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Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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Internships with Washington State Parks, collaboration with USFS and MSHI

The Upper Cowlitz Recreation Area (Washington State Parks) is seeking to recruit two interns (volunteers):

1. **Ike Kinswa State Park:** expand environmental education and youth programming at the park with a focus on stewardship and history. Spring Internship
2. **Mount St. Helens Visitor Center:** help at the information desk and assist with nature-based educational programming offered to the public. Summer Internship

Monthly stipend (thanks to the WA State Parks Foundation) available to offset travel and living expenses. Shared housing may be available with the United States Forest Service (USFS). Course Credit can be earned.

Positions: Two positions, part time, 24-32 hours/week. Must be available weekends.

Duration: 3-months minimum

Timeframe: Positions open until filled, starting as early as April

About Ike Kinswa State Park and the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center:

Ike Kinswa State Park is in Silver Creek, 1 hour from the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center. This 450-acre park features shoreline and forest along Lake Mayfield, and the Cowlitz and Tilton River. We are a popular destination for camping, boating, and wildlife watching. [Ike Kinswa State Park | Washington State Parks](#)

The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center is in Castle Rock, tucked in the second-growth forest of Seaquest State Park. This is a historical based facility undergoing extensive exhibit renovations, with a new feature film, and a ½ mile boardwalk trail along the Silver Lake wetland. We are open year-round, receiving over 50,000 visitors in the peak season. We are five miles off I-5, on the Spirit Lake Highway (SR 504), about 50 miles from Mount St. Helens.

[Mount St Helens Visitor Center | Washington State Parks](#)

About our Partners and Surrounding Area:

We are partnered with the United States Forest Service (USFS), who manages the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, approximately 110,000 acres of protected land. Their non-profit partner the Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI) manages the volunteer program and oversees special events, school programs, family camps, and annual guided excursions.

The May 2023 landslide on SR 504 severed access to the Johnston Ridge Observatory. They are temporarily operating the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater Lake, a 45-minute drive from this location. This site offers tremendous views of Mount St. Helens, with access to Coldwater lake and extensive trails.

The nearest large city is Portland, Oregon, approximately 63 miles away. In closer proximity is the Longview/Kelso townships with all desirable access to necessities like grocery, retail, parks, and libraries.

Agency Mission:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

Agency Vision:

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support.

Internship descriptions:

Washington State Parks invites submissions for two Internships. These individuals will receive hands-on experience in the field of interpretation and environmental education at a scenic park and two popular Visitor Centers, while assisting staff with daily operations, educational programming, and customer service.

1. Ike Kinswa Intern:

(30%): Assist with educational programming and field trips: updating student materials, shadowing school visits, and helping with informal nature-based lessons at all Upper Cowlitz Area parks.

(30%): Establish relationship with local schools: contact teachers to determine park usage and future programming potential while assessing curriculum needs.

(25%): Research options to expand youth programming: identify partnership opportunities for special events, survey park user-groups and brainstorm program ideas.

(15%): Assist at the front desk: welcoming visitors, disseminating information about the local area, directions to nearby attractions, recreational recommendations, and answering questions about Mount St. Helens.

NOTE: **This position is stationed at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center (Washington State Parks) 16-24 hours/week with weekly visits to Ike Kinswa State Park. A Washington State Parks volunteer uniform will be worn while volunteering at both sites.*

2. Mount St. Helens Visitor Center Intern:

(50%): Assist at the front desk: welcoming visitors, disseminating information about the local area, directions to nearby attractions, recreational recommendations, and answering questions about Mount St. Helens.

(30%): Assist with educational programming: could include simple talks using pre-structured materials, evening campground lessons, guided walks, scheduled tour groups, and the Junior Ranger program.

(20%): Research, design and develop a family friendly program to offer with guidance from supporting staff.

NOTE: **This position is stationed at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center (Washington State Parks) 16-24 hours/week with visits to the Science and Learning Center (United States Forest Service) 8 hours/week. A Washington State Parks volunteer uniform will be worn while volunteering at both sites.*

Required Qualifications:

- Must be a recent graduate or currently enrolled in a local college and completing a degree in Natural Resource Sciences/Geology/Ecology/History/Education or a related field.
- Good customer service skills and the ability to speak clearly to large groups of varying age and background.
- Ability to communicate with fellow staff, and follow guidance

-Must have a valid driver's license and the ability to provide their own transportation. May be asked to drive park vehicle between parks and visitor center sites.

Desirable qualifications:

- Interest in interpretation or teaching and expanding communication skills
- Has the ability to meet visitor needs efficiently and effectively in a busy Visitor Center and park
- Positive attitude and ability to work well with others; being a team player
- Good organizational skills and follow-through
- Motivated self-starter
- Open to sharing ideas and accepting possible peer-review and input
- Ability to use Microsoft Office and/or PowerPoint and familiarity with digital platforms
- Comfortable and confident using a computer, camera/tripod, and basic office equipment
- Arrive on time daily and perform duties in a timely manner
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule as needed, required to work most weekends

→ Applying:

To apply please email a detailed resume, cover letter describing your interest in one of these internship opportunities, and three references to Silver.Lake@parks.wa.gov at your earliest convenience. These internships will remain open until filled, so those interested are encouraged to apply soon. Please type "UCA 2024 Internship" into the email subject line. If selected for the internship, you will be sent a volunteer application. This includes criminal background checks completed through fingerprints, per state law. Candidates will be notified in a timely manner. Internship start date is fully negotiable.

If you have any further questions please contact: Alysa Adams, Parks Interpretive Specialist 2 at: 360-274-0962 (Visitor Center), 360-644-4704 (work cell) or email at Alysa.Adams@parks.wa.gov. Application materials will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be contacted by phone or email.

***Thank You for your interest in volunteering with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission!
We look forward to hearing from you!***