

Position Description

1700 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Location: Bannack, Clark's Lookout & Beaverhead Rock State Parks



Term of service: January 18, 2022 – November 18, 2022

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 80 hours of "Time Not Scheduled to Serve" to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:

Situated on the banks of Grasshopper Creek, Bannack State Park (the primary duty location) is located 25 miles southwest of Dillon, MT in Beaverhead County. The town of Dillon with approximately 5000 residents is the service center for the area. The environment is semi-arid, and the landscape runs from big sage steppe to high mountain peaks. Hiking, mountain biking and fishing opportunities are available within the park and recreational opportunities abound in the area which is nationally known for excellent fly fishing on the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.

Bannack has an amazing history and is one of the most important historic sites in the state. The community was established when John White discovered gold on Grasshopper Creek in 1862. As news of the gold strike spread prospectors and businessmen rushed to Bannack hoping to strike it rich. Bannack was the site of the first significant gold strike in Montana, scene of vigilante activity, and served as the first capital of Montana Territory during the winter of 1864-65. From the late 1860's to the 1930's, Bannack continued as a mining town with a fluctuating population. By the early 1940s most people moved on, but a small community hung on until the early 1970s. Designated a This National Historic Landmark in 1961 Bannack is one of Montana's premier state parks. Considered one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the west Bannack State Park encompasses nearly 1600 acres and over 100 historic buildings. Bannack receives approximately 46,000 visitors a year and the visitors come from all over the United States and numerous foreign countries to experience this renowned ghost town.

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:

- **Improve park land**
- Assist with building maintenance and preservation projects
- Blue bird box maintenance
- Noxious weed control and mapping weed control efforts
- Assist with planning and development of a riparian trail along Grasshopper Creek
- Plan and develop a hiking trail at Beaverhead Rock State Park
- Rehab work on Road Agent Rock and Bird's Eye View Trails
- Assist with graffiti removal

- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
- Develop and present town, mill and gold panning activities for students and the public which foster connections to the site
- Develop activities for a children's day program that can stand alone and be used in a variety of situations
- Develop an interpretive program/campaign to deter graffiti which has been a major problem in the park
- Develop and promote independent learning projects to keep students active in the summer
- Expand guided hike opportunities at Bannack and associated parks to encourage children and adults to spend time outside learning and recreating.
- Create distance learning activities and programs that can be used in our Covid-19 world but can also be used as pre-field trip preparation
- Finder-Aide Project: Develop a finder-aid for Bannack's large newspaper collection

- **Increase volunteer capacity**
- Assist with volunteer recruitment for established events like Bannack Days, which requires numerous volunteers and often takes a year to recruit the needed volunteers.
- The AmeriCorps member will use social media and participate in local and regional events to promote volunteer opportunities
- Develop projects for National Public Lands Day and other national days of service that will improve interpretative and recreational opportunities in the parks while creating volunteer opportunities
- Work with other community-based organizations like Terra Verde, Beaverhead County Trails Coalition to promote volunteer projects that serve mutual goals and objectives
- Work with the park manager and regional manager to develop ways to recognize individual and organization volunteer efforts that encourages them to volunteer for future projects
- Highlight diverse volunteer opportunities such as leading service projects, guided hikes, and educational opportunities

- Develop contacts and programs for the local high school and university to promote student volunteer opportunities.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks**
- Develop on/off site programs that highlight the mission of the park, Montana State Parks, and the AmeriCorps Program
- Develop materials (handouts, etc.) that can be given out at local and regional events that promote awareness of park's and AmeriCorps mission
- Work with and organizations with similar missions to promote mutual support
- Digital marketing campaign via social media: Develop virtual advertisements and programs that appeal to new audiences and promote awareness of different opportunities and events at the park
- Tabling events, like the Butte Folk Fest and Dillon Farmers Market, to promote awareness of opportunities, events and mission of our parks and the AmeriCorps program.
- Develop materials for schools and home school groups that that promote parks as an educational resource

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 the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$16,000 over 44-week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$6,345 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
- Guaranteed health benefits and childcare assistance if qualified

- 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.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by December 10, 2021.

* 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.