



NPS Rivers Trails and Recreation Assistance Program Indigenous/Native Partnerships Outreach Coordinator

Austin, TX (or Remote)

Internship Title: Indigenous/Native Partnerships Outreach Coordinator for NPS Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Start/End Date: May 2021 through August 2021

Term: 12 weeks

Salary: Weekly stipend of \$500

Housing stipend: Up to \$1000 per month if relocating to Austin

Who can apply: Students currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate program.

Benefits: Mileage reimbursement and paid travel for work-related trips or relocation. Travel to internship conference in DC (if travel is permitted by August 2021). Direct Hire Authority status for two years after successful internship completion.

Direct Hire Authority: Interns who successfully complete the DHA internship requirements become eligible to be non-competitively hired by the Department of Interior for two years from the date of their degree. Successful completion of the internship does not guarantee that the participant will be hired into a federal position.

Internship Location: Austin RTCA Office or Remote

Office Location: 1901 East Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX, 78741

Application Due Date: February 7, 2021.

NPS RTCA Program:

This internship is not located in a national park. In addition to protecting and managing America's national parks, the National Park Service also operates programs in communities throughout the nation to connect all Americans to their parks, trails, rivers, and other special places. This internship is within the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, which helps community groups, nonprofits, state and local governments, and tribes plan parks and trails, conserve and improve access to rivers and natural areas, and create recreation opportunities through locally led partnerships. This rigorous internship provides an opportunity for someone with strong communications, community organizing, and outreach skills to help advance the National Park Service's community assistance efforts in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Internship Description:

For this project, the intern will develop strategies for the Texas RTCA office, with a focus on increasing assistance to indigenous communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. If travel and gathering restrictions policies allow, the selected intern is expected to work at the Austin office or visit Austin for in-person orientation.

The project goals are to:

- Establish relationships with Indigenous communities and tribal officials in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.
- Identify potential projects with Indigenous communities that might benefit from RTCA assistance.
- Showcase three RTCA success stories involving collaboration with Indigenous communities
- Increase awareness about RTCA assistance among BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Intern's Tasks and Products:

The intern will research local organizations, community groups, and key stakeholders in Indigenous communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. The intern will engage with those organizations, through direct interviews, site visits (as appropriate) and focus groups, to identify recreation and conservation needs/goals, as well as the necessary support to meet the identified conservation/recreation goals. The intern will also research case study examples and document successful collaboration between RTCA and Indigenous communities. With support from RTCA staff, the intern will interact with the identified communities and present information about RTCA and how it can assist with conservation and recreation planning.

The final products of the internship, which are required for Direct Hire Authority eligibility, will be:

- A detailed strategy that will help RTCA staff effectively engage with and assist Indigenous communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.
- Three or more RTCA success stories involving Indigenous/Native communities.
- List of potential RTCA projects in Indigenous/Native communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Environment for the Americas Interaction:

Interns will work and communicate with an Environment for the Americas (EFTA) LHIP Program Manager during their internship and participate in scheduled conference calls, webinars, and meetings. Interns will capture photos and/or videos for reporting purposes and submit seven blog posts highlighting their experience and development. The intern will submit employment eligibility and timesheets to EFTA. EFTA will organize a career and leadership workshop in August, which the intern is expected to attend.

Requirements:

- Age 18 to 30 inclusive, and military veterans up to age 35 or younger
- Possess US citizenship or permanent residence
- Be enrolled in an accredited educational qualifying institution
- Have a strong interest or relevant experience in areas pertaining to, but not limited to, history, outreach, sociology, park and recreation planning, urban studies, Native American studies, public engagement, social work.

Preferred qualifications:

- Self-initiative and experience working independently to develop, organize and implement project elements, establish priorities, deliver products, and meet deadlines.
- Knowledge of Indigenous communities and tribes in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, and Colorado.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities
- Outgoing personality or willingness to reach out and connect with dozens of relevant contacts in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Internship Requirements

- Participate in an end of internship career and leadership workshop
- Complete DHA rigorous project for direct hire eligibility
- Conduct an oral presentation on internship accomplishments at the workshop
- Conduct a poster presentation on internship accomplishments at the workshop
- Complete blogs on your internship experience (7 total)
- Participate in required webinars

Application Process

EFTA is managing the recruitment for this position. All applications are submitted through the LHIP Application Page (<https://latinoheritageintern.org/>). Applications must be received by 11:55 MST on **February 7, 2021**. Top candidates will be selected for interviews in late February and early March. Placement decisions and assignments will generally be made during the month of March. For more information about this fellowship, contact Dalia Dorta at ddorta@environmentamericas.org.