

Description:

Bandelier National Monument and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) are seeking applicants for a six-month biological science and environmental education internship. This is a shared position, with approximately half of the intern's time supporting natural resource program projects at Bandelier and the other half assisting with environmental education programming for PEEC.

At Bandelier, the selected intern will be trained in and assist with the Monument's 2026 bird banding program, one of several long-term research and monitoring efforts at the park. The intern will be part of a three-person banding crew consisting of an experienced volunteer and a National Park Service employee. Throughout the season, the intern will learn and practice key elements of bird banding—such as setting up mist nets, safely removing birds, recording biological data, and assisting with banding under supervision.

During the summer (May–July), the intern will assist with point counts, pinyon jay surveys, habitat assessments, and hummingbird banding. During Fall Migration (August–mid-October), the intern will support volunteers and school groups in tracking migrating passerines. A fundamental part of Bandelier's bird banding program involves introducing underserved schoolchildren to bird biology and the scientific process. The intern will prepare a 45-minute bird banding presentation for local 5th grade classes and help lead a station during their field trip to the banding site.

The intern will also assist with data entry for MAPSNet, the Bird Banding Lab (BBL), and internal databases.

Secondary responsibilities with Bandelier's Natural Resources Program may include assisting with: large mammal monitoring; Peregrine Falcon nest observations; bat surveys and mist netting; Pinyon Jay surveys; leading occasional bird walks for visitors; riparian restoration; threatened and endangered species surveys (Mexican Spotted Owl, Jemez Mountains Salamander, New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse); mapping and removal of exotic vegetation; acoustic data collection; and entering data into systems such as eBird. Much of this work will take place outdoors and may require hiking over rugged terrain while working in both hot and cold weather.

In addition to Bandelier responsibilities, the intern will assist PEEC's environmental education team. This includes helping teach and support PreK–12 science programs in classrooms, on public lands, and at the Los Alamos Nature Center, which is operated by PEEC. The intern will also assist with PEEC's summer camps, after-school programs, birthday programs, and community outreach events, when applicable.

A key component of the intern's involvement in the bird banding education program with PEEC includes:

- Leading classroom pre-visits to each 5th grade class prior to their field trip
- Helping lead one educational station during the bird banding field trip
- Supporting students in connecting field science to local ecology and conservation

This position requires someone with curiosity, enthusiasm for learning field science skills, and the desire to work with diverse youth and the general public.

Qualifications:

Applicants should be prepared to learn and support both Bandelier's natural resources program and PEEC's environmental education programs. Applicants should demonstrate interest and foundational skills in wildlife biology, ecology, or environmental science, and be prepared to learn bird banding techniques under supervision.

Applicants must be skilled in (or willing to learn) all core aspects of bird banding, including safe capture, handling, data collection, and release of birds, and must be committed to maintaining safety for both wildlife and staff. Prior experience assisting or observing bird banding is helpful but not required, as training will be provided.

Applicants should also be eager to develop skills in environmental education and be comfortable engaging with students and the public in outdoor settings.

Additional requirements include:

- Ability to work well as part of a team and communicate clearly
- Strong interest in natural resource management, conservation, and outdoor education
- Ability to work independently with guidance and support from supervisors
- Comfort working outdoors in all weather conditions for extended periods
- Willingness to work early mornings, evenings, and occasional weekends
- Ability to carry 30+ lbs and hike in rugged terrain using map, compass, and GPS
- Working toward or holding a degree in biology, ecology, wildlife, natural resources, environmental education, or a related field

- U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) ages 18–30 (veterans up to age 35)
- Successful completion of a government background check (required for Bandelier).
- Successful completion of PEEC’s onboarding paperwork, including Code of Conduct, Confidentiality Agreement, and a background check search for criminal activity via a background check service entity.

Preferred qualifications include experience working with children or diverse communities; coursework or experience in ornithology, natural sciences, or environmental education; and familiarity with northern New Mexico’s ecosystems or Spanish language skills.

Duty Station:

Bandelier National Monument is a unit of the National Park System located near the town of Los Alamos, NM. Bandelier is located on the Pajarito Plateau in northern New Mexico, and protects over 33,000 acres of rugged canyons, mesas, and forests ranging from just over 5,000 feet in elevation near the Rio Grande River to over 10,000 feet in elevation at the park’s northern boundary in the Jemez Mountains. The neighboring towns of Los Alamos and White Rock are located approximately 25 minutes away; Santa Fe is about 45 minutes away. The headquarters of Bandelier is over 6,000 feet in elevation, and summers in the park are characterized by very warm days, cool nights, and frequent monsoonal thunderstorms. A vehicle will be available for work-related duties, but a personal vehicle is required for other activities. There is no internet available in park housing, and cell service/Wi-Fi is limited to Verizon within the headquarters area. The nearest public high-speed internet is available at the White Rock library. The intern will spend approximately 75% of their time in the field and 25% in the office. Fieldwork hours will be highly variable and include both night and day work, with variable start/finish times, averaging 40 hours per week. Field work will occur in remote locations, commonly in steep and rough terrain requiring long hikes with occasional overnight trips requiring camping in the field. Hazards included the terrain, rattlesnakes, black bear, mountain lions, sun exposure, high elevation, and lack of perennial water sources in some locations. Office work will require skills in report writing and attention to detail as well as the ability to analyze acoustic data using both visual and auditory methods. The headquarters of Bandelier is over 6,000 feet in elevation and summers in the park are characterized by very warm days, cool nights, and frequent monsoonal thunderstorms. The banding stations are located at 9,000 feet elevation and can be very cold during the banding season. Housing will be provided near the headquarters area of the park. The intern will be placed in a housing unit with a shared kitchen, bathroom(s), and living area (s). All effort will be made for each intern to have their own room. All furniture and cooking supplies will be provided. Housing will be inside Bandelier National Monument within 3 miles of the Headquarters area.

Pajarito Environmental Education Center operates the Los Alamos Nature Center in Los Alamos, NM. The intern will participate in school field trips, public programs, outreach events, and planning meetings at the nature center.

Classroom visits take place at schools in Los Alamos County, as well as a few other schools in the region.

Work Products:

By the end of the internship, the intern will:

- Gain foundational proficiency in avian monitoring techniques, including mist netting, handling, and data collection under supervision
- Build skills in wildlife monitoring, habitat assessments, restoration, and ecological data entry
- Develop experience teaching and supporting environmental education programs for diverse audiences
- Assist with the full cycle of the bird banding education program, from classroom pre-visits to field trip instruction
- Complete a final report on natural resource monitoring projects for Bandelier staff
- Deliver presentations to Bandelier staff and at the Los Alamos Nature Center
- Build a portfolio of field science and education experience that will support future employment in natural resources or environmental education
- Gain hands-on experience in public engagement, education, and public speaking with both general audiences and school groups.