Position Description:
1700 Hour AmeriCorps Member
Location: Bannack State Park
Dillon, Montana

Term of service: January 15, 2018 – November 16, 2018

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 80 hours of "Time Not Scheduled to Serve" to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:
Bannack State Park is considered best-preserved ghost town in the United States and one of the most important historic sites in Montana. The park is located 25 miles southwest of Dillion, a town of approximately 5000 residents and is the service center for the area. The environment is semi-arid and the landscape runs from big sage steppe to high mountain peaks. Recreational opportunities abound in the area which is nationally known for excellent fly fishing on the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.

Bannack State Park and the approximately 100 remaining buildings tells the many stories of early Montana, from frontier life through the 1940's. Founded in 1862 the town epitomizes the tough, primitive towns that sprang up with the gold rush. Its story also illustrates a century of survival through the boom and bust periods associated with resource extraction and technological advances. The town served as the first territorial capital during the winter of 1864-1865 and is perhaps best known for the wild-west atmosphere that prevailed during its early days. In 1961 Bannack received National Historic Landmark status because of its association with national momentous events including the gold rush, American Indian relations, law & order and trail development. The park's popularity continues to grow, both nationally and internationally, with approximately 40,000 visitors a year. The park also serves as an outdoor classroom hosting approximately 1,500 students a year.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below in order to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Improve park land
    - Assist with stream bank restoration
    - Trail Maintenance
    - Map a spur to the Bird's Eye View Trail
    - Map concentrations of noxious weeds
    - Plan a service event in conjunction with National Public Lands Day
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
    - Develop a Story Map
    - Create a children's day activity
    - Develop a town, mill and gold panning program
    - Lead a National Trails Day Hike
    - Catalog artifacts from a 2013 archeological project and our archival records and develop an educational program that uses these objects and records
    - Compile newspapers articles and advertisements for the park's database and help refine the finding aid
- Increase volunteer capacity
    - Network with and recruit community members and service organizations to volunteer their time and talents to assist the park with various projects
    - Work with the Bannack Association to find volunteers for the Ghost Walk, Living History, Bannack Days
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
    - Assist area community organizations with service projects
    - Attend local events to raise awareness of the positive impact AmeriCorps has in state parks and the positive impact state parks have on our local communities
    - Maintain a calendar of park events on the parks website bannack.org

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of $12,628 over 44-week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of $5,815 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Guaranteed health benefits and child care assistance if qualified
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

To Apply:

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link **HERE** to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all of our 1700 hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.
**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.