

Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society



National Park Service (NPS) Research Internship

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE SUBMERGED RESOURCE CENTER

The National Park Service (NPS) has the oldest non-military diving program in the federal government and has direct management responsibility for more than 3.5 million acres of submerged areas. NPS rangers, scientists, and divers work from Maine to Guam, Alaska to the Virgin Islands and everywhere in between. The NPS annually completes ~4000+ dives by ~125 divers with operations that occur in high altitude lakes in the Rocky Mountains, in desert reservoirs, on coral reefs, in the Great Lakes and in glacial bays. NPS divers conduct more diverse diving, in more remote areas, than any other agency in the federal government.

The NPS Submerged Resources Center (SRC) was established in 1980 to be the agency experts in inventorying and interpreting our shared underwater world. The team of underwater professionals includes experts in archaeology, photography, and marine remote sensing, as well as specialists in dive equipment maintenance and photogrammetry. They work closely with Parks, partners, and stakeholders to ensure that our natural and cultural resources are protected and enjoyed by present and future generations. The SRC is an agency leader in operational diving, closed-circuit and mixed-gas diving operations, underwater imaging and filmmaking, training, and multidisciplinary science-based research. SRC maintains close ties with NPS divers in parks, regions and other programs inside and outside the National Park Service.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

This internship will provide a unique opportunity to work with leading scientists, underwater photographers, and archaeologists in the National Park Service and other agencies in the American state and federal government. A solid foundation in marine science and scientific diving is highly preferred. The internship could involve a specific project in a single park or a larger project in multiple parks. Specific work projects will be determined based upon interests of the intern as well as the needs of associated projects. The internship will be based in Denver Colorado, but it is expected that the intern will travel to projects within the continental United States and potentially overseas as part of this internship. Please review blogs of previous NPS OWUSS interns to learn about the internship experience: <https://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>

Typically interns spend 1-3 weeks in each park they visit and assist the park dive teams with ongoing projects, gaining a broad understanding of dive operations, research methodologies, and ecosystems at each park. These projects may include biological assessments of coral reefs or kelp forests in places like Dry Tortugas National Park or Channel Islands; assistance with training at national training seminars for NPS divers; interpretation and outreach/education with parks like Biscayne National Park; public safety diving with our law enforcement rangers at numerous parks throughout the system, or underwater archaeology, maintenance diving, or filming/photography work with the Submerged Resources Center. In addition to fieldwork, the intern may have the opportunity to visit Washington DC to observe, first-hand, the crafting and implementation of NPS ocean policy and planning.

LOCATION and DURATION

Host park locations vary from year to year. The internship will take place for three months (dates negotiable and not necessarily during the summer months), depending upon mutually agreeable schedule. This is not a residential program; the intern should expect to travel throughout the length of their internship. Interns are housed in park housing, hotels, the homes of park staff, or aboard research vessels. On occasion, interns have camped in parks as well.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Scuba certification required, with at least advanced open water certification; minimum of 50 logged dives. Advanced certifications (e.g. drysuit diver, deep diver etc.) will be necessary depending upon the nature and location of the internship sought. Scientific Diving certification is preferred.
2. Ability to pass a dive physical and be able to complete the requirements of the NPS diving examination which includes a swim test.
3. US Citizenship Preferred; applicant must be between 20-26 at the start of the internship.

4. Desired skills: Marine biology, photography, writing/blogging, outreach, ocean policy, dive training, scientific diving.

BUDGET

A stipend is provided to cover travel to/from internship sites, housing, food, and other internship related expenses. Dive equipment is provided by the SRC for use during the internship period.

Please visit www.owuscholarship.org/internships for more information.