



National Park Service Academy

What is Academy?

The **NPS Academy** is an innovative and immersive program designed to introduce a diversity of participants from backgrounds historically underrepresented in the National Parks, to career opportunities with the NPS. This program utilizes experiential learning to enhance participant career exploration.

Academy consists of four components: *orientation, internship, continued professional development and ambassadorship.*

How to apply?

Participants:
Apply through ACE website in late fall.

Host Parks: Respond to “call for host parks” communication that is sent out late summer/early fall or connect with the ACE NPS Academy Member Coordinator. Selected parks will be notified in the fall.



What is provided?

ACE Provides:
Outreach, recruitment, member support (HR, AmeriCorps, PLC documentation, workers compensation, timesheets and payroll), uniform (work shirts/polos, raincoat, fleece, beanie, hat & name tag).

NPS Host Site Provides:
A staff mentor (separate from project partner/site lead), provides opportunities to shadow other divisions, provides housing or funds for non-NPS housing and resources to secure it, provides position specific training and PPE.

NPS Academy Timeline

Winter (Dec-Feb):
Academy participant recruitment and selection

Spring (Mar-May):
Member Spring Orientation (March), host park orientation webinar and internship start dates

Summer (Jun-Aug):
Internships. (can extend beyond August and start before June)

Fall (Sept-Nov):
Member exits (post-surveys, PLC documentation, alumni engagement). Reporting and prep for next year



Additional Program Details

Member timeline:

Recruitment for Academy participants begins in November, selections are made by the end of January, the orientation occurs in March, and internships have historically taken place between May-October (varying from 12-22 weeks in length, subject to park needs)

Member Contributions for 2023:

- Average of 40 hours of service per week for a total of 80 in each pay period
- AmeriCorps Requirements: Mid-term check in, required enrollment and exit paperwork
- Academy Expectations: March Orientation, goals prepared by start of summer positions, meeting with host-site park leadership, three reflection pieces (multiple formats are acceptable), participation in summer workshops, final presentation for host park

Orientation:

NPS Academy provides an overview of the National Park Service rooted in the NPS Universal Competencies through the lens of three main themes:

- Connections...to people and place
- Diversity...of parks, people and stories
- Legacy...of the NPS and of Academy participants as individuals

Components:

- Orientation: Multi-day experience in Grand Teton National Park, graciously funded by the Grand Teton National Park Foundation
- Internship: 12+ week internship that includes housing, an NPS Mentor, opportunities to shadow other divisions, and a weekly living allowance
- Ambassadorship & Continued Professional Development: opportunities post-internship for professional advancement, support of national parks and public lands



Academy Partners



Contact Information

For general program questions:

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For funding and agreement questions:

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