

Interning at Minnesota State Parks

Hi, this is Kristine Hiller, one of the Interpretive Naturalists for Minnesota State Parks. If you are a college student, we have an exciting opportunity for you this summer!

12 of our 72 state parks will be hiring summer interns to assist naturalists.

Whether your interest lies in working at parks in the coniferous forests of northern Minnesota,

the maples of the deciduous forest biome,

Or the wide open savannahs and prairie-grasslands, we have a beautiful office for you!

I've worked in state parks for 15 years and every day feel fortunate that it's my job to share these parks with visitors.

Our parks receive over 8 million visitors a year...sometimes it feels that they all come on one day. But that just means that there's plenty to keep you busy and not a lot of time to slow down. The parks cover 230,000 acres and contain a bounty of natural, cultural and historical resources. That's one of the reasons I like working for parks. There are plenty of topics to choose from for programming and always an excuse to learn something new.

So now that you know why **I** like working here, let's talk about why **YOU** may want to work for us too. You'll be working with an experienced naturalist this summer conducting naturalist programs to our visitors four to five days a week, including weekends. Past interns had the opportunity to practice their interpretive skills in a variety of programming. They developed campfire programs, hikes and children's activities. I expect that you'll be doing something similar and depending on when you start the job, may even work with school groups.

Past interns have worked on a special resource management project, such as using a GPS to map historical site locations in the park and writing a research paper on it. Since we don't know what your specific intern requirements from your school will be, let's just say that we'll work with you and see what skills you're interested in developing.

Although you'll be kept pretty busy working, you'll want to have some fun, too! You **DO** get a day off now and then. If you're unfamiliar with MN State Parks, let me tell you a little bit about them. They are a recreation-lovers paradise. There are trails for hiking and biking; waters to canoe, kayak, or fish; wildlife to view; and adventures such as geocaching to be had. Some parks even boast horse trails and rock climbing.

Well if that isn't enough to convince you to apply...how about we're really friendly! We're a large park system, but a small staff so when we hire, not only do we try to find people with the right work skills, but we also try to find

someone who meshes well into a close office environment. We also absolutely love our work, so if you're looking to work with people who are enthusiastic, creative and enjoy what they do...you've found the right place. I am really looking forward to working with our interns this summer and putting together a great season of naturalist programming for our visitors to Minnesota State Parks.

Hopefully I've answered some of your questions about internships in parks. If you have additional questions or are thinking, "How Do I Apply?" go to www.mnstateparks.info and look for the link to internships in MN State Parks.