



U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Fellowship Opportunity



General Information

The Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), in partnership with the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is seeking personnel from nongovernmental and governmental conservation organizations in Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman for a unique training opportunity to enhance the ability of relevant personnel in the region to engage in education and outreach on endangered species conservation and management of sites containing endangered species.

ITAP/NPS will select appropriate representatives from the above countries for a six to eight week training opportunity in a U.S. national park. Selected participants will travel first to Washington, DC where they will participate in a series of meetings with representatives from U.S. government and nongovernmental organizations, then travel to field stations to meet with relevant National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experts on endangered species. Following the field station visits, participants will travel to their assigned parks to experience in-depth training on endangered species management, education and outreach on endangered species conservation, and other related park management topics in a U.S. national park that contains similar or related species to those in the participant's home country. At the conclusion of their programs, participants will travel back to Washington, DC to meet with program coordinators for debriefing sessions. Participants will be required to present a short 20 - 30 minute overview of what they learned during their program and how it will help them in their home country. Participants will also be asked to complete an evaluation survey on the program.

Fellowship Details

The ITAP/NPS fellowship is a new opportunity to provide for exchanges of information between Middle Eastern and U.S. NPS personnel on the issue of endangered species conservation and management. Participants will work alongside NPS biologists, researchers, educators, and managers and will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience. This opportunity is currently only available to qualified individuals from Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman.

Fellowship applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. The placement of selected applicants will be based on both the applicant's and park staff availability, and the speed with which appropriate paperwork (visas, etc.) can be processed.

Candidates must be willing to share the knowledge gained during this program to others at home, so that newly learned skills are passed along. Potential applicants must be in their home country at least two months prior to when the fellowship begins to allow for visa processing.

ITAP/NPS will cover all travel costs for the selected individuals along with a small weekly stipend, not to exceed \$200/per week. Housing accommodations will be provided in park housing or rental units. ITAP/NPS will also provide a minimal short-term medical insurance policy to cover the fellowship period. The NPS will provide the necessary visa application documentation so that participants can obtain their visas.

Prior to the fellowship, each participant will work closely with ITAP/NPS headquarters staff to determine goals and objectives for the fellowship.

Qualifications

At a minimum, all candidates should:

- Have a four-year advanced learning (college or university) degree in any of the natural sciences and/or at least three years of field experience working with endangered species;



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- Be currently working in a conservation NGO or governmental agency that is or may be conducting education and outreach on endangered species and/or assisting in the management of a protected area that contains endangered species
- Willingness to work in a field setting and possibly perform some manual tasks;
- Computer literacy;
- Ability to speak conversational English and understand written text;
- Age of 25 years or more;
- Valid driver's license from home country, and
- Compliance with all U.S. visa and immigration regulations and laws, as well as NPS regulations and policies.

What to Expect

Candidates must be willing to work and learn in field conditions and should be in good physical condition. They must also be willing to work in variable climates and may have to perform some manual tasks. They may also be required to spend most of the day walking through the park and otherwise on their feet. They should also be comfortable interacting with large numbers of park visitors on an occasional basis and should be able to respond to visitor questions.

Selected candidates may have to share housing with other park staff or volunteers and should be open to the possibility of living in remote areas with limited conveniences. At the conclusion of the training program, selected candidates must agree to complete a written assessment detailing what they learned and their comments on the training they received.

Application & Selecting Criteria

Prospective candidates will be selected based on their applications. Top candidates will then be asked to undergo a phone interview with a small selection committee and will be asked to answer questions related to their skills and abilities. The process will also screen for English proficiency.

The applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and should be submitted as soon as possible for early consideration. The deadline for the first round of applications is March 15, 2008. After March 15th, we will continue to accept applications for future Fellowship opportunities throughout the remainder of 2008 and 2009.

Application Requirements:

Please send the following information to David Krewson, at David_Krewson@nps.gov or by fax: 1-202-371-1446.

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Nationality
- Employment information (may be included in CV or resume)
 - Place of work
 - Length of employment
 - Position and responsibilities
- Educational information (may be included in CV or resume)
 - College or University attended
 - Major field of study
 - Date of graduation
- Self-assessment of your English skills (basic, intermediate, advanced, fluent) in the following areas:
 - Speaking



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Writing

- Listening
- Reading
- Please also note how you learned English
- Two professional references
- A cover letter in English that describes:
 1. Work that you do with endangered species in your home country. Please list the species (one or more) that you are working on and which we should try to match with a surrogate species in a NPS unit).
 2. Your goals for participation in this fellowship program including any specific training that you would like to receive
 3. Your career aspirations
 4. Any prior international travel and/or work

Additionally, please provide copies of the following documents:

- College transcripts (if applicable)
- Home country driver's license
- Passport

Selected participants will be required to secure an international driver's license.