

Environmental Education Intern

DELAWARE STATE PARK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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DESCRIPTION

As an Environmental Education Intern at Delaware State Parks, you will have the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge in the fields of environmental education and outdoor recreation through extensive hands-on experience and training. An ideal candidate enjoys sharing a love of nature with others, is creative, considerate, and willing to work with our team to provide the best possible experience for park visitors. Principal duties of the position are to conduct educational and recreational programs such as canoeing, hiking, birding, public programs, school programs, special events, walk-by programs, and guided hikes featuring our Park's many natural and historical resources. This internship provides nature-based interpretive experience, public speaking practice as well as leadership skills. The position includes working weekends and some evenings.

LOCATIONS

- **Alapocas Run State Park** - Wilmington, DE
The Delaware Folk Art Collection is housed here containing over 120 works from 50 artists
- **Bellevue State Park** - Wilmington, DE
A duPont family estate preserved as an urban oasis for recreation and nature study
- **Brandywine Creek State Park** - Wilmington, DE
The rolling meadows, old growth forest, and freshwater marshes at Brandywine Creek State Park are reminiscent of an agricultural landscape and way of life in northern Delaware's piedmont region
- **Cape Henlopen State Park** - Lewes, DE
A dynamic coastal habitat, including dunes, forests, and wetlands with a significant historical past
- **Delaware Seashore State Park** - Rehoboth Beach, DE
Delaware Seashore State Park's six miles of wild ocean and bay shoreline and the dynamic Indian River Inlet provide a framework for understanding natural history and maritime heritage
- **Killens Pond State Park** - Felton, DE
The centerpiece of Killens Pond State Park, conveniently located in central Delaware, is the 66-acre millpond, which was established in the late 1700s
- **Lums Pond State Park** - Bear, DE
Home of Delaware's largest pond, and the diverse habitats conserved beyond its shoreline, creates a setting for a variety of recreational activities
- **Trap Pond State Park** - Laurel, DE
Trap Pond was once the site of a large freshwater wetland and still hosts the country's northernmost natural stand of bald cypress trees
- **White Clay Creek State Park** - Newark, DE



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Explore the most diverse trail system in Delaware State Parks with scenic views, the Millstone Pond, Mason-Dixon marker, and bridges spanning White Clay Creek

- **Wilmington State Parks** - Wilmington, DE

Experience nature and recreation in the heart of the city through Wilmington State Parks, an urban retreat along the Brandywine River

TERM OF SERVICE

- 12 weeks, 6 months or year-round
 - Full-time 30-35 hours per week
 - Part-time 20-29 hours per week

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work as part of a team of naturalists to provide quality educational programs on cultural and natural resources
- Be a front-line representative of Delaware State Parks - greet nature center guests, table at events, and rove throughout campground and/or park
- Interact and create a safe and enjoyable environment for all park visitors
- Abide by all Delaware State Parks safety regulations
- Coordinate with all park staff for use of equipment, planning of programs, and working special events
- Assist in developing, leading, and evaluating environmental education programs for a wide variety of audiences such as pre-school, elementary, middle, high school, youth groups, special needs groups, and the general public
- Work as a team to keep nature center and all equipment clean and presentable, following all cleaning safety protocols
- Other duties as assigned

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Appreciation and understanding of the natural environment
- Must be able to demonstrate responsibility, dependability, and good communication skills
- Must keep a positive attitude and have fun in a fast paced, sometimes hectic environment
- Preference given to candidates with a valid driver's license, experience conducting canoeing, hiking or other outdoor activities, knowledge of surrounding environment/ecology
- Must be able to work in varied weather conditions for up to 8 hours
- Ability to create enjoyable hands-on activities and games for a variety of age groups
- Able to communicate effectively with a diverse public and speak publicly in front of groups or audiences
- Professional appearance and demeanor, responsible and trustworthy
- Pleasant and personable, enjoys people, good customer service skills
- Works well independently or as a cooperative, contributory team member
- Ability to present programs as instructed by Park Interpreter, Educator or Nature Center Manager
- Able to assist with both indoor and outdoor programs
- Comfortable working around boats/water; ability to pass a canoe/kayak safety course that includes a swim test - not applicable at all sites
- Performs duties in compliance with Division and Park Customer Service Guidelines and Safety Guidelines
- Ability to lift 50 pounds

DIRECT SUPERVISOR

- The Direct Supervisor will be a Delaware State Parks education professional designated by the park

BENEFITS

- **Training:** A hallmark of the program, interns receive training from the field experts they will be working with. Includes Seasonal Interpreter Training and FA/CPR. In addition to this formal and informal training to



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successfully conduct their internship assignment, interns will have the opportunity to build associated skills and share real-time experience with park staff and colleagues. Training will be made available to the interns to further their personal and professional development.

- **Housing:** Limited co-ed housing is available, at no fee, for interns providing full-time hours (30 or more per week). If selected for housing, an intern will share a house, duplex or dorm facility with other interns.
- **Activities:** Interns will have the opportunity not only to visit ALL Delaware State Parks at no fee, but also participate in many of the tours, programs, and associated events for free. Delaware State Parks span the length of the state and whether it be canoeing at Trap Pond State Park, surfing at Delaware Seashore State Park, attending a concert at Bellevue State Park, or touring the living history facility at Fort Delaware, there is certainly something for everyone.
- **Stipend Available:** Interns are not employees of the State of Delaware- they are considered volunteers and are not paid for their service. Interns may elect to receive a stipend to help cover expenses incurred during their volunteer intern service. The stipend is a fixed amount of \$100 per week for service of 30 or more hours per week or \$50.00 per week for service of between 20 – 29 hours/ week paid biweekly as a direct deposit into the Intern's bank account.
 - The stipend is not a wage but does count toward the total income on which the intern's tax obligation is based. Interns electing to receive the stipend will complete IRS Form W-9 Request for Tax-Payer Identification as self-employed and will receive a Form 1099 at the end of the year that reports the amount of income from the stipend. No taxes are withheld from the stipend.

All Delaware State Parks Interns are required to undergo and successfully complete a background check performed by the Division.

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