



**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
*EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA*

# EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

*The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage*

Since its inception in 1916, the National Park Service has been dedicated to the preservation and management of this country's outstanding natural, historical, and recreational resources. Today, the National Park Service encompasses more than 380 sites across the United States and in Guam, Saipan, Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The National Park Service is a bureau of the United States Department of the Interior.

## ★ ★ **BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** ★ ★

- Work for a conservation agency
- Provide public service
- Excellent vacation and sick leave program
- Family friendly work policies
- Leave sharing program
- Flexible work schedules
- Retirement benefits including Thrift Savings (401K)
- Life and health insurance
- Interesting work
- Work in beautiful, scenic places
- Learn about our country's history
- Flexible workplace opportunities
- Possible tuition assistance
- Live in places where most Americans want to visit

*Note: Not all benefits listed above apply to seasonal positions. Please see position vacancy announcements for additional details on applicable benefits.*

## **Permanent and Seasonal Employment**

Vacancy announcements are available on the Internet at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). It is highly recommended that applicants get a copy of the vacancy announcement for the job(s) they are interested in. The National Park Service hires many seasonal employees throughout the year. For a description of seasonal jobs, visit [www.sep.nps.gov](http://www.sep.nps.gov).

## **Student Employment**

Students are provided the opportunity to apply for federal jobs through the Student Educational Employment Program. The Student Educational Employment Program has two components: **Student Temporary Employment** and **Student Career Experience**. It is available to all levels of students: high school, vocational and technical, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, graduate degree, and professional degree students. Students may be employed year-round with flexible schedule of work assignments. **Student Temporary Employment Component** - Employment can range from summer jobs to positions that can last for as long as you are a student. These employment opportunities need not necessarily be related to your academic field of study. **Student Career Experience Component** - Valuable work experience directly related to academic field of study is offered to students through this component. It provides formal periods of work and study while the student is attending school. It requires a commitment by the student, the school, and the National Park Service. After successfully completing education and work requirements, the student may be offered a permanent federal job. Additional information regarding eligibility requirements can be found at [www.opm.gov/employ/students/](http://www.opm.gov/employ/students/).

**General information is available on the Internet at:**

**Federal Job Announcements**

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

**Seasonal Employment**

[www.sep.nps.gov](http://www.sep.nps.gov)

**Student Programs**

[www.opm.gov/employ/students/](http://www.opm.gov/employ/students/)

The National Park Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for positions will be made solely on the basis of merit, fitness and qualifications without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, or any other non-merit factor.



## INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

## FIELD SEASON EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

### **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPICAL NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS:**

The information below describes positions typically available during annual field seasons at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Qualification requirements vary from job series to job series and from grade level to grade level. Information on current vacancies is available at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

**GS-5 Biological Science Technician** applicants must possess one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-04 grade level; OR have successfully completed a full four (4) year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics; OR possess equivalent combinations of both education and experience. Note: **At least 6 semester hours of the education must have been in courses directly related to plants/botany or wildlife depending on position**, and only the third and fourth years of the four (4) year degree are creditable when combining education with experience. Specialized experience is experience which equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the work (i.e. research activity in the biological field with specialization in botany, forestry, ecology, or plant pathology, or any type of nursery work that required growing and maintenance of plants, etc.)

Examples of Major Duties of GS-5 Biological Science Technician:

#### **Biological Science Technician (Fire Effects)**

**GS-5 \$16.12/hour**

*Perform fire effects monitoring support functions. Establish and sample vegetation and fuel monitoring plots in a variety of vegetation/fuel types in accordance with established methodologies and guidelines. Identify grasses, sedges, herbs, shrubs, and trees to species and record data accurately in the field. Prepare herbarium specimens and record habitat and plant association data. Enter data into computer using customized database software and verify data entry quality. Use GPS to map and navigate to plots. Use and download digital cameras and PDAs. Assist in the preparation of reports, plans, and guidelines that may include preparation of graphs and charts, summary of findings, etc. Collect fire weather data, fuel and/or soil moisture samples, map projects, and maintain appropriate records. May serve as a prescribed fire monitor, collect and evaluate weather, fuels, topography, and fire behavior data for prescribed and wildland fires. Observe and report smoke transport and potential impacts of fire on resources and safety of personnel. May assist in wildland and prescribed fire operations including ignition, monitoring, holding, and mop-up.*

#### **Biological Science Technician (Plants and Wildlife)**

**GS-5 \$16.12/hour**

*Technicians work under the direction of the National Lakeshore's Botanist, Wildlife Biologist, or Natural Resources Program Manager. Field work consists of natural resources management activities associated with plant propagation, invasive species control, tree and brush clearing, plant monitoring, wildlife habitat improvement, endangered animal restoration, and wildlife monitoring. Duties may also include collecting and maintaining project data and mapping worksites using GPS units. These positions require application of herbicides for vegetation control, strenuous manual labor, working primarily outdoors under a variety of weather conditions, and exposure to poisonous plants and biting or stinging insects.*

**GS-4 Forestry Technician (Firefighter)** applicants must possess six months of general experience that demonstrates the ability to perform the work of the position OR experience that provided a broad familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the position; **AND** Six months of progressively responsible specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level (GS-03 level is qualifying for GS-04) that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. Examples of qualifying specialized experience include: Forestry aid or technician work; Engineering, range, or soil conservation technician work that involved the application of resource conservation, or land management practices on nonforest or ranch lands when combined with knowledge of forestry operations and equipment; Farming or ranching work that involved application of soil and water conservation practices, including safety and use of equipment, and that provided a basic understanding of land use; Forest or range fire control, prevention, or suppression work. Seasonal experience may also be creditable. A season of experience is considered to be a period of no less than 3 months of continuous employment on a seasonal basis. Shorter periods may be combined to make a season, provided a total of at least 3 months' experience is shown. For any period where the work exceeded 3 months, the excess work is credited towards an additional season of experience. Four seasons of experience is fully qualifying for GS-04.

Example of Major Duties of GS-4 Forestry Technician (Firefighter):

**Firefighter**

**GS-4 \$14.41/hour**

**Note: firefighters may require additional qualifications (i.e. red card, special training)**

*Serves as a skilled crewmember on a wildland fire engine or hand crew on wildland fires, prescribed fires and hazard fuel reduction projects utilizing a variety of specialized tools, equipment and techniques. Serves as a wildland Firefighter (FFT2) on a hand crew, performing basic fire line activities assignments such as fire line construction, holding, patrolling, monitoring and mop-up operations. May be assigned to carry out specialized assignments such as tree falling, backfiring, and burnout. Works on a four-wheel drive wildland engine as an Engine Operator trainee (ENOP-T) driving the engine, operating the pump, and making hoselays under the direction of an Engine Operator or Engine Captain. Cleans, maintains, reconditions, services and makes minor repairs to fire fighting tools and equipment. May be assigned to other resource management activities.*

**GS-5 Forestry Technician (Firefighter)** applicants must possess one year of progressively responsible specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level (GS-04) that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to perform successfully, the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. Examples of qualifying specialized experience include: Forestry aid or technician work; Engineering, range, or soil conservation technician work that involved the application of resource conservation, or land management practices on nonforest or ranch lands when combined with knowledge of forestry operations and equipment; Farming or ranching work that involved application of soil and water conservation practices, including safety and use of equipment, and that provided a basic understanding of land use; or forest or range fire control, prevention, or suppression work. Seasonal experience may also be creditable. A season of experience is considered to be a period of no less than 3 months of continuous employment on a seasonal basis. Shorter periods may be combined to make a season, provided a total of at least 3 months' experience is shown. For any period where the work exceeded 3 months, the excess work is credited towards an additional season of experience. **SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE:** Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree (a) with a major study in forestry, agriculture, range management, or a subject-matter field directly related to the position, or (b) that included at least 24 semester hours in as forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science. No more than 6 semester hours in mathematics is creditable.

Example of Major Duties of GS-5 Forestry Technician (Firefighter):

**Firefighter**

**GS-5 \$16.12/hour**

**Note: firefighters may require additional qualifications (i.e. red card, special training)**

*Participates in wildland fire fighting, prescribed fires and hazard fuel reduction projects as a skilled senior crewmember on a wildland fire engine or hand crew. Must have knowledge of standard practices of wildland fire suppression and fire prevention activities. Works on a four-wheel drive wildland engine as an Engine Operator (ENOP) driving the engine, operating the pump, making hose lays and performing mobile and stationary engine attack under the direction of an engine foreman. Patrols roads and heavy visitor use areas for detection and reduction of potential fire hazards. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment and techniques to suppress wildland fires; prepare, conduct or rehabilitate prescribed burns; and participate in mechanical hazard fuel reduction projects. Serves as an Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss (FFT1) or skilled crewmember on a hand crew working on fire engine crews and hand crews on assignments such as fire line construction, tree layout and portable pump operations. Cleans, maintains, and conducts periodic maintenance of fire equipment, pumps, and hand and power tools. Assists with fire station and fire cache maintenance and operations. Participates in resource management activities and projects. Prepares various forms and reports as assigned.*

Smokey



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