

Naturalist Internship

Flexible schedule position

(Typically offered between May and August)



Objective:

These naturalist internships provide students with experience in informal education, interpretive programming, customer service, emergency response and natural resource management.

Interns should have an interest in the natural world (botany, birds, geology) and be able to relate higher-level concepts to visitors in a way that is understandable. Interns should also have an interest in living sustainably with the natural world.

Major Duties:

- Research, design and present one program (Animal Encounter, Peaks and Stories or Jr. Naturalist) to park visitors
- Assists in the creation of non-personal interpretive media such as handouts, exhibits and guidebooks
- With training, responds to emergency calls and takes appropriate action following established guidelines and procedures
- Roves park trails and visitor areas to provide informal interpretation and customer service
- Distributes maps and brochures, informs visitors of potential safety hazards or closures, and provides directions and routes of travel through the park
- Serves as a frontline representative of the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation
- Conducts or assists in research activities such as bird point counts, salamander inventories, plant data collection
- Complete a capstone project to strengthen the naturalist department
- Other duties will be assigned as requested and necessary

Qualifications:

- Working towards/have degree in biology, zoology, environmental studies, recreation management or a related field. Preference is given to Juniors and Seniors fulfilling internship requirements at their respective institution.
- First Aid/CPR certification, or willingness to get certified
- Public speaking ability and good communication skills
- Ability to take initiative and work individually
- Capable of learning local flora and fauna
- Ability to hike relatively strenuous trails, stand for multiple hours and lift/carry 50 pounds
- Reliable transportation (occasionally we use personal vehicles to get around the park)

Seasonal Responsibilities:

10% Program Facilitation and Planning

Interpretive Programming for Park Guests (Walks and Talks)

50% Informal Interpretation (roving trails, talking with visitors at Linville Peak, Habitat areas and Interpretive Tables)

30% Projects

10% Emergency Response/Trainings/Research

Structure

Formal internships for college credit vary in number of hours required. Internships are designed with the student in mind; a schedule will be developed following a meeting with staff. If striving for college credit, the student will be responsible for cataloging the correct amount of hours and notifying the naturalist staff if they have duties to verify the internship. The general schedule can be viewed below.

- 1-4 days per week
- 8-week period
- 6-8 hours daily

To apply, please email cassie@grandfather.com

Include "Naturalist Intern" in the subject line.

Acceptable applications include:

- Grandfather Mountain Volunteer application
- Resume
- Cover letter

Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation
Department of Interpretation and Education

