

# Position Description

## 1700 Hour Montana Natural/Heritage/Recreational Park Steward

### Location: Giant Springs State Park



**Term of service:** January 18, 2021 – November 19, 2021

**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:**

Giant Springs State Park is a gem in the Montana State Park system. The park is situated just outside of Great Falls (Montana’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city) along the banks of the Missouri River and is comprised of 4,600 acres of diverse land. The park’s landscape varies from dense trees and manicured lawns to natural prairie. Giant Springs is home to much more than just its namesake springs, it also boasts over 30 miles of the River’s Edge Trail system, a fish hatchery, a thriving education/interpretation program, a full slate of special events, and a rich history including the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This State Park is loved and cherished by many, receiving over 500,000 visitors annually. Visitors engage in a variety of recreational activities including fishing, hiking, biking, hunting, picnicking, bird watching, photography, and simply enjoying nature.

The AmeriCorps member plays an integral role at Giant Springs State Park and is critical to the park’s success. Due to the park’s high visitor volume, large acreage and small staff numbers, there is no lack of work. The member will assist park staff in maintaining and improving Giant Spring’s land and trails. The member will develop and deliver educational/interpretive programing to school classes, tour groups and park visitors. The member will play a large role in recruiting and managing volunteers to assist in staffing and maintaining the park. Lastly, the member will promote the park through various outlets to keep us visible and to ensure the public knows what’s happening at the park.

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
  - Design and build a native plant garden that will add to park aesthetics and can be used for educational/interpretive programming.
  - Assist with weed management in the park by completing weed mapping, mechanically removing weeds, spraying weeds and collecting/releasing biologic controls.
  - Develop a relationship with the local Audubon chapter to improve bird habitat in the park.
  - Assist in the management of the park's trails by assessing trail conditions and conducting trail maintenance.
  - Recruit, train and manage volunteers to assist with land improvement projects.
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
  - Continue to grow relationships with local and surrounding area school districts. Develop and present in person, virtual and park centered programs.
  - Build on our current Junior Ranger program by developing new programs and increasing the number of programs we offer so we can reach more kids.
  - Add to our activity offerings for families that come to the park and are looking for something fun for their kids to do.
  - Develop an educational/interpretive program that focuses on the native plant garden.
- Increase volunteer capacity
  - Search for and reach out to local businesses/organizations that participate in service projects and attempt to engage with them.
  - Develop a volunteer schedule that will allow our volunteers sign up for specific activities at the park. This will require actively looking for needs in the park that volunteers can assist with.
  - Develop better ways to recognize our volunteers. This could include giving them some Giant Springs swag, having a banquet or allowing them free use of our day use rental areas.
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
  - Continue to grow the partnerships that were started by the 2020 member. One example of this is working with the Cascade County Food Bank where we collect food donations for them at our events and they provide volunteers to help staff the events.
  - Communicate with local media outlets to promote the park with a goal of keeping us visible and ensuring the public knows what is happening at the park.

- Take the lead on the park's social media pages, ensuring that they are up to date and actively working to grow the park's following.

**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 \$14,279 over 44 week term of service (\$325/week)
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$6,195 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](https://my.americorps.gov) portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within [my.americorps.gov](https://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.

**Application Deadline:**

Applications are due by December 4, 2020.

\* 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.*