

Call for BLM Project Proposals for the GeoCorps America Program, Fall/Winter 2011-2012 Season

Date: February 9, 2011

Subject: BLM GeoCorps Intern Program Proposals – Fall/Winter 2011-2012

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2011 (firm deadline)

About the GeoCorps America Intern Program

The Geological Society of America's (GSA) GeoCorps America Program is a cost-share internship program between GSA, the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The program matches highly qualified interns with geoscience projects proposed by federal land managers. The GSA advertises the projects to over 22,000 geoscientists, including undergraduate and graduate students, professionals, and retirees. In special cases, GSA brings "seasoned geoscientists" into the program to assist with higher level projects. The BLM has participated in the program since 2006.

Since 2010, GeoCorps America has now been running twice every year: the Summer term will include internship projects which begin in the spring and summer months, and the Fall/Winter term will cover the remainder of the year. Summer projects generally run between May and September, and Fall/Winter projects generally run between September and May.

Proposals for Fall/Winter 2011-2012 GeoCorps projects must be submitted by BLM land managers by April 1, 2011. Proposed projects must be a minimum of three months in duration, though longer projects of up to a year will be considered. Projects may focus on geology, hydrogeology, paleontology, mapping, GIS, minerals, soils, glaciology, geo-hazards, karst, geoscience interpretation/education, or archaeology. Interns receive a work stipend and on-site housing (or a housing allowance if no on-site housing is available).

The overall program cost for each three-month GeoCorps intern is \$5,500 plus housing costs. Up to ten proposed projects within National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) units will be selected to receive matching funds from GSA and the Washington Office (WO) NLCS (see below for additional cost information). The hosting unit office is responsible for any cost not covered by either the GSA or the WO NLCS.

A BLM cooperative agreement must be in place with GSA in order to participate in this program. Several states have existing GeoCorps cooperative agreements. Interested land managers should check with their State Office Grants and Agreement Office to determine if there is an existing cooperative agreement.

Visit www.geosociety.org/geocorps for additional information about the GeoCorps program. Click the "Positions" tab to view current/recent GeoCorps projects. For more information on how to get involved and submit a project proposal, visit: https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/mygc.htm and click the "Land Managers" link.

GeoCorps Program Costs

- The overall program cost for each three-month GeoCorps intern project is \$5,500 plus housing costs.

- The BLM provides on-site housing or an additional housing allowance if housing is not provided on-site. For most project sites, this housing allowance is \$1,500 per intern for a three-month project. For projects taking place in California, Alaska, and DC the housing allowance is \$2,000 due to higher housing costs. For example, the total cost for a three-month project in Montana would be \$5,500 if on-site housing is provided and \$7,000 if on-site housing is not provided.
- For information on the cost of intern projects lasting more than three months (but no more than one year), please contact Matt Dawson, GSA GeoCorps Program Officer, at mdawson@geosociety.org or Marietta Eaton, BLM GeoCorps Coordinator, at marietta_eaton@blm.gov.
- At the end of the summer, GSA will invoice the BLM hosting office for the program cost and housing allowance (where on-site housing has not been provided) of summer positions.
- GSA is responsible for all administrative work regarding the program, including the application process and sending stipend payment and housing allowance checks to participants.

NLCS Units

GSA and WO NLCS will provide matching funds for up to 10 projects taking place within NLCS units. Managers whose proposed summer projects have been selected to receive these funds will be notified by November 20, 2009.

- GSA will provide a 1:1 match (i.e. \$2,750) for the selected NLCS projects; BLM will provide the additional \$2,750, plus housing costs.
- WO NLCS will provide the following cost share funds to selected NLCS projects:
 - If BLM provides housing for a three-month project, the WO NLCS will provide \$1,375 in matching funds per project. Each participating NLCS office will need to obligate the remaining \$1,375 in program costs.
 - If there is no BLM housing provided for a three-month project, the WO NLCS will also contribute half of the housing allowance cost. For most project locations WO NLCS will provide \$750 in matching funds toward the \$1,500 housing allowance, for a total of \$2,125 per intern. For California, Alaska, and DC WO NLCS will provide \$1,000 toward the \$2,000 housing allowance, for a total of \$2,375 per intern.
 - If requesting assistance for an NLCS project lasting longer than 3 months, please contact Marietta Eaton, BLM GeoCorps Coordinator, to discuss funding options.
- There is a limited pool of matching GSA and WO NLCS funds available, so not every participating NLCS unit is guaranteed matching funds. NLCS units and other BLM offices that do not receive WO or GSA matching funds can still participate in the GeoCorps program by paying full program costs to GSA.

GeoCorps Program Details

Offices must submit a Fall/Winter 2011-2012 project description by Friday, April 1, 2011.

Proposals must be submitted on-line at https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/mygc.htm (follow the "Land Managers" link). GSA and the BLM WO will review these project descriptions and select projects for the 2010 GeoCorps program. Strong geosciences projects meeting the basic requirements described above are likely to be selected. Managers who submitted project descriptions will be notified of their project's status by Nov 20. Only the top 10 NLCS projects will be selected for matching funds. Remember, interns must conduct on-site project work for a minimum of three months. Projects of up to one year area also possible; please contact Marietta Eaton for information on costs associated with longer projects.

Project descriptions must include a thorough description of the work or project to be undertaken by the selected intern participant including any materials or reports to be produced, expected applicant

qualifications, dates of the position, whether housing is available on-site or an allowance will be provided, and descriptions of the natural and working environment for the proposed project.

Once project descriptions have been selected:

- GSA will advertise the selected projects to over 22,000 geoscientists during December and January.
- Prospective participants will apply by Monday, February 1, 2010. Applications are sent to GSA.
- GSA will deliver qualified applications to BLM offices by Friday, February 19, 2010.
- BLM Office staff will conduct phone interviews and recommend their preferred project participant to GSA by Wednesday, March 10, 2010.
- Participants will be extended an offer by Friday, March 12, 2010
- BLM offices will be notified of participant's acceptance by Tuesday, March 16, 2010
- Start and end dates of the internship is determined by the BLM participating office.

As noted above, a BLM cooperative agreement must be in place with GSA in order to participate in this program. Several States have existing GeoCorps cooperative agreements in place. Check with your State Office Grants and Agreement Office to determine if there is an existing cooperative agreement.

For more information on the GeoCorps America program, contact:

BLM Coordinator: Marietta Eaton, marietta_eaton@blm.gov, 202-912-7175

GSA GeoCorps Program Officer: Matt Dawson, mdawson@geosociety.org, 303-357-1025

For a copy of an existing BLM state agreement or to begin the process in states without an agreement, contact: Matt Dawson, GSA GeoCorps Program: mdawson@geosociety.org 303-357-1025

Calendar of Annual GeoCorps Program Events Fall/Winter 2011-2012

DATE	ACTION
January-February 2011	-BLM call for project proposals sent to units. Submit on-line proposals at: https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/submitposition.asp .
April 2011	- April 1: DEADLINE for submittal of position description. Proposals should describe a geoscience project and the qualifications a person should have to be eligible for the project position. - mid-April: GSA & BLM NLCS WO meet to select GeoCorps projects for the following summer and notify all Units that have / have not been selected for the GeoCorps program. -Units selected for GeoCorps placements determine funding for project and obligate funds through a task agreement.
May-June 2011	-GSA advertises and recruits for GeoCorps projects. -Applicants apply online for project positions.
July 2011	- July 1: Application postmark/submission deadline. - July 1-15: GSA screening committee conducts initial screening of applicants and marks applications as either complete or incomplete. - July 15: Complete applications are forwarded electronically to agency supervisors.
August 2011	- July 15-August 5: Supervisors conduct phone interviews with top candidates and make position offer to the top candidate. - August 5: Interview / selection deadline. - August 9: Deadline for the selected applicant to accept or decline the project offer. -GSA sends acceptance packets to selected participants. Selected participant must sign an agreement to officially accept the project position and agree to terms of the GeoCorps program.
September 2011	-GSA notifies applicants that were not selected for GeoCorps project positions. - September 23: Deadline to complete Project Supplement Agreements and Financial Plans -Spring/summer positions can begin as early as April 1, but most begin in May.
October 2011- April 2012	-GeoCorps participants work on geoscience projects for 3 months during summer. - March: GSA bills BLM units for GeoCorps projects.
May 2012	- May. 14: Deadline for GeoCorps participants to send final report & evaluation materials to GSA. Supervisors submit an evaluation form to give feedback on participant & program. - GSA bills BLM units remaining costs for GeoCorps projects.

To learn more about the GeoCorps America Program, [visit the GSA web page](#)

Example GeoCorps Position Description Submittal Form

A GeoCorps project proposal must be submitted through the GSA online system at: https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/2010/managejobs.asp. Example text is shown below to assist you with preparing your position description. Position descriptions are due by **November 5, 2010** for spring/summer positions and **April 1, 2011** for fall/winter positions (these are firm deadlines).

Public Land Name:	EXAMPLE: BLM Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center
Position Title:	EXAMPLE: Education Specialist
Location:	EXAMPLE: Fort Benton, MT
Position Description:	EXAMPLE: The GeoCorps participant will facilitate geological education training programs with education docents and staff of the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center. The goal is to develop knowledge and foster a comfort level with people who will be presenting geologic programming to the students and the general public at the center. Similar to Project Wet and Project Wild training courses, this position will seek to “train the trainers”. This position requires someone who can make geologic information relevant, enjoyable and informative to interpretive center staff and docents – who likely have had no prior geologic training. The participant will gain familiarity with geologic educational themes that are unique to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and its surroundings as well as the geologic programs that have already been developed or are under development for the center. Specifically, the GeoCorps participant will develop three training programs for education docents and staff at the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center. One program will focus on fundamentals of geology and geologic principles. A second program (which may be more than one trip) will provide on-the-ground exploration of unique geologic features or areas within the UMRBNM. A third program will work with the docents and staff to gain comfort and familiarity with the geologic education program developed for the site. For each presentation developed, a notebook and video will be created so future staff and volunteers may continue to review the programs in subsequent seasons. The notebook will contain a written outline of the presentation, bullets highlighting information, illustrations and copy-able examples and hand-outs and materials necessary for a complete and successful presentation. The participant may conduct programs off-site as needed and assigned; will disseminate general information to visitors about the Monument and Wild and Scenic Missouri; may assist staffing the visitor center/interpretive center front desk or river management staff; and may be required to conduct other duties as assigned. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.
Materials to be produced by participant:	EXAMPLE: The participant will write-up a brief report regarding the research project, a one page project summary intended for the lay person. There is an additional possibility of developing written content for the web, park newspaper, and other media.
Qualifications:	EXAMPLE: Applicants should have general knowledge of the principles and techniques of interpretation or education. Extensive knowledge of one or several aspects of the natural, historical or cultural history of the UMRBNM, including geology, is highly preferred. Skill in oral communication to greet the public and conduct presentations. The successful applicant must be self-motivated and able to work with limited supervision after the initial training period. The applicant must be able to maneuver and operate in a mixture of office and field work, which can include long periods of standing or walking on rough, uneven ground; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching or reaching to observe occurrences or place and retrieve equipment or devices; lifting and moving moderately heavy items (e.g., computer equipment, small boxes of pamphlets). Applicant must be physically fit, able to stand for long periods of time and lift boxes that weigh up to 40 pounds. A government vehicle can be used for travel as they are available. A current, valid state drivers’ license will be required to drive a government vehicle. The successful applicant will also attend CPR and First Aid training (or provide certification if still current). A background check may be required before the applicant can begin.
Position Dates:	EXAMPLE: May 15 - Aug 15; Start/end dates flexible

Stipend Payment:	EXAMPLE: \$2750; plus \$1500 housing allowance
Agency / Partner Program Funds:	N/A
Agency Funding Assistance Requested:	N/A
Housing Available:	EXAMPLE: Housing is not provided, but free laundry facilities are provided for field staff. There are a number of reasonably priced rental units within the town of Fort Benton. A housing allowance of \$1,500 for 12 weeks will be provided in addition to the \$2,750 stipend provided.
Physical/Natural Environment:	EXAMPLE: The landscape of the National Monument and the Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River is deceptively dissected. There are high buttes and outcrops, such as Square Butte and Round Butte, and rolling bench lands that are very productive for farming despite only 12 inches of precipitation per year. Between these buttes and benches are drainages; shallow at first but eventually forming steep and dramatic coulees and canyons as they join the Missouri River. These coulees cut through the surface to expose the underlying sandstone, basalt and even dinosaurs that once roamed this inland coastal seashore. Periods of volcanic activity can be evidenced by deposits of shonkinite which make spectacular formations such as Grand Natural Wall and Citadel Peak – features noted in Lewis and Clarks’ journals in 1805. Bentonite clays from previous volcanic eruptions can give present day travelers their own geologic lessons as their vehicles become mired in “gumbo” after the briefest summer showers. Glaciers left their footprint on the land as well, causing the Missouri to capture another stream’s channel that flowed in the opposite direction. Fort Benton and surrounding area info: Spring rains typically come in May and June and can be mixed with snow. Summer temps can easily reach 100 degrees or more. Wind is our constant companion, at times gusting between 45 to 75 mph. Winter brings sub-zero temps followed by warming Chinooks, sometimes raising temperatures 40 or 50 degrees in minutes. All of these extremes affect the local geology, giving rise to the landscape that surrounds this relatively undiscovered location.
Work Environment:	EXAMPLE: Work is carried out in a normal office space, with adequate lighting, heating, ventilation, etc. Off-site programs may be in an outdoor environment where climate, weather, and terrain require care in how the student works. The participant will work 40 hrs/wk, and days worked will include weekends and holidays. Fort Benton is a town of ~1,500 people and is ~40 miles northeast of Great Falls, MT which has a population 70,000 (including the military base). Fort Benton was originally established as a fur trading fort in 1846, and is situated on the banks of the Missouri River at the head of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.
PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Contact Name:	EXAMPLE: Name and contact info for person who will directly supervise the position.
Title:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Website (include full URL including http://):	
SECONDARY CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Contact Name:	EXAMPLE: Name and contact info of person knowledgeable about position who could serve as a secondary supervisor.
Title:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Website (include full URL including http://):	