

Position Announcements: Citico Conservation Interns

US Forest Service – Cherokee National Forest



Are you a good communicator and do you like fish? We have an ideal opportunity for someone who loves free-flowing streams and is interested in conservation education. Hone your skills by leading snorkeling programs and interacting with the public. This is a unique opportunity to introduce people to the exciting world of freshwater fisheries! Spend your summer living and working along a beautiful mountain creek in the Cherokee National Forest.

The US Forest Service is seeking 2 summer interns for the Tellico Ranger District to implement a stream conservation education program in the Citico Creek Corridor during the peak summer recreation season. This public outreach program is intended to build upon and focus on an existing *watchable wildlife* conservation education program - snorkeling.

Citico Creek is an extraordinary example of a Southern Appalachian watershed. It is widely recognized for its scenic beauty, and the diversity of life within and outside of its banks.



The watershed contains 3 threatened and endangered aquatic animal species and 3 species of sensitive aquatic animals. Citico Creek has been designated as critical habitat for one threatened and endangered species, the Smoky Madtom. There is a wide diversity of fish species with 59 native species in the watershed within the National Forest boundary. Citico Creek comprises the majority of the lower Little Tennessee River watershed, which is considered to be critical for protecting freshwater diversity. The Nature Conservancy has listed it as a “hot spot” with 10 or more at-risk freshwater fish and mussel species and as a critical watershed to conserve at-risk fish and mussel species.

Responsibilities include:

- Conduct 2 snorkeling programs per week using existing curriculum focused on the habitat requirements of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) fish, how recreation impacts that habitat, and how recreational users can reduce their impact.
- Approach and engage recreational users of the Citico Creek corridor and conduct informal streamside education
- Get people in the creek, show them the fish, and cultivate ownership of the resource
- Prepare materials necessary to support the education/outreach program
- Perform recreation management duties in the Citico Creek corridor including trash pick-up and campground maintenance
- Assist Cherokee National Forest staff in other resource areas as needed (Fish surveys, road condition surveys, pebble counts, visitor use surveys, wildlife, soils, timber, etc.)



Required Skills

- Good communicator
- Enjoys working with the public
- Comfortable in water
- Current First Aid/CPR certification

Desired Skills:

- Knowledgeable about fish and other aquatic life
- Experience in outdoor education
- Lifeguard experience
- Graphic Design / Artistic Skills

Dates: June 3, 2016 -September 23, 2016

Schedule: The nature of the position requires that the intern work all weekends and holidays during their term of service (Independence Day and Labor Day), as these are peak recreational use periods and offer the most opportunity to reach the target audience with outreach activities. In general, interns will work the following schedule:

- Friday: 9:00am-7:30pm (conducting outreach to campers along Citico Creek Corridor)
- Saturday & Sunday: 8:00am-6:30pm (Snorkling program followed by outreach)
- Monday: Variable. On long weekends, Monday will be a weekend schedule. On light weeks, Monday will serve as a day to complete paperwork, vehicle maintenance, equipment maintenance, and do cross training with other resource areas

However, daily hours will flex with the scheduled tasks. The interns are expected to work approximately 40 hours per week with flexible schedules on Fridays and Mondays to meet that objective.



Accommodations: Dormitory style accommodations will be provided (if desired) in the “Ranger House” at the Tellico District Office. This historic building is comfortable and rustic. It includes a modern kitchen with all dishes/cooking necessities, one bathroom/shower, 8 dorm beds, and a living room area. The house does not have cell phone service, internet, or TV. Phones are available for use with a calling card in the district office (across the driveway). Alternatively, cell phone service is available in Tellico Plains, 3 miles down the road. The Tellico Plains Library has computers with internet. During the summer, the house is often full to capacity with visiting researchers and other interns, so expect a social atmosphere.

Transportation: Intern will be provided with a government vehicle for project use, but will need their own vehicle for personal use.

Pay: Intern will receive \$289/weekly living allowance + \$1,324 relocation/commuting allowance + \$1,515 AmeriCorps education award (payable towards tuition or student loans).

For more information contact:

Stephanie Steele (Tellico District Ranger) at 423-253-8401 or srsteele@fs.fed.us

To apply: Fill out an application on the SCA website at <http://www.thesca.org/> (Position ID: PO-00674791). Applications due March 9. Phone interviews to be conducted on March 23. Selection notifications by April 1.

