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# Backcountry Intern

## Expected Dates

February 14, 2022 to November 13, 2022

## Site

Canyonlands National Park

## Position ID

PO-00732446

This is a backcountry and visitor services position at the Hans Flat Ranger Station in The Maze district of Canyonlands, a very remote area of rugged canyons containing prehistoric rock markings and archaeological sites. Duties may include:

- staffing the backcountry information station, providing trip-planning assistance to visitors (40% of time);
- patrolling the backcountry by foot and 4WD, sometimes for multiple days and camping in remote settings (30%);
- leading guided interpretive walks in Horseshoe Canyon for up to 20 visitors (10%);
- assisting in the district's recycling program and/or assisting with vehicle maintenance and upkeep (10%); and
- other duties as assigned, influenced by intern's skill-set and interest (10%).

The work will occur indoors at the Hans Flat Ranger Station and in the backcountry of The Maze district of Canyonlands. The intern must be comfortable sleeping and working outside for up to several days at a time. Duties can be strenuous: carrying a 30+ pound backpack over rough and sandy terrain in both cold and hot weather, loading and unloading materials during supply runs to town, and assisting with facility maintenance tasks such as weeding, trail work, or minor road repairs.

**\*It is vital that candidates be comfortable living in an extremely REMOTE setting for extended periods of time with limited human interaction, services, and amenities. For more information on the Maze, please visit here:**

<https://www.nps.gov/cany/planyourvisit/maze.htm>\*

Compensation amounts:

- \$1,100 - one time RT travel allowance
- \$250 - weekly living allowance
- Housing

\*This position is NOT AmeriCorps eligible.

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**Location Description**

The Hans Flat Ranger Station, one of the most remote park service stations in the US, is the headquarters for ranger operations in The Maze district of Canyonlands. The station and patrol area are in a high-desert setting of sparse woods, shrublands, and open slickrock desert. The community at Hans Flat averages five to nine personnel. The ability to be a thriving member of a small, isolated community is essential.

Reaching the station requires driving on a rough, 46-mile, high-clearance, dirt road. Wear and tear on personal vehicles can be significant, and the road can periodically be impassible. There are no services or amenities within two hours of the station. The nearest basic services are in Green River, UT (2 hours away); Moab, UT (3 hours); and the closest city with full services is Grand Junction, CO (3.5 hours). Basic cell and internet (via cellular data) service is available at housing, depending on the carrier, but there is no wi-fi or cable services.

**Training Provided**

Intern will get formal training in the natural & cultural history of the Colorado Plateau, visitor services, backcountry travel, and advanced 4WD training. Additional training may include basic emergency response, interpretation, & light maintenance.

**Educational/Recreational Opportunities**

SE Utah has numerous national and state parks as well as millions of acres of public land to explore. Hiking, biking, climbing, canoeing, and rafting are just a few of the recreational activities available within a day's drive.

**Handicap Accessible?**

No

**Main Area of Focus**

Backcountry/Trail work

**Education, Training & Skills Expected**

Earth Sciences:some coursework or experience

Resource Management:some coursework or experience

History:some coursework or experience

Backpacking:some experience

Camping:some experience

Customer Service:competent with supervision

**FURTHER DETAILS****AmeriCorps Eligible**

Not Eligible

**Driving Logistics**

Valid Drivers License Needed

Personal Vehicle Required

*There is no public transit between the station and basic amenities/services. The dirt roads are maintained but rough. Personal vehicles should have high clearance and will have increased wear-and-tear due to variable and rough conditions.*

**Housing or Stipend Provided?**

Yes

Housing is a shared, potentially co-ed two sized bed). Basic kitchen dishware/cookware and utensils are provided. You should bring your own

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bedding, towels, toiletries, and other needed personal items. Washer/dryer and workout facilities are available.

**Indoor/Outdoor**

Indoor

**US Citizenship**

Required

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National Office: 1310 N. Courthouse Rd, Suite 110, Arlington, VA 22201

Phone: 703-524-2441 • Email: [webmaster@thesca.org](mailto:webmaster@thesca.org)

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