

Position Description

1700 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Location: Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park



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:

As Montana’s first State Park, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is a unique place located midway between Bozeman and Butte Montana, 1 hour from historic Virginia City and about 2 hours from Yellowstone National Park. The park is remote with the closest communities are Whitehall and Three Forks which are both 15-20 minutes from the Park’s Main Visitor Center.

The site plays a special role with the local communities due to the various recreation opportunities the park offers along with long ties to the history of the area. Nestled in the scenic Jefferson Canyon of the London Hills, Lewis & Clark Caverns is one of the largest Montana State Parks including 1400 vertical feet elevation change over 3000 acres of park land. The facilities of the park feature ten miles of popular hiking/mountain biking trails, two picnic areas, river access, the renowned caverns with three types of tour and a well-used campground. The park offers fantastic scenery and strong biodiversity.

This position will also perform some duties with Anaconda Smokestack State Park and Lost Creek State Park. These two sites are located in and near Anaconda, a town born from and shaped by Montana’s mining era. Anaconda Smokestack is the largest extant free-standing masonry structure in the world at 585 feet tall. It sits amidst a vast superfund site that is nearing remediation completion which will drastically improve and alter park usage in years to come. Presently the park consists of a closed off area around the Stack and a viewing area that is open to the public on the east end of Anaconda.

Lost Creek State Park is a deep and gorgeous mountain canyon that features a rustic campground, a short trail to a 40 foot waterfall, wildlife viewing possibilities and rock climbing opportunities. The park is in the process of adding a ½ mile hiking trail.

All of these elements lead to a myriad of challenges, and this is where AmeriCorps members come in. This position will have strong interaction with youth as well as disabled and elderly visitors. It will cover a multitude of interpretive projects. Park AmeriCorps members will also work to engage the local communities to increase volunteerism in the park to help augment staff and address weed and trail issues as well as several projects aimed to improve the park’s aging infrastructure and engage the community of Anaconda. While a few programs already



require predetermined AmeriCorps involvement (like Paradise Tours May-September), there is still ample opportunity to adjust to new possibilities. A creative, well organized individual could make such a difference at multiple parks!

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.

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Improve park land
 - The AmeriCorps member will assist park maintenance in the continued remediation of invasive weed species, working when available during Spring and Fall.
 - This person will also organize, advertise, and recruit volunteers for a Cave Cleaning Event tied to National Public Lands Day
 - In the Spring this member will assist with the construction of the new Cliffside Trail at Lost Creek.

- Expand educational and interpretive programs
 - Along with another 1700-hour member, this member will continue offering the ever-popular and successful Paradise Cave Tours, thus accommodating visitors with physical challenges or with small children. This person will train with a provided manual and learn to book reservations.
 - This position will work closely with the Park Ranger to expand campground program offerings and issue news releases, program posters, and promote on social media for all park events.
 - Member will develop and present original programs or events relevant to Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park; possible dates of interest include National Caves and Karst Day, Kids to Parks Day, Jr. Ranger program, Music Days, Birding Day, etc.
 - Member can adjust to best use the skills/interests within to expand the park offerings on site and in local communities; recording these programs and uploading onto social media increases the impact and range of viewers.

- Increase Volunteer Capacity
 - This position will advertise, recruit, and promote Montana State Parks volunteer opportunities targeting longer commitment options such as docents and Wild Cave Tour sweeps as well as single day work events, using social media and community visits to further contacts.
 - Member will update the directory of volunteers for the area utilizing other state parks, Montana Wild, college, and service organizations contacts to gain broader information.

- This member can coordinate with local colleges, schools, and youth organizations to recruit for topics of interest and to advertise to the targeted education groups.
 - This person will attend local events and contact service organizations with the intent to engage volunteers.
 - Member will also work with the volunteer liaison to design an appreciation event or reward to recognize those who participate, realizing that some will be unable to attend a ceremony, and brainstorm ways volunteers would like to be acknowledged or rewarded.
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
 - With the Park Ranger, member will develop the park's calendar of events for distribution at the park, on the webpage, at community events and during local service organization/partnership meetings.
 - The position will participate in local community events, specifically Whitehall Frontier Days, Bannack Days, Butte Folk Festival, and other possible dates to be shared with the other on-site AmeriCorps member. Individuals are encouraged to harness their enthusiasm- sharing what you love about AmeriCorps, state parks, the caverns or Montana with others!
 - Member might attend local meetings to investigate new partnership options or strengthen past partners such as the Whitehall and Three Forks libraries and the Rotary Club.

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.