



Redwood National and State Parks

Interpretation and Outdoor Recreation Volunteer

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HUMBOLDT COLLEGE CORPS
25-26 AY COHORT
SERVING THE NORTH COAST

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Introduction

Redwood National and State Park exists to protect and restore the unique environment that houses the tallest trees in the world. Park workers strive to teach others about the importance of preservation and facilitate safe enjoyable experiences for all visitors.

Learning

Within this program, I developed skills in professional communication, problem solving, environmental interpretation, and customer service. Working in visitor centers, I gained hands-on experience in National and State Parks while developing a deeper understanding of their commitment to stewardship and restoration. I provided information to visitors from around the world while also exploring and reported on the extensive trail system. Through this experience, I learned to interpret diverse environments through a new lens and to communicate key insights more clearly to the public, a vital skill as a physical science major.



My Experience

Volunteers help to fill many crucial roles within both our state and national parks. They work with visitor services, maintenance, environmental and wildlife monitoring, educational outreach and more.

My role at the park included:

- Visitor Services: Providing quality customer service, interpretation, and information about the park's resources at the visitor centers.
- Performing daily opening and closing procedures.
- Roving Trails: Acting as a uniformed presence on the Redwood trail systems to provide information, interpretation, and maps. Additionally reporting trail conditions such as downed trees, trail erosion, or failed structures such as bridges or signage.
- Encouraged compliance to park guidelines, such as, Leave No Trace principles, staying on established trails, and dog restrictions.



Example of trail conditions observed on a rove that would be reported maintenance crews in the park

Program Impacts

The Partnership between college corps and Redwood National Park was mutual beneficial by supporting students, community service, and improving site operations.

Community and Site Benefits:

- Supplemental staffing at visitor centers and increased trail presence lead to improved visitor safety, engagement, and satisfaction.
- Connections between local communities and public lands increases stewardship.

Professional Development:

- Gained experience working in an environment with federal workplace standards.
- Developed scientific communication skills with diverse audiences.
- Built teamwork, leadership, and problem solving skills.
- Gained insight into careers in environmental and public service fields, helping clarify future career goals.