

Naturalist Intern Position

Whitefish Dunes State Park is an 865 acre day use property located north of Sturgeon Bay, on Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula. Set aside to protect the fragile dune environment, Whitefish Dunes is the most popular day use park in the Wisconsin State Park System.

Forested and coastal dunes combined with hardwood forest, moss meadow, and conifer forest provides significant diversity in this small park. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan and Clark Lake, the park provides examples of the Niagara Escarpment along with other unique geological features. Whitefish Dunes State Natural Area preserves the largest and most significant Great Lakes dunescape in Wisconsin. Rare species of bird, plant and insect life are found within the park boundaries. Eight periods of occupation dating from 100bc to the late 1800's and 9 recorded shipwrecks are included among the park's cultural resources.

The park has been shaped by its geological prehistory, its location along the Lake Michigan shore, its people and its scenic natural resources allowing for a wide diversity of educational programs to be offered. Guided hikes, beach programs, and special events are available during the summer season. The education program is led by a full-time naturalist, assisted by the naturalist intern and a core of volunteers.

Position Description: The Naturalist Intern is responsible for assisting full-time Naturalist with various aspects of the park's educational programming. The position will develop and present interpretive programs; lead nature hikes; conduct Big Red Tent programs and present requested programs. The position also creates and distributes weekly releases and posters; organize and conduct the annual Sand Sculpture Contest; and assist with special projects. Depending on park needs, the position may staff the visitor center and assist with stewardship work.

Required Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

- ability to interact positively and communicate with visitors of all ages, staff and volunteers
- basic understanding of natural history and ecological concepts with knowledge of (or willingness to learn) the cultural/natural history, ecology and geology of the park
- experience leading programs and working with public beneficial
- ability to work independently and in small groups
- ability to work in variable weather conditions and in a sandy environment
- dependable, creative, enthusiastic

Benefits: The naturalist intern position is a volunteer position through the Wisconsin State Park System. The Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park are offering a \$2000 scholarship stipend for completion of 340 hours. An option of receiving \$3000 scholarship stipend for completing 460 hours is available. Free housing is included.

Duration/Hours: Position runs approximately mid/late May till Labor Day. A minimum of 340 hours of work time is required. Work schedule can be flexible to allow for outside employment. Applicants must be willing to work most Saturdays and some evening hours.

Application: Mail or e-mail current resume, cover letter and 3 references to: Carolyn Rock, 3275 Clark Lake Road, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235 For more information, phone (920) 823-2400 or e-mail carolyn.rock@wisconsin.gov **Application deadline: March 15, 2010**