

Sleeping Bear Dunes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sleeping Bear Dunes
National Lakeshore



Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 Internship Opportunity

Gain valuable career experience in beautiful northern Michigan.

PARK AREA

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was established in 1970 to preserve its many outstanding natural features. The National Park Service protects the forests, beaches, dunes, and ancient glacial phenomena along 72 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline for the benefit and

enjoyment of the public. The Lakeshore's historic maritime and agricultural landscapes are of a size and quality that are unique on the Great Lakes and rare elsewhere on the U.S. coastline. Located only 25 miles from Traverse City, the Lakeshore is accessible year-round for all to enjoy.

AVAILABLE INTERNSHIPS

Fall Education Intern – 1 position available *Education and Interpretation*

The internship time period is mid-October to mid-December with the opportunity for extension based on student academic requirement needs. Interns will work Monday-Friday or Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00-4:30.

Fall interns will assist with fall educational programming and with preparation for the park's 2020 Snowshoe Experience field trips. The intern will lead outdoor educational activities within the lakeshore, help with school recruitment and scheduling, lead pre-visit programs in school classrooms and will create content for the park's social media platforms. The fall intern will also be assisting with event planning in preparation for Sleeping Bear Dunes' 50th anniversary as a National Lakeshore.

Experience snowshoeing is not required for this position but interns must be physically able to hike and snowshoe. Interns will gain valuable experience in program management and the field of environmental education, as well as receive an introduction and mentorship in working for the National Park Service.

Winter Education Intern – 2 positions available *Education and Interpretation*

The internship time period is early January to mid-March with the opportunity for extension based on student academic requirement needs. Interns will work Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00-4:30.

Winter interns will assist in the implementation of the park's 2019 Snowshoe Experience field trips, will lead interpretive snowshoe hikes for the general public, and will create content for the park's social media platforms.

The Snowshoe Experience field trips include leading day-long, curriculum-based snowshoe hikes, activities, and games for 3rd-5th graders about winter ecology, animal adaptations, and snow science. Interns will work in a team with 2-3 park rangers to help lead these activities. Interns may also visit schools with rangers and lead pre-visit programs in the classroom. This work is physically demanding and requires the ability to snowshoe up to two miles every day for five days a week, bend to assist students with putting on their snowshoes, and the ability to lift 20 pounds and move heavy supplies. Snowshoe Experience field trips are offered Tuesday-Friday from early January through mid-March.

Interns will also help lead ranger-led snowshoe hikes each Saturday for the general public on a variety of topics. Snowshoe hikes occur off-trail and interns will help rangers scout new locations and create new programs. This work will require physical exertion such as long periods of standing/walking/snowshoeing outdoors over rough terrain and exposure to all types of winter weather.

Interns will gain valuable experience in program management and the field of environmental education, as well as receive an introduction and mentorship in working for the National Park Service.

Experience snowshoeing is not required for this position. However, interns must be physically able to snowshoe. Snowshoes will be provided for use during educational and interpretive programs. Interns must provide their own snow pants and waterproof winter boots. Experience leading outdoor educational activities for children is preferred.

Winter interns will also assist with the creation of content for all platforms of social media for Sleeping Bear Dunes including creating and posting content on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube with the goal of increasing outreach to global, younger, and more diverse audiences.

Documents received by Sept. 16th, 2019 will receive first consideration.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

This position is open to current college students and recent graduates.

Interns will be required to successfully complete a background investigation, including an FBI fingerprint check, prior to beginning their internship.

Interns may be required to drive a government vehicle and must possess a valid state driver's license as well as pass an online defensive driving course.

Interns will be issued volunteer uniforms and will be required to wear their uniform in conformance with established standards.

BENEFITS

Interns will receive a **\$20.00 per day** stipend, uniform items, and park housing may be available. Pets are not allowed in housing.

You will receive valuable hands-on experience to add to career resumes.

Academic credit may be arranged with the intern's school. Research topics or independent study projects will be agreed upon by the intern, the college advisor, and the NPS supervisor.

Training - all interns participate in an orientation training class. Topics which will be covered depending your position include: NPS policy, history and organization; interpretive philosophy, theory, and methods; basic history, geology and ecology of the area, first aid and CPR; visitor service and resource management goals.

HOUSING ANDTRANSPORTATION

Housing is located in Empire which has banks, restaurants, churches, gas station, medical care, and daycare. More extensive shopping, medical, and recreational opportunities are available within 30 miles. Interns are responsible for their own transportation to work each day. Winter road conditions will often impact driving time to and from work.

Public transportation to and from Traverse City is available via BATA on a regular basis. Please see their website for more specific information; www.bata.net Click on "Village Connector, Empire route".

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for an internship: **email or postal mail** the following:

- 1. Cover letter** why are you a good candidate?
- 2. Résumé** include relevant jobs and/or life experience
- 3. References** contact information for at least two
- 4. Letter of recommendation** at least one

Unofficial transcripts will be requested after initial materials are received.

Email documents to:
slbe_education@nps.gov

Or mail documents to:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
ATTN: Education Technician
9922 Front Street
Empire, MI 49630

Documents received by Sept. 16th, 2019 will receive first consideration.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore website at:
<http://www.nps.gov/slbe/index.htm>

Or contact the Winter Intern Coordinator at: slbe_education@nps.gov
