



2021 National Trails System Intern Grants

Overview:

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)—in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service—will offer National Trail System Intern Grants of up to \$10,000 to Federal agency partners and PNTS nonprofit trail organization and affiliate members in 2021. These grants are intended to help organizations offset the costs of paid internships to provide a pathway for young adult involvement with national trails and to enable them to explore potential careers options with government and nonprofit groups supporting the National Trails System.

National Trail System Intern Grants are intended to:

- strengthen the capacity of the organizations and agencies that administer and manage the national scenic and historic trails;
- provide a pathway for young adults to become involved with national historic and scenic trails;
- enable young adults to explore potential careers options with government and nonprofit groups supporting the National Trails System; and,
- provide young adults experience working with trail administrators and managers.

Nonprofit and Federal agency partnerships are strongly encouraged, such that the two entities work together to create internship opportunities.

About the Grant Program

Goals

- Provide young adults the opportunity to learn soft and hard skills transferable to future employment.
- Increase diversity and youth involvement within the National Trails System.
- Increase the capacity of PNTS member organizations and Federal agencies partners.
- Increase public awareness of the National Trails System and its component trails.
- Accomplish projects, programs, or activities that further development, interpretation, protection, or public awareness of individual national scenic and historic trails and the National Trails System.
- Educate young adults on the National Trails System.

Program Objectives

PNTS will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to support interns working on national scenic and historic trails.

Grantees will develop internship opportunities that:

- include opportunities to learn about both nonprofit organizations and government agencies, which will help interns to determine long-term career paths;

- allow for a greater understanding of and appreciation for our public lands, cultural, historic, scenic, and natural resources; particularly those that lie along the National Trails System, and that accomplish actions to further the protection of these resources and development of their trail; and/or
- form relationships with their local communities as they relate to trail history, recreational access, and healthy lifestyles.

When appropriate, grant applicants will be encouraged to partner with groups outside of the PNTS to expand their reach for interns.

Requirements

- Internship must take place between January 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.
- Internship opportunities must target young adults between the ages of 16-35 (please consider hiring authority, agency, and age ranges depending on the scope of project) with an interest in public lands, communications, community and youth outreach, place-based education, interpretation and storytelling, or any combination thereof.
- Applicants must provide a 1:1 match (in-kind or financial) equal to the amount of money requested. In-kind contributions may include office space, electronic equipment, and vehicle usage when appropriate.
- A specific supervisor must be named for each intern opportunity.
- Each grant application must be agreed upon by the main national scenic or historic trail nonprofit partner and Federal agency trail administering partner through submission of a letter of support.
- A maximum amount of 10% overhead may be requested (nonprofit partners only).
- Quarterly reports and a follow-up report of each internship will be required from both the intern and organization/agency mentor. The report must include a detailed description of the project in addition to the following items: project accomplishments (ex., number of sites monitored, miles of trail built, partners engaged, youth engaged, etc.), community impact, detailed description of project.

Application Information

Guidelines

Up to one Intern Grant will be awarded for each scenic and historic trail. An organization or agency may apply for multiple interns as long as each represents one trail or, in certain cases, multiple trails. For example, the National Trails Intermountain Region Office represents many trails and therefore may apply for multiple interns as long as each intern represents one or various trails. In the event that full grant amounts have not been awarded, organizations and agencies will then be allowed to apply for additional interns for each trail.

Review Criteria

Each grant application component will be scored based on a scale of 1-5 (5 strongly meets requirements; 1 meets requirements), and additional points will be given for financial matches:

- 181% - 200%+ match = 5
- 161% - 180% match = 4
- 141% - 160% match = 3
- 121% - 140% match = 2
- 100% - 120% match = 1

To Apply: Applications and supporting documents may be submitted [online](#). Please make sure that you attach the Financial Worksheet and Letter of Support to your Application before submitting it online.

- [Application](#)
- [Budget Worksheet](#)
- Letter of support from the main national scenic or historic trail nonprofit partner and Federal agency trail administering partner for the trail the Intern Grant will support

Note: We suggest that you prepare the response to your application in a document and then paste your responses into the online form to submit it.

Application Period:

October 30 - November 26, 2020

Grants Awarded:

December 31, 2020

Questions:

Please include "Intern Grants" in the subject line to a admin@pnts.org.

Funding for this opportunity is provided by the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, and the Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service.



Example Partnership Opportunities

We encourage your organization or agency to explore local and regional partnerships, when appropriate, for internship opportunities. In addition to the national organizations listed below, please consider municipalities and state program partnership possibilities.

[Greening Youth Foundation](#)

GYF recruits, trains, and exposes 16- to 25-year-old diverse youth and young adults to conservation and preservation careers through internships, work crews, and special projects on Federal partner sites. The high quality of GYF youth recruits came from some of its educational program high schools, its strong partnerships with historically black colleges and universities, 4-year university and community college partners, and similar youth-focused organization partners.

[AmeriCorps](#)

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, State, and national service programs engage more than 80,000 Americans in

projects around the nation each year. Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance for service and health care. Part-time positions may provide a living allowance or they may not. All AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service also receive an AmeriCorps Education Award.

Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) deploys thousands of young people who care passionately about improving their natural world. They put them to work in our parks and public lands and urban green spaces to make improvements and learn conservation and sustainability practices. SCA teaches them how to plan, enact, and lead, all while making a tangible impact in conservation. SCA members range from age 15 to young adults and are high school and college students, or recent graduates interested in green careers.

American Conservation Experience (EPIC Program)

ACE EPIC Internships and Fellowships program provide recent graduates with focused, hands-on opportunities to work alongside and under the guidance of agency mentors and to apply their knowledge of resource management on actual projects and programs as they develop and emerge as the next generation of resource and land managers. ACE EPIC operates in coalition with partners such as the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and other conservation focused groups to place interns within the operating structure of these organizations. Within the agencies and organizations, interns gain practical experience, implement the principles of managing public lands, and continue learning under the guidance of experienced agency mentors as they develop into the next generation of natural resource managers.

Mobilize Green

Mobilize Green (MG) believes that young people can help solve the world's most pressing economic, environmental, and social equity challenges. They can help rebuild our economy on a cleaner, greener, and more just foundation. MG offers paid internship opportunities for current college students or recent graduates. Interns receive hands-on training solving real-world natural resource management, sustainability, or environmental challenges.