

Scholarship USDA- Forest Service R2 Rocky Mt Black Hills National Forest

Duty Location(s): R2 Rocky Mt Black Hills National Forest, Custer, South Dakota

Desired Majors and Educational Requirements: L/Dakota Studies, American/Native studies or related fields, Natural Resources

Position Title:

Heritage Interpreter

Position Description and Preferred Skills

The Black Hills National Forest (BKNF) is beginning discussions with neighboring Tribal Elders around the possibility of a Co-Stewardship Opportunity. This could allow associated Tribes (through treaty and/or culturally) an opportunity to enter into an Agreement with the BKNF to develop a natural & cultural interpretation program at the Pactola Visitor Center. The 1994 Scholar could have an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Tribal CO-Stewardship interpretation program at Pactola Visitor Center. In addition, the BKNF has received \$250,000 of Native Act Funding to help support this effort. Once the co-stewardship agreement comes to fruition, participating Tribes would help guide the interpretive workforce to help develop the next generation of tribal Indigenous knowledge bearers, provide proper representation of Native American natural resource values, history, and culture to visitors of the Black Hills in South Dakota. This would support the resurgence in cultural literacy, tribal language, and educate non-indigenous agency staff, local communities, and visitors about the living legacy of Native American culture. Forest Service mentorship will also be provided by the BKNF Tribal Relations Specialist. The position will also work closely with the Forests non-profit partner Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. Government housing will be available, in addition to a government vehicle will be provided for them to travel back and forth to the work site. Students will serve as a Heritage Interpreter and be an intricate part of the overall Recreation Program on the Forest by actively promoting educational programs and interpretive activities. Duties will be centered around the successful engagement of educational opportunities and formal / informal programming related to visitor services. Assist with researching new and creative ways to promote the cultural diversity and history on the Forest in the visitor center and celebrate successes with visitors and fellow staff. Assist with the planning, coordinating, and conducting of special events in and around the visitor center and near the Pactola Reservoir. Take the lead on overseeing these events when assigned. Develop positive relationships with Tribes, tribal members, or tribal organizations to further potential partnerships. Stay informed and educated about Forest happenings and be prepared to provide visitor orientation accordingly. Greet and welcome visitors, process retail sales, answer questions, and inform visitors about the Black Hills National Forest. Answer phones, respond to or forward inquiries for a variety of natural resource related information, and cultural history. Assist with maintaining an attractive, inviting, and professional look and feel in the visitor center, including restocking brochures and educational handouts, maintaining exhibits and displays, and cleaning visitor areas.

An application package includes an essay, your resume, two letters of recommendation, and your transcript(s).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays the valid OMB control number, 0503-0016. The time required to complete this service agreement is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time needed for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Resume – Submit your current resume.

Essay – Submit an essay/cover letter noting your application for **FS R2 Rocky Mt Black Hills National Forest** answering these questions below with a word count of 500 – 800 words.

1. What motivates you to consider a career in public service working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture? Include information about your educational and career goals and how this scholarship may assist you.

2. How did you become interested in studying food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences or another related discipline in college?

Two Letters of Recommendation –One must be from your academic counselor, advisor, or faculty member. Letters should address applicant's: Personal strengths, Leadership qualities, academic and extracurricular achievements, academic and career aspirations

Transcript – Submit official or unofficial college/university transcripts indicating your most recent academic work.

Questions? Write: 1994@usda.gov or text or call 202-856-5646

SUBMIT your application packet to: 1994@usda.gov