

PARKNAME: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

STATE: CO

Alpha Code: FLFO

Position Title: Paleontologist

Job Description:

The participant will assist with ongoing projects relating to the paleontologic resources of the monument. Primary responsibilities will be on a new excavation project to collect fossil plants and insects from the late Eocene Florissant Formation, and on the monument's ongoing project to inventory and monitor fossil sites. Other duties may include some of the following: preparation and curation of fossil specimens, inventory of collections, updating database from field observations, compilation of a manual to document fossil sites, and assisting visiting researchers. The participant may have an option to use up to 50% of the time for research if they have a research plan defined and approved beforehand, and especially if they can develop it into a graduate thesis project. Work time will be split between office, lab, and field, according to project needs.

Time Frame: May 26 to August 14, 2009

Qualifications:

Applicants should be advanced undergraduate or graduate students whose educational background and career objectives are in paleontology. Applicants must have completed basic undergraduate course work toward a degree in geology or biology, with an emphasis in paleontology. Students who plan to pursue paleontology as a career, or those who are beginning graduate or undergraduate thesis projects, are especially encouraged to apply. Professional level applicants are also welcome to apply. Experience with Access database is preferred. The applicant should be able to work well independently.

Housing:

Housing will be provided in a shared house or apartment. The housing may require sharing a room. A personal vehicle is required; housing may involve a commute of 20-30 minutes to the monument.

Park Geology:

The Florissant Formation preserves an abundant flora and fauna of fossil plants and insects that were deposited in late Eocene (34 million-year-old) lake shales.

Location:

The monument is located 35 miles west of Colorado Springs in a forested mountain valley at 8000-9000 feet elevation, near Pikes Peak. The small town of Florissant is 2 miles from the monument and has basic services such as fuel, a convenience store, and

small restaurants. Divide is 8 miles from the monument and has a small supermarket. Woodland Park is 16 miles away and has large supermarkets, Walmart, mechanical services, a variety of restaurants, and a new hospital. Colorado Springs is a large city 35 miles away. Colorado Springs airport is 47 miles from the monument and provides regular service by all major airlines. Summer weather is cool to warm with sunny mornings and often rainy afternoons. More information about the park can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/flfo>

Primary Contact (person who will directly supervise the GIP):

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Paleontologist
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Secondary Contact:

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