

Profiles of Former GIPs



Kelly Gray took on a variety of projects using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Kelly's main project was a survey and assessment of

the impact of unofficial social trails at the Hialeah Picnic Area and Kittatinny Point Visitor Center. Kelly created a basemap of the official trails in the park to be used as a template for a new trail map for visitors.



Justin Peinado completed an extensive survey of the geologically significant features on the lava flows at El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico, such as the large lava tube caves. The survey required hiking on the lava flow,

sometimes for five miles a day. When Justin finished his work at the end of the summer, 400 unique geological features were recorded in the park's database.



Montana Hodges (shown in photo) and Amy Atwater (shown in lower photo on cover of brochure) worked on projects to enhance the study and public enjoyment of ichnofossils (trace fossils) at Denali

National Park & Preserve, Alaska. Montana Hodges' focus was on managing and protecting the constantly growing fossil information at Denali National Park & Preserve. Montana completed a management and monitoring plan for the paleontological resources at the park, allowing professional researchers and public interest groups to access the fossils safely. Amy Atwater spent her time at the park developing a technique to identify areas that are likely to contain fossils without having to send researchers into the field.

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GIP Partners

- Geological Society of America (GeoCorps™ America Program) http://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/index.htm
- National Association of Geoscience Teachers <http://nagt.org/nagt/profdev/GTIP.html>
- and many other partners



GIP Win McLaughlin, at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon, starting her project studying paleosols.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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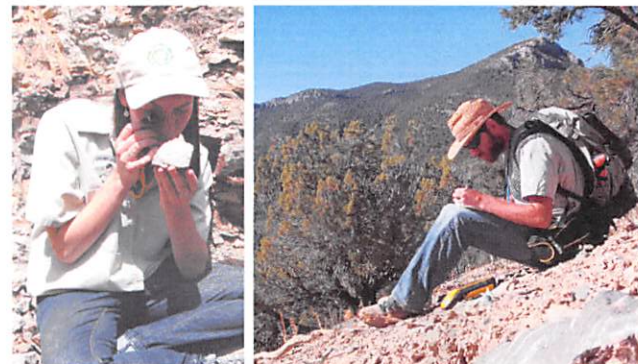
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Natural Resource Stewardship and Science

Geoscientists-in-the-Parks



Program Overview

The Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Program places natural resource scientists in NPS units for three months to one year to assist with geology and integrated science projects. Participants gain on-the-job geoscience training, are introduced to careers in the NPS, help build technical capacity for parks, and enhance the public's understanding of the Earth sciences.



Flora Sperberg collects drip water data at Oregon Caves National Monument, Oregon, to provide further insight into cave hydrology and cave features.

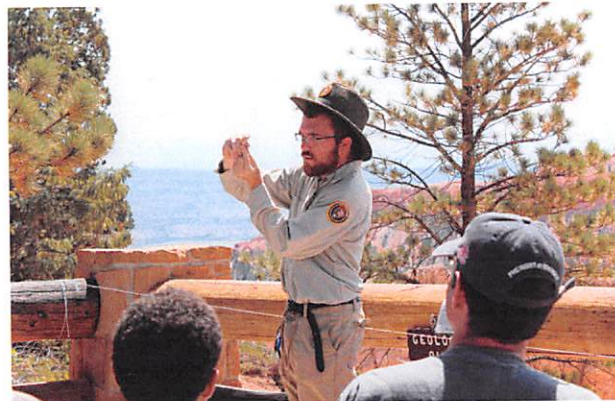
The National Park Service, Geologic Resources Division (GRD) created the Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Program and began placing geoscientists in parks in 1996. The program responds to requests by park and central office staff for short-term assistance with geologic and other natural resources research, resource management, inventory, monitoring, and interpretation and education projects. Participants in the GIP program enable the National Park Service to complete natural resource projects that would not be feasible without their help. The majority of the GIP positions each year are filled through a partnership with The Geological Society of America's (GSA) GeoCorps™ America Program. Additional GIPs are also placed through GRD partnerships with the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, and others.

GIP Projects

The Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Program is multi-disciplinary. The level of expertise and education required for participation varies with each the project. The primary focus of the program is on college students and recent graduates. Past GIPs have been college students, professors, or scientists that are currently working, on sabbatical, or retired.

Projects may require the following expertise:

- geology (e.g., geomorphology, hydrogeology, paleontology, stratigraphy, geologic mapping, cave and karst science, soils, geohazards)
- air resources
- biological resources
- climate change science
- natural sounds
- night skies
- scenic resources
- social science
- water resources



Brian Castro had the opportunity to lead geology education programs for visitors at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah.

Park projects may include:

- natural resource research
- mapping (geology, plants, animals)
- assessing geologic hazards
- summarizing scientific research for park staff
- assisting in natural resource inventories and field surveys
- measuring water quality, natural soundscape, or light emissions
- preparing field guides and park resource overviews
- leading interpretive talks or programs for park visitors
- conducting a viewshed analysis

The Process

Park staff submit requests for natural resource science and integrated science assistance through the GeoCorps™ America on-line system. Positions are advertised by the Geological Society of America and the most qualified applicant is selected by park staff. Most GIP positions occur during the summer months, however many fall-winter positions have been added to the program. Long-term Guest Scientist positions may occur any time during the year. GIPs are paid at least a \$3,000 stipend for each 3 months of work, given a travel allowance, and are provided housing (or a housing allowance) for the duration of the project. Guest Scientists typically receive a higher stipend, based on the level of expertise required and duration of the project.

Applying for a position

The majority of GIP positions are advertised on the GSA GeoCorps™ America website:
http://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/apply.htm.

Information about these and other GIP opportunities is also provided on the NPS GIP website:
<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/gip>



As a hydrologist, Franklin Dekker sampled numerous springs and seeps at Mojave National Preserve, California.



Anna Stifter conducting a glacier survey at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington.

GIP positions are advertised from December 1st to February 1st for spring-summer positions, and from May 1st to July 1st for fall-winter positions. Any United States citizen or permanent legal resident with a background in natural resource sciences may apply for a GIP position.