



2017 Interpretation Internships at Shenandoah National Park

The Park

Shenandoah National Park in Virginia is located just 75 miles from Washington D.C. and was created with the vision of having a “western” national park experience in the east. Cascading waterfalls, spectacular vistas, and quiet wooded hollows are all part of this spectacular landscape. Take a hike, meander along Skyline Drive, or have a picnic. Thousands of living things call Shenandoah’s nearly 200,000 acres of protected land home. With over 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail, the Park is a hiker’s paradise.

The Position

Park Interpreters are the public face of Shenandoah National Park. Interns in the Division of Interpretation are responsible for researching, preparing, and presenting programs such as guided walks and hikes, interpretive talks, Junior Ranger programs, and evening programs on the Park's interpretive themes (wildlife, geology, ecology, history, climate change, etc). These programs are given in a diversity of Park locations including campgrounds, trails, visitor centers, and historic buildings. Interns also staff visitor centers and provide information and informal interpretation to visitors during fixed station and roving assignments. Spring and fall internships focus on developing and presenting curriculum-based education programs and assisting with teacher workshops.

Interns receive 80 hours of formal training in interpretive skills, customer service, safety, and natural and cultural resources; plus 40 hours of on-the-job training in presenting interpretive programs and park operations.

Additional training and professional development opportunities may also be available. If you love learning, sharing what you’ve learned with others, and working hard in a team environment, these positions are incredibly rewarding.

Required Skills and Interest	Internship Dates	Application Information	Position Locations
Public speaking and presentation skills and abilities; interest and/or knowledge in natural and/or cultural history; ability to work independently and as part of a team; valid driver's license.	Interns work 40 hours per week with two consecutive days off. Three internship phases exist with the following approximate dates: Spring: April 3 to June 16, 2017 Summer: May 8 to August 25, 2017 Fall: August 21 to Nov 10, 2017	A resume, cover letter, and list of 3 professional references (name, title/position, phone, and email) should be submitted by February 27, 2017. Applications may be submitted by mail or email to the Park contact.	Interns may be based out of Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (North District), Byrd Visitor Center (Central District), and/or the Education Office at Park Headquarters. For more information on Shenandoah National Park, see our website at www.nps.gov/shen .
Desired Skills and Interest	Stipend	Housing	Park Contact
Background in interpretation, environmental education, parks and recreation, biology, geology, environmental science, or history.	Interns are reimbursed for living expenses at the rate of \$150.00 per week. A \$300.00 travel allowance is also provided. The Park provides housing, nametags, and uniforms.	Housing costs are covered by the Park. Housing is typically a shared house.	For more information and to apply, please contact: Debby Smith Interpretive Operations Supervisor 3655 US Hwy 211 East Luray, VA 22835 (540) 999-3500 ext.3281 debby_smith@nps.gov

