



Student Conservation Association Conservation Interns



Get Results Today... *and* Train Your Workforce of Tomorrow

Skilled, smart and driven, SCA conservation interns are a potent solution for any resource manager with a lot to accomplish on a limited budget.

SCA interns are the fast and reliable way to gear up for important projects, conduct time-consuming research, and supplement staffs during peak season. And these young, welcoming and diverse faces are perfect for any visitor services role.

Whatever your needs or requirements, let SCA put its powerful, nationwide recruiting network to work for you. We'll locate, screen and recommend qualified intern candidates with the experience and educational backgrounds that match your job criteria. All you have to do is make a selection and put them to work.

SCA interns have proven their mettle at every turn in every capacity—that's why so many are hired on as professional staff. You likely have SCA alumni working at your site now. Fulfilling your objectives and transforming young lives: conservation interns are the ultimate win-win!

For energized performance and superior results, there's no better choice than SCA—the leader in youth service and stewardship for nearly 60 years.

SCA Conservation Interns

Position lengths range from 8 weeks to 12 months

Interns are available throughout the year

Disciplines include:

- Biology
- Botany
- Climate Change
- Fisheries
- GIS/GPS
- Interpretation
- Trail Construction
- Visitor Services
- Wildland Fire Mitigation
- Wildlife Management
- See inside for more

Top 5 Intern Majors:

- Environmental Studies
- Biology
- History
- Geography
- Wildlife Management

SCA Intern Profile

- 61% are 21-24 years old
- 58% are female, 42% male
- 55% are current college students
- 38% hold an undergrad degree

Every year, thousands of SCA interns help conservation professionals like you succeed in meeting their resource management objectives. Here are just a few examples of the roles and responsibilities that SCA interns can perform for you:



Backcountry Trail

At Lake Clark National Park, SCA interns construct and maintain hiking trails to provide safe, sound and enjoyable routes of travel for the public while protecting wilderness, natural and cultural resources. It's hard work in a harsh environment, but these interns are up to the challenge of clearing blow-downs, installing rock steps and retaining walls, constructing turnpikes, and anything else that's needed. Interns also rehab social trails in impacted areas of the taiga forest and alpine tundra.

Botany

The endangered sentry milk-vetch was known to grow in only three small sites along the Grand Canyon's South Rim—until an SCA botany intern played a key role in establishing the first-ever ex situ population in the park's greenhouse, pollinating the tiny flower by hand. Since then, other interns have advanced the project, cultivating and transplanting hundreds of greenhouse-grown milk-vetch and seeds. Interns also assist with high elevation desert restoration, seed collection, irrigation installation and maintenance, greenhouse and shade-house management, and rare plant research.

Climate Change

SCA interns propelled North Cascades National Park's Climate Friendly Park (CFP) Action Plan by working across divisions to assist park staff in reducing the site's carbon footprint. Interns researched actions identified in the CFP Plan, provided recommendations and cost estimates

for implementation, quantified emission reductions of proposed and completed actions, and gathered data and prepared evaluations of park performance for quarterly and annual reporting. They also assessed sustainable products and technologies for park use, developed staff and visitor educational materials, and authored related articles for the park's website and newsletters.

Education and Outreach

To help engage area school children at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage, AK, the Bureau of Land Management relies on SCA interns to plan and present outdoor educational programs, create new curricula, produce engaging videos and web presentations, and coordinate special events. As a result, more students are invested in their local environment than ever before. In addition, several SCA members have joined the Center's staff upon completing their internships—a testament to their ample skills and dedication.

Endangered Species

SCA's field biologist intern at Fire Island National Seashore supports all the site's natural resource monitoring programs through fieldwork, data collection, management and analyses. The intern monitors threatened and endangered species, primarily Piping Plovers and Least Terns, in a barrier island system by observing unfledged broods and searching for endangered shorebirds and their nests. The intern also builds public use closures and predator exclosures to protect shorebird nests, and assists researchers from various academic institutions.

GPS/GIS

In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, SCA interns travel by foot, mountain bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles to complete comprehensive route inventories. Interns collect data with a GPS device and enter and attribute the data into ArcMap GIS while noting areas of concern for invasive weeds, water quality, fisheries and wildlife habitat. This information is vital for state officials charged with creating a travel management plan.

Habitat Restoration

Teams of SCA interns monitor, preserve and repair fragile habitats in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of Southern California in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and the California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. Participants use native materials to restore and disguise unauthorized OHV routes, and their work deters further incursions—prompting BLM officials to credit SCA teams with “rewriting the book on desert restoration.” Interns also educate local users and community members on desert conservation.

Interpretation and Visitor Services

At Minute Man National Historical Park, SCA interpretive interns bring the American Revolution to life. They forge intellectual as well as emotional connections with park visitors by sharing the history of the iconic North Bridge, leading visitors on tours of battlefields, and providing 18th century weapons demonstrations as period characters in living history dress. Other responsibilities include staffing the information desk, conducting research into the era’s customs and economics, and providing roving contact with members of the public.

Invasive Species

In Iowa, interns work in a joint partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State Department of Natural Resources around Coralville Lake, creating maps of infested areas, engaging adjacent homeowner associations in identifying and eradicating invasive species on private land, organizing and managing volunteer groups in invasive species management, and presenting interpretive programs regarding exotic plants. Interns also conduct timber stand improvement (TSI) projects, monitor and maintain wildlife habitat boxes, and assist Iowa state officials with implementing Forestry Stewardship and Ecosystem Management Plans.

Recreation Support

Interns maintain campgrounds and trailheads while educating visitors on Leave No Trace principles to protect the natural integrity of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, one of the nation’s most-visited. Working with the forest’s Recreation Division, these SCA members also service a number of dispersed visitor sites and capture user data to minimize impact on the land and the Skykomish watershed.

Sustainability Initiatives

In a project with impact across a broad geography, specially-trained interns aided the City of Pittsburgh and key regional stakeholders in conducting a citywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory that included data from municipal, business, residential, industrial, transportation, and other emissions. Interns updated Pittsburgh’s Climate Action Plan, coordinated community and media outreach for the city’s Office of Sustainability, and assisted municipal officials in managing their role as co-convenor of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative.

Wildland Fire Mitigation

At Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, SCA interns are at the core of a strategy to protect the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Participants arrive with their Red Cards and implement controlled burns to mimic the natural fires that historically burned through the area every few years, suppressing the growth of hardwood trees and creating the open habitat preferred by the at-risk woodpeckers and many other native animals and plants. Interns also conduct forest inventories and assist with environmental education and fire prevention events.

Wildlife Management

SCA interns extend the capacity of wildlife biologists at White River National Forest by completing goshawk and owl nest searches, bighorn sheep and mountain goat surveys, lynx habitat evaluation and more. In addition, they perform aquatic research involving electro-shocking native fish, collecting insect samples and conducting boreal toad inventories. Interns not only cover a lot of ground, they free up staff to pursue other priorities.



SCA CASE STUDY: Yellowstone Geothermal Database

Yellowstone National Park is renowned for sights such as Old Faithful, Tower Falls, and herds of bison. Yet Yellowstone is also home to other attributes that were far more difficult to see. Until now.

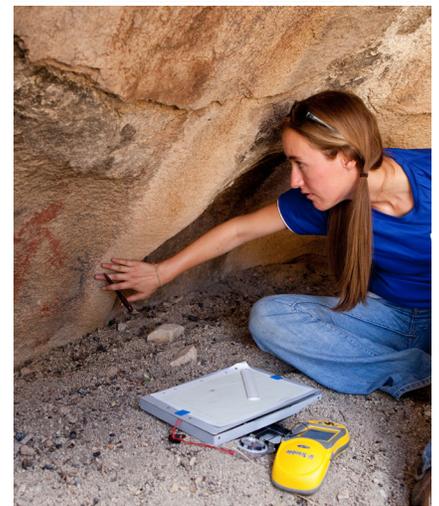
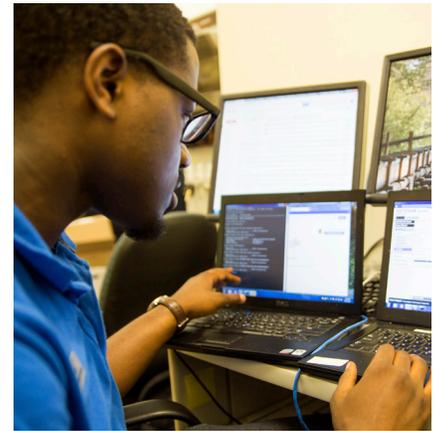
SCA interns have completed an exhaustive inventory of the park's myriad geothermal features. Interns converted the accumulated data into a geographic information system (GIS), captured photos and pH measurements, gauged electro-conductivity, and recorded average temperatures of nearly 200°F to provide a snapshot of each individual feature.

The result is the first-ever Yellowstone Geothermal Database. Park cartographic technician Carrie Guiles estimates SCA members compiled up to 90% of the database and notes more than 650 new microbial species have been discovered as a result.

Scientists have used the data to advance the human genome project. A newfound bacterium may one day consume carbon dioxide from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants. And NASA is scouring the information to learn how life may exist under extreme conditions on distant planets.

Guiles herself worked on the project as an SCA intern at the early stages of her career and knows the value of the interns' contributions as well as the intern experience.

"My SCA internship set me on a different path," she states. And thanks to Guiles and dozens of other SCA interns, the course of conserving Yellowstone National Park has been altered as well.



SCA Interns are a hassle-free solution as we provide you with:

- Pre-qualified intern applicants
- Complete admin and site support

SCA also provides the intern with numerous benefits including:

- Round-trip travel and weekly living allowance
- Liability and 24-hour accident insurance coverage, plus Health insurance for positions over 16 weeks
- AmeriCorps Education Awards (as available, for eligible interns)

All you provide is intern housing, training and supervision, and project funding.

Join SCA in connecting America's young people to our greatest natural and cultural assets and building the next generation of conservation leaders.

"My SCA experience has inspired me to dedicate my future career to protecting our planet."

– Jaya Ghosh, SCA alumna

"I don't know of another program that so consistently offers such a meaningful and cost-effective experience for both the partner and the intern."

For more information on internships, costs or agreements, please contact:

Or visit our website at
thesca.org/partners