



**Office:** St. George Field Office

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:** L23AS00247

**Project Submission Dates and Times:** (GMO will enter)

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**Project Title:** St. George Field Office Public Land Corps Youth Recreation Internship Opportunity

**Maximum Available Funding in FY23:** \$50,000

BLM has determined \$600 weekly stipend equal to \$15.00 per hour (to include Fringe and benefits) is reasonable.

**Project Background Information:** The St. George Field Office (SGFO) manages approximately 629,000 acres of public lands, including two National Conservation Areas and 15 designated Wilderness units, in Washington County, Utah. The county has one of the fastest growing populations in nation, with new residents moving to the area because of its scenic qualities, mild climate, and strong economy. Residents and visitors enjoy being able to participate in outdoor recreation activities on public lands nearly year-round. For these reasons, the SGFO's Outdoor Recreation Management Program is a busy and complex program that manages designated non-motorized and motorized trails, two developed fee site campgrounds, and more than 125 commercial and competitive Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) that authorize the use of public lands for diverse recreational uses.

**Project Objective:** This project would introduce one Public Land Corps associate to a potential career in public service in Outdoor Recreation Management, through an internship opportunity. The SGFO has three Outdoor Recreation Planners and four Park Rangers on staff who can provide mentoring and hands on work experiences in all aspects of Outdoor Recreation Management, including legal and regulatory compliance, facilities design and construction, management of National Conservation Areas, Wilderness units, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and processing, tracking, and monitoring of SRPs. This project will enhance basic career skills, such as workload organization, written and oral communication, and field skills, including orienteering, geo-spatial data collection, using and preparing maps, collecting monitoring data, and preparing reports based on monitoring data. Throughout the project, the intern will learn about public lands and their natural and cultural resource values, and are likely to become life-long advocates for these values. This project would be particularly beneficial for a graduate student working on advanced degrees in Outdoor Recreation, Public Lands Administration, Interpretation, or related fields.

**Work Schedule:** One year, full time, Monday-Friday, generally 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., with occasional weekend work required. Three years of funding at this same level anticipated, with flexible start date.

**Qualification Requirements:** This funding opportunity is suitable for Public Land Corps associates who are working on undergraduate or graduate degrees in Outdoor Recreation Management or related fields. Some of the project work will require field work that is physically strenuous, under highly variable temperature and weather conditions, and in remote areas. The intern must be able to drive a 4x4 vehicle, may be required to operate a UTV, must hold a current, valid state driver's license, and must be able to pass a DOI security background check.

**Housing:** Agency cannot provide housing, housing stipend may be considered.

**Vehicle Needs:** The BLM will provide vehicles for project field work. A personal vehicle is needed for transportation within the St. George metropolitan area, as the public bus system is currently limited to a specific number of routes within the City of St. George and does not provide service to cities and towns in other areas of Washington County.

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**Other Project Considerations:**

The BLM will provide office space in the St. George Field Office, a laptop, desk phone, GPS unit, camera, other supplies and equipment needed to support the office and field work.

Training Requirements: The BLM will provide or facilitate the completion of any training needed to support the internship, such as Defensive Driving, Basic First Aid, Orienteering, etc.

Travel: Not anticipated, except to complete field work within Washington County.

**Duties:**

Project work will be conducted in the St. George Field Office, currently located in the Interagency Public Lands Information Center in St. George, Utah and in the field, on public lands in Washington County. The intern will assist the SGFO Outdoor Recreation Planners and Park Rangers with work associated with the Outdoor Recreation Program, the Wilderness Management Program, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, and the Special Recreation Permit processing and administration. Field work will consist of the monitoring and data collection in Wilderness areas and along Wild and Scenic Rivers, patrols and visitor contacts in developed campgrounds and dispersed camping areas, patrols of trails and trailheads and minor repair and maintenance of trail treads, markers, and signs. Office work will include the preparation of monitoring reports, map preparation using GIS, and assisting with the processing of SRP applications, the compilation and organization of SRP-related documents, and data entry into an Access-type data base.

**BLM's Involvement:** The intern will be mentored by the SGFO Outdoor Recreation Planners and Park Rangers, working closely with the selected individual on the office and field work to be completed. Other BLM resource professionals, including Biologists, Archeologists, and Law Enforcement Rangers, will provide information about the natural and cultural resources of the SGFO and the legal and regulatory requirements for the management of the public lands and their resource values.

**BLM Program Contact:**

Field PO Name Robert Wells

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**Applicants are encouraged to refer to the full program announcement number L23AS00247 posted on Grants.gov for all program requirements and applicable terms and conditions. Recipients selected for awards will be required to adhere to those requirements should an award be made.**