From previous interns

"I worked with facility management and housing to coordinate annual fire and life safety inspections of park buildings. Throughout the course of my internship, I completed or accounted for over 300 inspections in park buildings. I had the opportunity to hike out to our backcountry trail and patrol cabins to inspect them and bring new portable fire extinguishers to these outlying buildings. I had an incredible summer and gained a huge appreciation for how much work goes into keeping the parks beautiful and safe."

-Max Worley - Grand Teton National Park, WY

"I worked on a historic building report to assess the fire and life safety features of the Old Orchard Museum and provide recommendations for improvements. This structure was built in 1938 and was the home of Theodore Roosevelt Junior and his family. I completed a similar report on the Old Mastic House at Fire Island, the home of William Floyd - a signer of the Declaration of Independence - and his family for eight generations. The original portion of the house dates to circa 1730. I had a great summer working for the National Park Service. Through this internship I had many opportunities to expand my skills and knowledge of structural fire protection by working with my supervisors at the parks and work virtually with structural fire protection staff at the regional and national levels."

-Madeleine Gurecki - Sagamore Hill National Historic Site and Fire Island National Seashore, NY

I conducted monthly inspections of portable fire extinguishers, created inventory manifests for them, performed some cost analyses on the differences between replacement versus hydrostatic testing of extinguishers, and more. I also drew up fire evacuation plans for essential buildings of the park in AutoCAD. Through both of these projects, I've learned National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Code Council codes and standards."

-Stephen Davis - Death Valley National Park, CA

Read more stories at https://go.nps.gov/sfpi

Eligibility

Eligible students have completed their third year of fire protection engineering, fire administration, or fire, arson, or explosion investigation studies, or have entered a master's program in those degrees.

Interns will have a chance to take their classroom knowledge and skills to a unique workplace with irreplaceable historic structures.

Throughout the summer, interns will have the support of a supervisor and a regional structural fire marshal to review their work and provide subject matter expertise.

Additionally, interns will have access to a fire protection engineer who can provide mentoring and advice.

The NPS Structural Fire Program recruits interns through the Student Conservation Association (SCA).

Apply now!

Apply via https://go.nps.gov/sf-internship or use the QR Code below:



A product of the National Park Service
Fire Communication and Education Program
Telling the story of fire and aviation in the national parks

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Structural Fire Program

National Park Service Structural Fire Protection Internship Program

Live and work for a summer in a national park, while gaining unparalleled experience and protecting America's treasures



March 2025

Experience America's national treasures while protecting them

Ever thought about spending your summer in a stunning or iconic place, while making a difference?

The National Park Service, in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), is offering 10-week internships to students seeking degrees in fire protection engineering, fire protection administration, or fire investigation.

Why apply

As a structural fire protection intern, you'll tackle real-world challenges faced for both historic and modern structures within our national parks. Your main task will be conducting detailed fire protection reviews of historic buildings or those housing valuable collections. You'll research fire code requirements, assess current fire risks, and make recommendations to protect people, property, and priceless museum objects better in the future.

Additionally, interns may complete the following at their assigned parks:

- Develop fire inspection programs and identify buildings that need special attention.
- Create evacuation plans: Help keep everyone safe with effective evacuation strategies in the event of a structure fire.
- Assist with fire protection systems: Work on plans for inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM).
- Conduct training workshops: Teach others how to use portable fire extinguishers effectively.
- Launch fire hydrant programs: Set up inspections and flow tests for fire hydrants.
- Establish hot work permit programs: Ensure safe practices in construction and maintenance.
- Review construction plans: Evaluate plans for new buildings within the park.

Each park will tailor your experience to fit their specific needs, making this a truly unique opportunity!

This is not just an internship; it's your chance to learn, grow, and make a difference. Join us in preserving America's historic and cultural treasures!

Since its start in summer 2012, over 100 students have gained hands-on work experience in their field of choice. These students are encouraged to continue work in the structural fire field and may eventually work for the National Park Service.

Benefits

- Weekly living allowance
- One-time, round-trip travel allowance
- Eligibility for Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
- Free housing provided by the park



Structural fire protection intern working at Kalapaupa National Historical Park in Hawai'i. NPS



Structural fire intern on the National Mall in Washington D.C. inspects fireworks prior to the Independence Day celebration. NPS/R CASTILLO

Where will you be assigned?

Though it varies from year to year, past interns have been placed in over 80 different national park units, including:

- Bryce Canyon National Park, UT
- Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM
- Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, PA
- Glacier National Park, MT
- Grand Teton National Park, WY
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN/NC
- Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, HI
- Keweenaw National Historical Park, MI
- Mount Rainier National Park, WA
- National Mall and Memorial Parks, Washington D.C.
- National Interagency Fire Center
- Petrified Forest National Park, AZ
- Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
- Shenandoah National Park, VA
- Wind Cave National Park, SD
- Yosemite National Park, CA