

# USFS Resource Assistant Program

## Visitor Information and Recreation Specialist

<b>Position title:</b>	<b>Visitor Information and Recreation Specialist</b>
<b>Organization:</b>	<b>U.S. Forest Service - Region 2</b>
<b>Partner Organization(s):</b>	<b>The Corps Network, American Youth Works</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Bessey Ranger District, Nebraska National Forest</b>
<b>Term of Service:</b>	<b>9 months</b>
<b>Wage:</b>	<b>\$13/hr, Full-Time</b>
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>March 2019</b>



**United States Forest Service Resource Assistants Program (RAP)** is a rigorous and immersive, paid internship for individuals interested in Forest Service careers. Resource assistants work under the supervision of Forest Service staff to complete mission-critical work that demonstrates leadership, critical thinking, and strategic communication. Through collaboration, training, and mentorship, resource assistants gain the tools to launch their natural and cultural resource careers.

RAP seeks to engage highly motivated candidates through these program objectives:

- Instill stewardship values in the next generation of natural and cultural resource management professionals;
- Expand and enhance the capacity of the Forest Service to accomplish mission-critical work and high-priority projects;
- Attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce to support the Forest Service's mission to "sustain the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

### **Position Description:**

The Resource Assistant (RA) intern will perform various work assignments, either independently or alongside their FS supervisor, which will involve planning, monitoring, and implementing recreation and natural resource management, visitor assistance services, and interpretation.

The following are expected duties and responsibilities for the position:

- Develop and present a variety of interpretive programming, including orientation talks and environmental education;

- Conduct nature walks and demonstrations for the public, local community, and school groups;
- Perform *National Visitor Use Monitoring* surveys and help organize and interpret the data;
- Develop interpretive materials (brochures, guidebooks, handouts, and exhibits);
- Draft communication and marketing materials (news releases, articles, correspondence, and event flyers) to help increase the understanding of the Forest Service Mission and visitor engagement.

**Duration:**

Commitment of 9 months, from March 2019 to November 2019

**Desired Qualifications and Eligibility:**

The following knowledge, skills, abilities, and/or interest are instrumental to the success experience for all parties involved:

- A background in environmental science, conservation, natural & cultural resources management, biology, geography, or related field;
  - Upper level or recent college graduate;
  - Valid driver's license and good driving record;
  - Must successfully pass a Forest Service criminal history background check;
  - U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
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- Must be comfortable with living and working in rural environments and working outdoors in various weather conditions;
  - Possess basic knowledge of public outreach and communications tools and techniques;
  - Must have strong oral and written communication skills and a desire to engage diverse audiences and school groups;
  - Have a strong enthusiasm for recreation and rural communities;
  - Ability to work well with kids, teens and families;
  - Must be independent, self-motivated, creative, and resourceful;
  - Consciously contributing to the creation of a diverse, equitable and inclusive work culture that encourages and celebrates differences;
  - Willing to work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends;
  - Ability to commit to the full term of service.

**Location:**

Bessey Ranger District, Nebraska National Forest  
40637 River Loop, Halsey, NE 69142

**Compensation and Benefits:**

- \$13/hr stipend

- Generous professional development allowance
- Opportunities for paid work travel, training sessions, and conferences.
- Complimentary housing (provided by the Bessey Ranger District Bunkhouse)
- Opportunities to network with U.S. Forest Service field rangers and professionals.
- *RAP Noncompetitive Hiring Authority*: After completing a minimum of 960 hours of satisfactory work during the term of service and obtaining a post-secondary degree (associate degree or higher), interns may become eligible for the RAP noncompetitive hiring authority through a 2-year certificate of eligibility.

For questions regarding this Resource Assistant Program Internship, please contact The Corps Network:  
[programs@corpsnetwork.org](mailto:programs@corpsnetwork.org)

#### Partner Organizations:



##### **About The Corps Network:**

The Corps Network is the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. Our 130+ Corps provide young adults and veterans the opportunity to serve our country through projects on public lands and in rural and urban communities. The Corps Network supports Corps by advocating on their behalf, providing access to funding and project opportunities, and by offering expertise in Corps operations and programming.



##### **About American Youth Works:**

The mission of American YouthWorks is to provide young people with opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others.