

Position Description

675 Reduced Half Time Member

Makoshika State Park: Glendive, MT



Term of service: May 22, 2017 – September 22, 2017

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 685 hours over an 18 week term, averaging 42 hours per week with 40 hours of “Time not served” to be used as holiday, vacation or sick time in addition to regularly scheduled weekends.

Position Summary:

Makoshika State Park is Montana’s largest state park and provides resource management and protection for 11,531 acres of badlands topography in the Great Plains ecosystem of eastern Montana. Makoshika’s paleontological, geological, biological, cultural and historical resources provide a stunning backdrop for visitors interested in recreation and learning experiences within a badlands ecosystem. Makoshika State Park has an interpretive visitor center, developed and primitive camping, twelve miles of existing and proposed trails, and numerous scenic and interpretive sites within the park. Educational programming and special events are provided regularly to an average of 70,000 visitors per year. Makoshika seeks an educational and interpretive program specialist to improve and expand educational and interpretive program offerings by the park.

This member will research and procure materials, in order to create and improve educational and interpretive programming offerings. These products will be created in many media types including print, electronic, multimedia and interactive formats. This member will also provide guidance and use instructions – including curricula relevance, content standards, and recommendations for use by staff members and our partners. The AmeriCorps member will be under the supervision of Park Ranger Tom Shoush, who will oversee the member’s development of materials and procedures necessary to improve educational programs, interpretive programs, and other services to the park’s visitors. This project will require working independently and as part of a team while providing interpretive services both in the visitor center and in the park, which involves physical activity on uneven terrain in adverse weather conditions.

Park management anticipates making the AmeriCorps member an important part of our team. As part of this team, the AmeriCorps member will be included in appropriate training, meetings and community outreach.

Make an impact and go far beyond what is asked of your usual Park’s entry level position with Montana State Parks AmeriCorps. An organized, friendly person who is not afraid of some physical activity would do well in this role!



Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below in order to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Expand educational and interpretive programs
 - Research and procure learning materials suitable for producing educational materials consistent with Montana educational content standards, with an emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) based curricula and materials for students ages 6-13
 - Use procured materials to produce for use educational and interpretive lesson plans and programs focused on the natural resources present within Makoshika; the materials produced will be in multiple media types, including print, electronic, multimedia and interactive
 - Develop implementation and use guidelines for using the educational materials produced
 - Conduct guided interpretive hikes and talks on the park's historical and natural resources
 - Assist in the development and implementation of interpretive and educational offerings at proximal Montana State Parks, including Medicine Rocks, Pirogue Island Brush Lake. Participate in interpretive and special event offerings at other Region Five Montana State Parks as opportunities are presented
- Increase volunteer capacity
 - Identify volunteer interpretive services opportunities and expand the park's volunteer base and participation level in park projects, interpretive offerings and special events
 - Develop guidelines for use by the park in the training and utilization of volunteers in providing interpretive trail services within the park
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
 - Engage the community through marketing of parks interpretive and educational program offerings to convey the park's role in providing recreational and interpretive services to the community and their guests
 - Participate in the planning and implementation of special events components within the park's summer events offerings, including hikes, walks, talks, tables or displays of interest at events

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass a national service criminal history check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$4,050 (\$224 per week) over 18 week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$2,200 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

To Apply:

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all of our 1700 hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.