



Student Conservation Association

Conservation Internship Program



Get Results Today... and Train Your Workforce of Tomorrow

SCA is the leader in providing resource managers like you with energized, qualified conservation interns to help you accomplish more of your conservation objectives.

Our partners consistently cite SCA interns' motivation, skills sets and results-oriented approach, but these diverse young adults are so much more than just capable hands.

As they conduct and complete your conservation projects, SCA interns gain valuable on-the-job experience and insights—preparing them for possible future employment. The combination of immediate assistance and workforce development makes SCA internships the ultimate win-win!

Let us put our national recruiting expertise to work for you. SCA prescreens and prequalifies applicants before sending candidates to you to interviews and selection. Or you may request a specific applicant for your position.

SCA has been the preferred partner of federal, state and local land managers since 1957. We put conservation in action.

SCA Conservation Internships run from three to 12 months in length and start at any time of year.

Disciplines include:

- Biology
- Botany
- Climate Change
- Fisheries
- GIS/GPS
- Interpretation
- Trail Construction
- Visitor Services
- Wildland Fire
- Wildlife Management

Who are SCA interns?

- 61% are 21-24 years old
- 58% are female, 42% male
- 55% are current college students
- 38% hold an undergrad degree

Top 5 Intern Majors:

- Environmental studies
- Biology
- History
- Geography
- Wildlife management

SCA Case Study: Yellowstone Geothermal Database

Yellowstone National Park is renowned for its many singular sights Mammoth Hot Springs, Tower Falls, Old Faithful. Yet the park is also home unique components that were far more difficult to see. Until now.

SCA interns recently completed a 10-year inventory of the park's myriad geothermal features. Interns converted the accumulated data into a geographic information system (GIS), shot digital photographs, captured pH measurements, gauged electro-conductivity, and recorded average temperatures of nearly 200°F to provide a snapshot of each individual feature.

The result is the first-ever Yellowstone Geothermal Database. Park cartographic technician Carrie Guiles estimates SCA members compiled up to 90% of the database and adds some 655 new microbial species have already been discovered as a result.

Scientists have used the data to advance the human genome project. One bacterium has the potential to consume carbon dioxide from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants. And NASA hopes to learn how life may exist under extreme conditions on distant planets.

Guiles first worked on the project as an SCA intern in 1991 and knows the value of the interns' contributions as well as the intern experience.

"My internship set me on a different path," she notes. Thanks to her and dozens of other SCA interns, the course of conservation and research at Yellowstone National Park has been altered as well.

SCA Provides:

- Recruitment of pre-qualified applicants plus background checks
- Round-trip travel and weekly living allowance
- Liability and 24-hour accident insurance coverage
- Health insurance for positions over 16 weeks
- Complete member and site support
- AmeriCorps Education Awards (as available, for eligible interns)

Partners Provide:

- Project Funding
- Challenging and enriching 3 to 12 month internship position(s)
- Training and project oversight
- Professional development opportunities and mentoring
- Housing (or funding to cover the cost of housing)
- On-the-job transportation (if required)
- Performance evaluation

Together, we provide the intern with many valuable benefits: real career experience, mentoring and direction, financial support, and more.

"My SCA experience has inspired me to dedicate my future career to protecting our planet."

– Jaya Ghosh, SCA alumna



"I don't know of another program that so consistently offers such a meaningful and cost effective experience for both the partner and the intern."

– Steve Hale,
Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

"You only have to work with SCA once to understand how powerful it is."

– Sandy Front, USFS

For more information on internships, costs or agreements, please contact:

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Or visit our website at
thesca.org/partners