



# Position Description

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**Type of Position:** LINKS AmeriCorps Member

**Service Dates:** June 11 - September 7, 2010

**Length of Term:** 40 hours/week, including evenings and weekends (450 hours total)

**Interviews:** Applicants are interviewed & placed on an on-going basis until positions are filled. Interviews are underway.

**Application Deadline:** April 15, 2010

**Position Title:** Interpretive Naturalist

**Project Sponsor:** Joseph H. Stewart State Park - Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Sponsoring Organization's Mission:** The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is to provide and protect Oregon's outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

**Project Location:** Joseph H. Stewart State Park, 35251 Hwy 62, Trail, OR 97541

**Transportation Information:** No alternative public transportation available down the Hwy 62 corridor. It is necessary that the applicant have a car or be able to car pool to the work location. A state vehicle will be provided for transportation while on duty.

**Position Summary:** The Joseph Stewart State Park Interpretive Naturalist will deliver daily Junior Ranger programs and weekend evening programs, assist in advertising events and programs, revise older, existing programs to relate to environmental education themes and Oregon Education Benchmarks, and develop new interpretive experiences (guided walks, kayak tours, etc.). The position offers an opportunity to increase your knowledge of southern Oregon's flora and fauna, and to expand your presentation skills while engaging the public in learning more themselves. Through your interpretive programs, you will have the opportunity to influence how visitors view the natural world around them and cultural history of the region.

## **General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):**

1. Primary work duties are to deliver Junior Ranger and evening park programs. This consists of maintaining contact with guest presenters, assistance in advertising events and programs, and working with hosts and/or other volunteers with the delivery of programs.
2. Develop guided nature and history walks, park bicycle tours, kayak tour logistics planning and implementation (researching sources for equipment and exploring program themes), answer visitor questions regarding the park's natural and historic resources.
3. Assist with the continuance of a blossoming partnership with the BLM Environmental Outreach staff at the McGregor Visitors Center, 3 miles from park location.
4. Prepare outreach flyers and other notices to attract visitors to programs.
5. Record program attendance, maintain and update files and compile other statistical data.
6. Complete and submit all necessary LINKS AmeriCorps Program paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
7. Attend and complete LINKS AmeriCorps Program orientation and enrollment session.
8. Wear an appropriate LINKS identifier and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

## **Requirements:**

1. Strong background in natural resource education and/or field experience
2. Good public speaking skills
3. Ability to work with a wide variety of people (children to adults)
4. Self-motivated
5. Strong interest or passion in outdoor activities (hiking, rock climbing, hunting, fishing)
6. Computer skills; desktop publishing, word processing, spreadsheets
7. May travel overnight to other parks, headquarters or other agency facilities for training and meetings.
8. LINKS members must be at least 17 years of age at the time of enrollment in the program.
9. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
10. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
11. Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
12. Submit to a criminal history background check and National Sex Offender Registry search.
13. Regular and reliable attendance.

## **Preferred Qualifications:**

1. Coursework in principles of public interpretation/communication desirable.

2. Prefer that candidate has or is pursuing a degree in interpretive services, environmental education, or recreational natural resources.

**Supervision:**

- Orientation and introduction to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department will occur upon arrival.
- Junior Ranger and Core Interpretive Training provided – June 14-18, 2010.
- Park orientation and introduction to living quarters provided upon arrival to work site
- An initial meeting will set up target goals and establish learning objectives; soon thereafter the LINKS AmeriCorps member will have time to familiarize him/herself with the park's "interpretive notebook" and other program materials
- Weekly meetings with programs hosts and park ranger to discuss issues, needs and plans.
- Daily mentoring/coaching and mid-season evaluation provided by park ranger
- An end-of-season evaluation will be provided by Park Manager with an opportunity for feedback.
- Final AmeriCorps report of position accomplishments will be submitted at end of term.

**Workspace/Tools/Resources:**

- Shared desk in office and computer outfitted with standard software package, e-mail and Internet access with high speed connection; loaner laptop available for research and work-related activities
- Copiers and office supplies are at the visitors office, programs are stored in kits in the maintenance shop and a variety of periodicals, field guides and outdoor education handbooks are stored in the ranger office and available for program development.
- Audio-visual media equipment (projectors, amplifiers, microphones, etc.) are available at the shop break room for programs.
- Program area within the campground provides a screen for slides, power, lighting, and public seating.
- The AmeriCorps member will share the use of a Gator or other state vehicle for transport within park grounds.
- Interpretive Manual, Junior Ranger Manual and OPRD Interpretive Feedback Form

**Member Benefits Include:**

- A taxable living allowance of \$3,018 divided into monthly increments.
- Housing consists of a rustic cabin situated a few miles from the campground along the Upper Rogue River. Cabin may be shared by a seasonal occupant. Water, sewer, and electricity is provided. The Cabin has a restroom with shower, a kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms. Drinking water is delivered weekly. Grounds offer adequate parking. A full hookup site is also found at this location.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$1,250. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or for trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay a portion of the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Professional development in thematic interpretation, a full week of Junior Ranger and Core training, Verbal Judo training provided.

**How to apply:**

**Step 1** - Email your résumé to [links.recruitment@esd112.org](mailto:links.recruitment@esd112.org) and to [jill.nishball@state.or.us](mailto:jill.nishball@state.or.us)

**Step 2** - Complete your application online at the AmeriCorps website. [AmeriCorps Application](#)

1. If you do not already have a username and password, you must create a profile. [Create A Profile](#)
2. Once you have created a profile, log in and complete an application by clicking "Applications" under the "My AmeriCorps" menu.
3. To apply to this specific position, click "Search Listings" under the "My AmeriCorps" menu and search for program name **LINKS**.
4. Select the position listing and click "Apply Now" at the bottom of the page.

**Questions about the project?**

**Contact:** Steve Hernandez, Park Ranger at: 541-560-3334 or [steve.hernandez@state.or.us](mailto:steve.hernandez@state.or.us)

**Questions about AmeriCorps, LINKS or our recruitment process?****Contact:**

Erika Johnson

LINKS

2500 NE 65th Ave

Vancouver, WA 98661

p 360) 750-7500 x 114

f 360) 360-694-2491

[links.recruitment@esd112.org](mailto:links.recruitment@esd112.org)

**Unable to Apply On-line?** Click here: <http://www.esd112.org/links/resources.html>.

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