



Southeast Alaska Discovery Center
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**2009 Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)
Positions in Recreation and Wilderness
Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan, Alaska**

Thank you for your interest in the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District's recreation and wilderness programs. There are two Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) paid positions available for the 2009 summer season. Selected employees will assist at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, and work at either the Margaret Creek Bear Viewing Area or with the Kayak Ranger Interpretive Program.

STEP employees generally work from late May to late August / early September. A mandatory training week will take place for new seasonal employees in early June. Topics covered will include boat safety, aviation user training, bear safety, 1st Aid and CPR, Civil Rights, ethics and conduct, defensive driving, hazard communication, firearms training, and alcohol and drug abuse awareness training. Positions may require pre-employment drug testing as a condition of employment.

Field-going employees often travel to and from remote work sites by boat and/or fixed-wing float plane. Tours in the back country may involve three to ten consecutive days working and camping in remote locations. Ketchikan is located in the southern end of the Tongass National Forest, a temperate rainforest, receiving an average of 160 inches of rainfall per year, with an average summer temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Applicants should be in good physical shape and have a positive attitude for working in often-adverse weather conditions. Any experience you have working outdoors and/or in remote settings should be described in detail on your application.



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Housing:

Government housing is available for STEP hires. While not in the field, STEP employees will have accommodations in the Forest Service bunkhouse. The bunkhouse is a shared bedroom room facility with showers, kitchen, laundry, living room, and storage lockers. Rent for the bunkhouse is deducted from pay directly.

Pay and Uniforms:

Positions are classified at the GS-04 level with a base pay of 13.72 per hour. These are uniformed positions and are provided.

Qualifications:

To qualify for the STEP program, an applicant must be accepted for enrollment, or is enrolled, as a degree-seeking student in an accredited technical school, university, or professional school and be taking at least a half-time course load.

How to Apply:

Please submit a cover letter stating the position you are seeking and related strengths and experiences to Timothy Fisher, Center Director – Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, 50 Main Street, Ketchikan 99901. In addition to a cover letter include: a resume stating past work experiences, a letter from your education institution verifying enrollment in a degree seeking program, and a copy of current transcripts. All information must be received by the closing date of February 6, 2009.

Contact Timothy Fisher at (907) 228-6290 or email to tfisher@fs.fed.us or Lorelei Haukness at (907) 228-4102 or email to lhaukness@fs.fed.us for more information.



2009 Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) Position

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center / Margaret Bear Viewing Area (GS-04)

This STEP position requires a minimum 14 weeks of work beginning early June through early to mid-September. There is a possibility of a flexible start and end time by one or two weeks. Initially, work will focus on providing interpretive programs at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, an Alaska Public Lands Information Center and a flagship Visitor Center for the Tongass National Forest located in downtown Ketchikan. The Center receives up to 500 hundred visitors a day. Center staff develops, prepares and presents 20-minute formal interpretive programs on the natural and cultural history of Southeast.

These interpretive programs can be in the form of power points, talks, short video, and or audio presentations. Other duties include opening and closing the facility, staffing an information desk providing general information and orientation, roving interpretation through the exhibits and other operational support needs.

In August, this position shifts to staffing Margaret Creek Bear Viewing Area located in a remote work site accessible only by boat or plane only. The STEP will work closely with outfitter guides providing additional information and safety for visitors to the bear viewing site through interpretive media, non-formal presentations, and by monitoring visiting guides assuring compliance with rules and regulations. This is a remote work location and housing is a rustic one room cabin with minimal facilities. For four to six weeks of the summer, one will be in the field (out of contact except via forest service radio) for five to ten days a week, and sometimes longer. Will work and live closely with another Forest Service Employee. In addition, the STEP will assist with other duties such as developing improved interpretive media, addressing bear management techniques, and performing some light trail and maintenance work in and around the cabin.



2009 Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) Position

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center / Kayak Ranger (GS-04)

This STEP position requires a minimum 12 weeks of work beginning in mid-May and continuing to mid-August. There is a possibility of a flexible start and end time by one or two weeks.

The Kayak Ranger Interpretive Program is an innovative approach to interpretation involving paddling out to cruise ships, climbing aboard, and delivering programs about the natural and cultural history of Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness. Ideally, people with prior interpretive experience or whom are enthusiastic for educating and working with the public are encouraged to apply for this position as this is the main focus of the kayak ranger program. Experience creating interpretive programs and having great communication skills will be an asset. Sea kayaking experience is helpful, but not necessary, field skills training is provided. The ranger program primarily involves development and delivery of on-board interpretive programs, as well as some programs that are delivered in Ketchikan. For a portion of the summer, the kayak ranger will be in the field (out of contact except via forest service radio) for three to five days a week, or sometimes longer. While in the field, rangers primarily operate out of a floating barge, but also spend several nights camping in remote locations throughout the Monument. Additional duties may include trail work and wilderness site monitoring between scheduled on-board programs.

For the remainder of the summer, work will shift to providing interpretive programs at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, a Public Land Information Center and a flagship Visitor Center for the Tongass National Forest located in downtown Ketchikan. The Center receives 500 hundred visitors a day, where staff provides 20-minute formal interpretive programs on the natural and cultural history of Southeast. These interpretive programs can be in the form of power points, talks, short video, and or audio presentations. Other duties include opening and closing the facility, staffing an information desk providing general information and orientation, roving interpretation through the exhibits, and other operational support needs.

