Botany Intern
Great Basin Institute/National Park Service Capitol Reef National Park Torrey, UT

Description
The Great Basin Institute, in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), is recruiting two Botany Interns to join our AmeriCorps program to assist the park’s natural resource staff in conducting surveys and demographic monitoring within established plots for three federally listed plant species. The plant surveys involve slowly walking across the landscape searching for these small, rare plants and recording data into GPS data dictionaries or onto field data sheets. Demographic monitoring involves relocating the established plots using GPS units and photos, and collecting various data on the plants and habitat within the plots using data dictionaries or field data sheets. Various data also will be collected from transects located within each rare plant locality. This work requires long hours in the field in remote areas of the park, and may involve camping and backpacking. People who enjoy being outdoors, who are physically fit, who are methodical and patient, and who can accurately record data will be excellent candidates for these positions. Skills using GPS units, digital cameras and computer software, especially ArcGIS and Microsoft Excel, Access, and Word will be beneficial.

A general knowledge of plants of the southwest would be helpful but is not required. Work involves hiking off designated trails or routes, across rugged terrain, up to 10 miles per day, but more typically 2-6 miles per day. Weather conditions will vary from cold winds or rain in the early spring to temperatures nearing 100°F in the summer. Other challenging field conditions include high winds and gnats or other biting insects. Experience driving four-wheel drive vehicles on high clearance, dirt roads would be beneficial, but is not essential.

Interns may also assist natural resource staff with spotted owl and peregrine falcon surveys, invasive plant control and/or cultural resource monitoring. Interns will be supervised by the park Biologist.

Timeline
- 21 March - 24 June 2016 (14-week appointment)

Compensation
- Living Allowance: $5,069.76 (allocated biweekly)
- Education Award: $1,515.55 (May be used for past, present or future educational expenses, including payment of qualifying federal student loans).
- Health and dental benefits
- Housing: The park will provide housing in a 5-6-bedroom dormitory. The intern will have a private room with a shared bath, shared kitchen and common areas. The dormitory includes all appliances, coin-operated washer and dryer, some kitchen pots, pans and dishes, and internet service. Heat, electricity and water are included. A phone is available in each dorm and long distance calls can be made with a calling card. Housing is located approximately a 5-minute walk from the duty station.

Location
Capitol Reef National Park is located in southern Utah about 12 miles east of the small town of Torrey. The location is remote. The nearest gas station and convenience store is in Torrey and the nearest grocery store is approximately 30 miles away. A personal vehicle is required for travel/transport outside
of work. There is no cell service in the park headquarters or in the housing area. Reliable cellular service is usually only found when nearing Torrey. The intern should find living in a remote location desirable. Located in the heart of red rock country, Capitol Reef NP is filled with cliffs, canyons, domes and bridges. In addition to unique geological and botanical resources, the park also has a rich cultural history.

Qualifications

- Bachelor’s degree — or coursework and relevant experience — in Botany or related field;
- Previous experience with vegetation monitoring and surveys;
- Experience following established protocols for field data collection and management;
- General knowledge of southwestern plants preferred;
- Proficiency using a digital camera, GPS and ArcGIS preferred;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Access preferred;
- Willingness to work to accomplish the goals and mission of the NPS and GBI;
- Ability to work in harsh and rapidly changing environments, traverse uneven terrain and withstand strenuous exertion;
- Experience in backcountry field work preferred;
- Clean, valid, state-issued driver’s license with ability to safely operate a 4WD vehicle on paved and unpaved high clearance roads; and
- Meet AmeriCorps eligibility requirements: (1) U.S. citizenship or legal resident alien status, (2) eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award (limit of two in a lifetime, regardless of award amount), and (3) pass National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) and federal criminal background checks.

How to Apply

Qualified and interested applicants should forward a cover letter, their résumé, and a list of three professional references to RArecruitment@thegreatbasinstitute.org. Please indicate “Capitol Reef Botany Intern” in your email subject line. Please include where you found this position posted. No phone inquiries, please.

We conform to all the laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans to apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, age, disability status, Genetic Information & Testing, Family & Medical Leave, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit Retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.