Mentor duties:

The COM will serve as the team lead for three to four college interns. The COM will be under the direct supervision of Kelsey Johnson, Program Director/Founder and Park Ranger, and will also collaborate with Jimi Hightower, Program Mentor and Student Conservation Association Centennial Volunteer Ambassador Intern. The COM will work as part of the IMBY team to build connections between the Seattle community and public lands, particularly National Parks. The team will integrate work from previous cohorts to
develop strategies to engage urban audiences. The goal is to identify and develop ways for NPS programs to reach urban communities that may have limited to no exposure to nearby natural and cultural resources. This team will work in tandem with an additional cohort of IMBY student interns who will develop a “pop-up” mobile park unit to take to community organizations, events and schools. Both teams will work towards the common goal of increasing NPS presence and resources in our community.

The COM will be responsible for identifying and cultivating links to diverse, urban communities. The COM will serve as a mentor to team interns by supporting and empowering team members. This requires that the COM have excellent communication skills and prior experience working with high school and/or college-age students.

This project is team-driven. Team members are expected to bring creativity and problem-solving solutions to In My Backyard where they will have a direct impact on the shape of the project. The COM will be required to attend workshops and facilitated discussions on topics ranging from curriculum development to graphic design.
The COM receives a $5,200 stipend. The COM will be required to work on-site at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in downtown Seattle. The park is located near many major bus routes, in addition to Link Light Rail stations and the Seattle Streetcar. A public transportation subsidy will be provided to the COM as a benefit of this opportunity.

The COM will also have the opportunity to travel on an expense-covered, multi-day summer team retreat to one of the following national parks:

Mount Rainier National Park
North Cascades National Park
Olympic National Park

The team will have the opportunity to decide which park to visit. In addition, the IMBY team, including interns and mentors, will participate in shorter day trips to local natural and cultural sites, including local urban hikes and museums.

Hours are moderately flexible. Expected work hours are 24 hours per week. The length of the internship is scheduled for 26 weeks between June through December 2016. Anticipated start date is June 13th, 2016.

**Required Qualifications:**
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficient computer skills
- Excellent writing skills
- Comfortable with public speaking
- Able to work independently and as part of a team
- Self-starter

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Leadership experience
- Experience working with high school-aged students
- Experience working with diverse communities
- Community outreach experience
- Comfortable using Adobe Creative Suite

**Contact information:**
If you’re interested in pursuing this opportunity, email your resume and cover letter to Kelsey Johnson at kelsey_johnson@nps.gov by Monday, May 23rd, 2016. Please specify the position for which you are applying.

If you would like to learn more about the project, check out the website! http://inmybackyardnw.wordpress.com/.