2015 NPS Volunteer Opportunity
Centennial Exhibition

Project Overview:

A team of six to twelve students will research and design an exhibit for the Centennial of the National Park Service to be celebrated in August of 2016. The exhibit will document how the Twin Cities and the land within our local National Park has changed in the last 100 years, covering a variety of topics as determined by the supervisor and participating students. Topics could include, but are not limited to: planning and development, demographics, significant local events, water quality, species in the area, and weather. Students would develop their portion of the exhibit from initial research to final presentation format, ultimately creating a cohesive exhibition with the other participating students. Exhibit design should have an interactive element (i.e. for planning and development creating maps that people can actually play with to see how the Twin Cities have changed). Additionally, each topic should anticipate or imagine how the next 100 years will look for the park. If there is interest, there will be a separate “future of the park” topic.

While the exhibit is focused on discussing the previous and next 100 years of the park, outside of those parameters students are encouraged to explore and present their chosen topics as they see fit. Each member of the group will work with the supervisor to create a project strategy and outline.

Time Commitment:

Exhibition dates and location are yet to be determined, but it is anticipated that the project will require at least 45 hours of total service. Most of that time will likely be given to research, but synthesis of research and exhibit design, as well as meeting with other students and the project supervisor will require time. Individual meetings with the project supervisor would occur weekly, and there would be a monthly team meeting. Please Note: With the Centennial happening in August, this position may require some work to be done during summer in 2016.

Qualifications:

Students interested in working on this project should have some research experience, formal or informal, and have strong writing abilities. Experience in graphics work or presentation layout is preferable. Ability to work independently and follow through on projects is crucial. Diverse research interests and backgrounds are encouraged.

Contact Information:

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2015 NPS Volunteer Opportunity
Every Kid in a Park

Project Overview:
Every Kid In A Park is a program allowing fourth graders and their families to get out and see America’s public lands for free. The park wants to reach out to fourth graders and make them aware of this program, and needs materials that are more accessible to fourth graders to effectively do this. The student who works on this will be reviewing existing park materials and “translating” them to a fourth-grade reading level. They will assess what a fourth-grade audience would need to be made aware of when visiting the park, and prepare materials accordingly. In addition to content writing, the student will be composing brochures, flyers, etc. to be distributed to students.

Time Commitment:
The project will require a 45-hour time commitment, divided between reviewing existing materials, writing new content, and preparing the new materials. The student working on this project would likely have to visit and work from the park office, at least initially, so they must be willing to come to downtown Saint Paul.

Qualifications:
Students with an interest in child development and elementary education would be strong candidates for this position. Strong writing skills are necessary, and some experience with document publication and layout is preferable.

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