

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM

The field school is a Northwestern program in which students are placed in national park units for about seven weeks of work during the summer. Most of these internships have students working on resource management and/or research projects focusing on natural resources, cultural history, public policy, biodiversity, and global climate change.

PLACEMENTS: Most Northwestern students are placed in national park units in the American West, or in Alaska. There are about 400 national park sites in the US, but past placements are a good indication of possible opportunities. Past placements include Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Glacier National Park, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve, Montverde Biological Reserve in Costa Rica, and Grand Teton National Park.

TASKS: Students' tasks and projects have varied from back country ranger duties to wetlands restoration, to interpreting prairie ecology, facilitating dam removals, monitoring brown bear behavior, working on salmon research, studying highway impacts upon park wildlife, planning wilderness trail systems, working on Native allotment issues in parks, interpreting and protecting archeological sites, preparing a park to become "carbon neutral".

REQUIREMENTS: Students in the Field School usually enroll in two credits of Environmental Science (390). For social science majors, it is possible to have one of those credits count as a type of policy credit. Students also have a modest amount of reading throughout the program. Students will submit weekly field notes, as well as prepare a research paper that is due during the early part of the next academic year.

APPLICATION PROCESS: If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a part of the environmental field school, please contact Professor Paul Friesema, the director of the program. His office is 304 Scott Hall. His e-mail is pfree@northwestern.edu. There is no formal application but you must submit an unofficial transcript, a resume, the name of a reference, and a brief essay describing your background and your purposes for wanting this opportunity. There is no closing date for applications, but the earlier the better.

