



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

25216 Ben Reifel Road
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Badlands National Park Summer Naturalist Internship Opportunity

Badlands National Park is seeking interns to spend 13 weeks volunteering in the park as summer naturalists. Duties include preparing and presenting walks, talks, PowerPoint presentations, and children's programs to the visiting public on the natural and cultural resources of Badlands National Park. Interns staff the visitor center information desk and rove park trails and overlooks, providing information and assistance to park visitors. Interns also complete a variety of writing assignments and office projects, depending on summer needs.

Starting Date: 3rd Sunday in May

Ending Date: 3rd Saturday in August

Due to training dates and summer staffing needs, the internship dates are non-negotiable.

Successful applicants must be willing to wear the volunteer uniform, possess a valid state driver's license and a good driving record, be comfortable with public speaking, and have completed at least one year of college study.

Benefits: Although the positions are unpaid, interns receive free, shared, in-park housing, park orientation and job training, some reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, networking with National Park Service employees, and development of skills in the fields of interpretation and rangers. Students desiring college credit for their internships can be accommodated, if arrangements are made with their academic institutions in advance. Interns accruing 500 hours of volunteer service are eligible to receive an Interagency Volunteer Pass, which covers the cardholder's entrance and amenity fees to National Park Service and other participating federal agency sites for one year from the issue date.

How to Apply: Email a current resume, contact information for three professional/academic references, and a statement of interest (300 words or less describing why you want to intern in Badlands National Park in summer 2008) to badl_internships@nps.gov. You can also mail the required information to: **Internship Coordinator; Badlands National Park; 25216 Ben Reifel Road; P.O. Box 6; Interior, SD 57750**

Expectations: Interns work alongside permanent park rangers and seasonal naturalists to provide services to 1.0 million visitors who travel around the world to the largest national park in the Midwest – Badlands National Park. Interns are scheduled to work 40 hours per week throughout the park. Government vehicles are provided to travel to duty locations. Personal vehicles are desirable for off duty days.

About the Area: Badlands National Park consists of 244,000 acres of prairie and rugged formations in southwestern South Dakota. The park contains some of the richest Oligocene fossil beds in the world, dating 25 to 37 million years old. Park wildlife includes bison, antelope, prairie dogs, bighorn sheep, and swift fox.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The park is considered by many to be quite remote – 70 miles to the closest airport – with little or no TV or radio reception. Summer weather is hot and dry with high winds and dramatic thunderstorms.

Things to Consider: Please keep in mind the following before applying:

- Housing is shared, so applicants should not expect to bring companions for the summer.
- Pets are not allowed in government housing.
- Smoking is not permitted in housing or work areas.
- Interns must commit to 13 weeks without time off for trips or vacations, other than two days off per week.
- Staff members are expected to work weekends and holidays. Schedules require staff to work 5 days per week with two consecutive days off.
- Volunteering is the first work experience for 75% of National Park Service ranger-naturalists.

More questions?? Feel free to contact the Volunteer Program Coordinator – Roberta Gorman via phone at (605) 433-5244 or email at roberta_gorman@nps.gov.