

Seasonal Interpretive Internship
Two positions are available for the 2024 season
4/29/24 - 10/20/24
\$14.15 / hr + housing

Overview:

Are you looking for a position to kickstart your career in natural resource interpretation? Baxter State Park is pleased to invite applications for two Interpretive Intern positions for the 2024 season! This position provides a diverse range of epic experiences and learning opportunities in a vast and beautiful wilderness setting. Home to moose, black bears, brook trout, rare alpine plants, and both Maine's tallest mountain, Katahdin, as well as the state's tallest volcanic mountain, the Traveler, Baxter State Park is a haven for those who are adventurous, outdoorsy, and hungry to learn and teach about the natural world.

Principle Responsibilities:

- Performing informal interpretation/education for visitors on Katahdin's alpine tablelands, along trails, at campgrounds, at the Visitor Center, and in other designated high use areas in the Park
- Delivering interpretive programs in the Park
- Developing new and/or maintaining or updating existing interpretive handouts, signage, and displays based on educational needs around the Park
- Assisting with invasive species identification, monitoring, and eradication
- Participating in ongoing natural resource monitoring efforts, such as alpine plant phenology tracking and an annual loon count

Typical Training/Education Provided (Subject to Availability):

- Wilderness Advanced First Aid
- Leave No Trace training
- Alpine plant identification workshop
- On-the-job training on the Park's natural and cultural resources

Requirements:

- Ability to regularly complete strenuous hikes with a heavy backpack (including multiple consecutive day trips, rocky terrain, and large elevation changes)
- Hike up to and spend multiple hours in alpine zones in late spring, summer, and early fall on a weekly basis
- Speak in public and initiate one-on-one conversations with Park visitors (training will be provided).

- Have a valid driver's license and personal vehicle adequate for travel on the Park's gravel roads (mileage will be reimbursed)
- Work a non-standard work week (40 hrs per week), including weekends and holidays

Desired Qualities:

- A passion for natural resources and wilderness protection
- Eagerness to work at a physically demanding job, often in inclement weather
- Ability and willingness to live in rustic shared housing in a remote situation without electricity or cell phone service
- Enthusiasm for learning about the natural history and resources of Baxter State Park, and a strong interest in sharing this knowledge with others
- Strong people skills, including being outgoing and friendly
- Previous experience in interpreting natural resources, public speaking, working with youth and public audiences, stewarding natural areas, backpacking, and/or working in a wilderness environment
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively with fellow employees, supervisors, and management
- Competent research and writing skills, including keeping track of source materials and adapting feedback between drafts
- Creativity, resourcefulness, and flexibility
- Enrollment in or completion of a degree in environmental studies, natural resource management, outdoor recreation, or a related field
- Availability for the entire length of the internship

Additional Information

Successful applicants will develop their professional skills with a mixture of both field and office work, including participating in mountain patrols up to Katahdin's tablelands every week, performing morning talks at Katahdin trailheads between 6 and 8 a.m., and researching, designing, and presenting their own interpretive program. All of these requirements can be challenging, but they are also incredibly rewarding experiences: Katahdin is an 8-12 hour hike up steep terrain and large granite boulders, but the views of the surrounding landscape are unmatched; interpretive programs require long hours of dedicated research, writing, revising, and practice, but they offer the unique opportunity to foster the public's interest in conservation and natural resources, and are highly fulfilling when a participant sees the natural world in a new way.

Interns can expect to live in provided dorm style housing with up to 8 housemates. Bathrooms are shared, but bedrooms are private. All appliances are run by propane, and while there is hot running water, it is not potable. There is no electricity, wifi, or cell service throughout most of the Park, though interns can check in with the outside world in various "phone booths." The nearest grocery store is roughly a 45 minute drive from Park housing.

Encompassing over 200,000 acres of land and boasting 220+ miles of trails, 50+ mountains, and 60+ ponds and lakes, Baxter State Park offers nearly limitless possibilities for adventure in one's off-time. Whether your hobbies include fishing, hiking, paddling, photography, or just lying in a grassy field and reading, there's a place for you here at Baxter State Park!

To Apply:

Submit the following to Cassandra Knudsen at cassandra.knudsen@baxterstatepark.org

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Contact information for 3 references
- Written responses to the supplemental questions below

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, 2/04/24. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis before then.

Supplemental Questions:

1. Why do you want to be an Interpretive Intern at Baxter State Park?
2. You will be required to research, design, and perform at least one hour-long interpretive program for the general public. What is a specific facet of the Park's history or natural resources that you have a strong passion for learning more about and believe you could talk about with enthusiasm (i.e. amphibians, wetlands, trees, campground histories, etc.)? Why do you want to learn more about this subject in particular?
3. This job requires spending a great deal of time outdoors, often in inclement weather and sometimes alone with a radio. What previous experience do you have in a wilderness setting?
4. What qualities will you bring to this position that will set you apart from other candidates?
5. What do you hope to gain from this experience?