

## **Volunteer-in-Park Position Descriptions Isle Royale National Park**

**Isle Royale is a wilderness island park in Lake Superior. Volunteers are recruited for assignments in the following fields:**

**Cultural Resources/Library :** Volunteer will assist the Interpretation and Cultural Resources Division in maintaining the park library, historic photo collection, and in documenting park activities. The volunteer will also assist with ongoing cultural resources projects and historical research. The intern must have experience working with computers, scanners and photo software. Ability to take digital documentary photographs of cultural sites, objects, and National Park Service operations is required. Previous research and writing experience is recommended. Some fieldwork and camping will be required.

**Natural Resources :** Volunteer will assist the Natural Resources Division in water, air quality, and acid rain monitoring; field sampling and reporting lab measurements; monitoring and inventorying bald eagle, osprey, and loon populations; compiling backcountry permit data; conducting aircraft overflight monitoring; assisting with the location and removal of exotic plant species; and assisting with a variety of other field research efforts which vary from season to season. Applicants should possess some knowledge of ecology, chemistry, biological sampling techniques, principles of natural resource management, leave-no-trace camping, and first aid.

**Visitor Center Assistant:** General staffing of visitor centers at Rock Harbor, Windigo, and Houghton, including the following duties: issuing backcountry camping permits, greeting ferry boats, orienting visitors and assisting with trip planning, providing general island information to visitors, conducting interpretive programs and hikes, selling items from Natural History Association store. Applicants should have some experience in visitor center operations and public speaking.

**Visitor Services Assistant:** Assist the Interpretation Division staff with some or all of the following: researching, writing, and laying out publications and press releases; researching, designing, and writing text for interior exhibits; providing information and services at a visitor center; organizing and updating interpretive resource materials; office duties to accomplish interpretive projects. Applicants should have some education or experience in interpretation or visitor services. Position is based in Houghton and season is flexible (year round).

**Backcountry Campground Host:** Volunteer will live and work in a remote backcountry campground. Position assists the Ranger and Interpretation staff by issuing camping permits, providing information, conducting interpretive programs, performing campground maintenance, patrolling trails, and providing first aid and emergency assistance.

**RANGER III Assistant Purser:** Volunteer assists the RANGER III Purser on voyages to and from Isle Royale; completes backcountry camping permits; assists with visitor information and interpretive programs. Position is based in Houghton and overnights twice a week on the island.

**Wilderness/Backcountry Ranger:** Volunteer conducts foot patrols in the backcountry and wilderness portion of the park and canoe and/or kayak patrols in the wilderness lakes and/or shoreline areas of Lake Superior. Purpose of the patrols is to educate and assist visitors and monitor and protect park

resources. Volunteer will educate and inform visitors on Leave No Trace principles. Previous backcountry experience recommended.

**Museum Technician:** Volunteer will assist the Interpretation and Cultural Resources Division in care of the museum collection in Houghton. Duties will include computer entry and updating of catalog records, museum inventories, responding to research requests, monitoring storage environment, and limited conservation work. Position is based in Houghton and season is flexible (year round).

**Trail Crew:** Volunteer will assist maintenance division with maintaining trails and rehabilitation of campsites and privies. Performs erosion control, trail tread and bridge work, brushing, sign maintenance and tool sharpening. Experience with using hand tools such as pulaskis, chainsaws, fire rakes, pruning saws, loppers, axes, and drawknives will be helpful. Generally spends days at a time camping in backcountry sections of the park.

**Maintenance Worker:** Perform minor electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting, and ground work using hand tools. Volunteer will help with moving and loading supplies and materials. Position normally will be stationed in one location, but may go to different locations for projects and will be required to camp up to a week.

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**For all positions:** Work may require travel throughout the park's backcountry, so camping, backpacking, and small boat handling (canoe and power boat) experience is desirable. Enthusiasm is an important qualification!

Transportation to the island from Houghton, Michigan, will be provided. Some positions will be required to wear a uniform, for which an allowance will be provided to defray costs.

**Time Commitments:** For most positions, summer, 12 weeks, full-time (40 hours/week).

**Housing (for all positions except Backcountry Campground Host, Assistant Purser, Visitor Services Assistant, and Museum Technician):** Volunteers share a dorm room with one other person, depending on location, and cook in a communal kitchen.

**Benefits to Volunteer:** A chance to gain valuable work experience with the National Park Service and to contribute your personal skills and talents. Gain a knowledge of Isle Royale's natural and cultural history, while living in a beautiful wilderness location. Great recreational opportunities to backpack, canoe, fish, and observe wildlife. Terrific chance to meet and work with people.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15    PHONE: 906-487-7153**  
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