

## **2018 Summer Interpretation Internships at Shenandoah National Park**

*Internship Dates: May 7 to August 24, 2018 (16-weeks)*

Park Interpreters are the public face of Shenandoah National Park. Interpretation interns 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 presented 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. Interns work 40 hours per week with two consecutive days off.

### **Park Overview**

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.

### **Position Location**

Interns may be based out of Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (North District, mile 4.6) or Byrd Visitor Center (Central District, mile 51). For more information on Shenandoah National Park, see our website at [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen).

### **Training**

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.

### **Stipend**

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 nametags and uniforms.

### **Housing**

Housing costs are covered by the Park. Housing is typically a shared house.

### **Required Skills and Interest**

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.

**Desired Skills and Interest**

Background in interpretation, environmental education, parks and recreation, biology, geology, environmental science, or history.

**Application Process**

To apply for a summer interpretation internship, a resume, cover letter, and list of 3 professional references (name, title/position, phone, and email) should be submitted by February 26, 2018.

Applications may be submitted by mail or email to the following Park contact:

Debby Smith  
Interpretive Operations Supervisor  
3655 US Hwy 211 East  
Luray, VA 22835  
(540) 999-3500 ext.3281  
debby\_smith@nps.gov