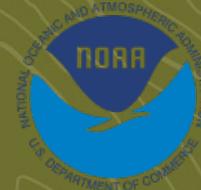
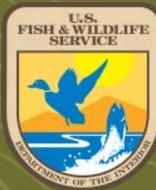
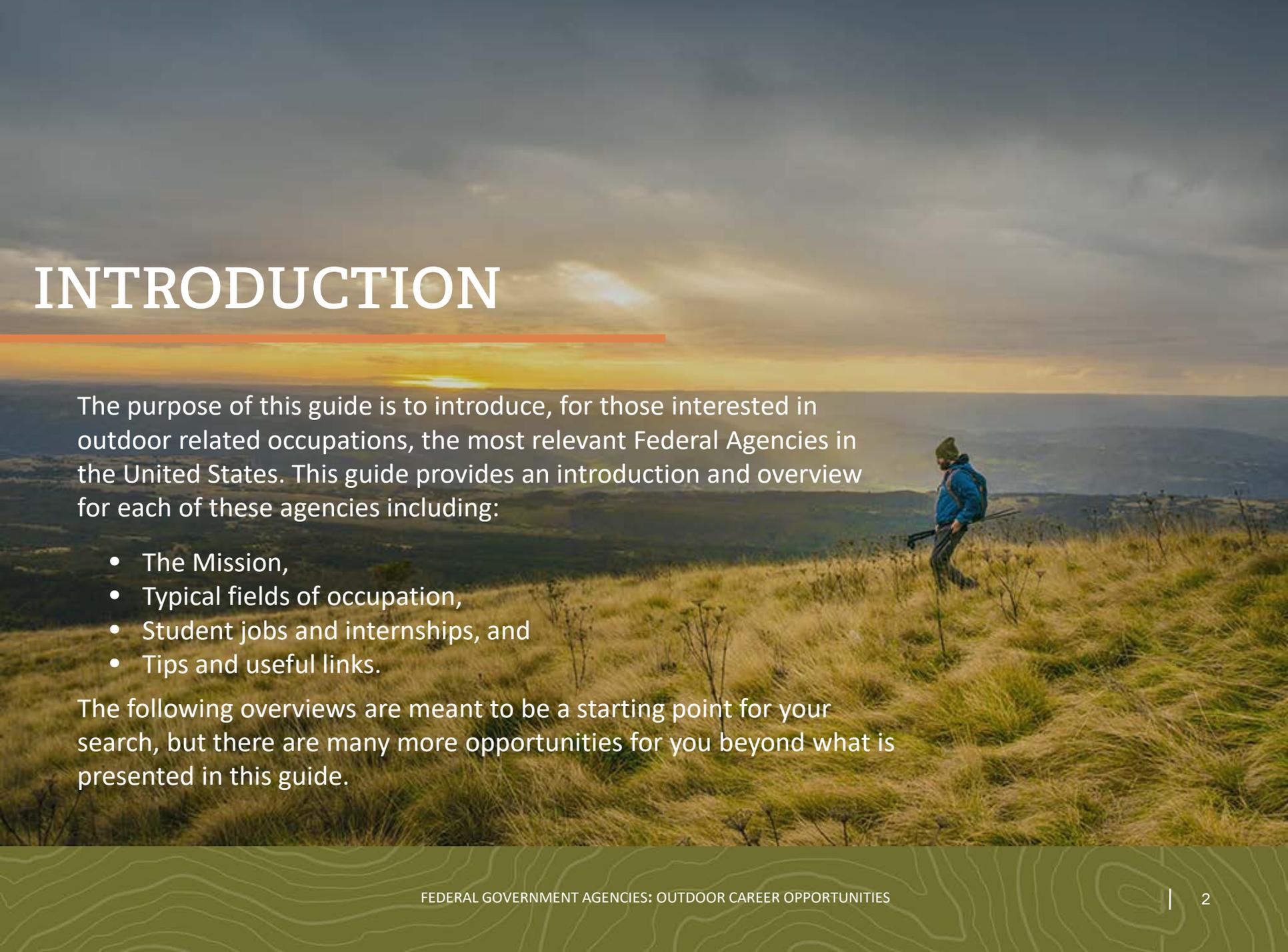


GUIDE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: OUTDOOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



INTRODUCTION



The purpose of this guide is to introduce, for those interested in outdoor related occupations, the most relevant Federal Agencies in the United States. This guide provides an introduction and overview for each of these agencies including:

- The Mission,
- Typical fields of occupation,
- Student jobs and internships, and
- Tips and useful links.

The following overviews are meant to be a starting point for your search, but there are many more opportunities for you beyond what is presented in this guide.

FEDERAL AGENCIES MOST RELEVANT FOR THE OUTDOOR SECTOR

Agency

Department of the Interior:

[Fish and Wildlife Service](#) • [National Park Service](#) • [Bureau of Land Management](#) • [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) • Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement • Bureau of Reclamation • Geological Survey • Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement

Department of Agriculture:

[Forest Service](#) • Agricultural Marketing Service • Agricultural Research Service • Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Science • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion • Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service • Economic Research Service • Farm Service Agency • Food and Nutrition Service • Food Safety and Inspection Service • Foreign Agricultural Service • Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Office of Community Development • National Agricultural Statistics Service • Risk Management Agency • Rural Business-Cooperative Service • Rural Housing Service • Rural Utilities Service

Department of Commerce:

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) • National Geodetic Survey • National Marine Fisheries Service • National Ocean Service • National Weather Service • Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

In this guide we introduce the agencies with the majority of job opportunities in the field:

- [Forest Service](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)

Take a look at typical careers and fields of occupation and see if they match your own career aspirations.

If so, we encourage you to do your own research by going to the individual agency's websites and learn more of their mission, their accomplishments, every day work, and job opportunities.



The Mission

The mission of the BLM is "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Overview

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may best be described as a small agency with a big mission: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. It administers more public land – over 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency in the United States. Most of this land is located in the 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also manages 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. BLM operates on a workforce of about 10,000 Full time employees.

Typical Careers

- Archaeologist
- Botanist
- Fire Management Officer
- Hazardous Materials Specialist
- Hydrologist
- Wildlife or Fisheries Biologist
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Rangeland Management Specialist
- Forester
- Geologist
- Land Surveyor
- Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Engineer
- Law Enforcement Ranger
- Planning Coordinator
- Reality Specialist
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Economist
- Information Resources Specialist
- Electronics Technician
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

The Pathways Program offers federal internship and employment opportunities for current students, recent graduates and those with an advanced degree. There are three different paths available. Learn more about the BLM's Pathways programs through the links below.

Pathways Internship Program

The Internship Program is for current students. If you're a current student in high school, college, trade school or other qualifying educational institution, you may be eligible. This program offers paid opportunities to work in federal agencies and explore federal careers while completing your education: for more information: [Internship Program](#)

Pathways Recent Graduate Program

The recent graduate program is for those who have graduated, within the past two years, from a qualifying educational institution or certificate program. The recent graduate program offers career development with training and mentorship. You must apply within two years of getting your degree or certificate (veterans have up to six years to apply due to their military service obligation: more information [Recent Graduates Program](#)

Pathways Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program

This program is for recent graduates with an advanced degree—either a professional or graduate degree such as a master's, Ph.D. or J.D. For more information: [Presidential Management Fellows Program](#)

Additional Information

- Contact a [BLM Pathways Coordinator](#) about employment opportunities in our states and centers.
- For more information on the new Pathways programs, visit the following websites:
- <http://www.opm.gov/index.asp> or <http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentJobs>
- <http://www.pmf.gov/>

Tip

Careers in demand: Positions often have opening:

- Biological Sciences
- Cadastral Survey and Geological Sciences
- Fire and Aviation
- Land Law and Realty
- Petroleum Engineering
- Rangeland Management

Useful links

- [USAJobs](#) – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- [YouthGo.gov](#) – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- To view the skillsets required for each career at BLM visit http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/blm_jobs/our_careers/career_cards.html
- To review Hiring process visit http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/blm_jobs/how_to_apply/hiring_process.html
- Careers information - How to Apply http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/blm_jobs/how_to_apply.html



The Mission

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Overview

The US Forest Service is a multi-faceted agency that manages and protects 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 states and Puerto Rico. It was established in 1905 and is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands, which encompass 193 million acres. It is composed of about 34,000 employees nationwide and is the largest natural resource organization in the world.

Typical Careers

- Foresters and Forestry Technician
- Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Staff
- Firefighters and managers
- Fire prevention
- Aviation and ground safety professionals
- Electronic technicians
- Dispatchers and communicators
- Biological Scientist
- Recreation Specialists
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

The Pathways Program offers federal internship and employment opportunities for current students, recent graduates and those with an advanced degree. There are three different paths available <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people>

Pathways Internship Program

Designed to provide students with opportunities to explore Federal careers while still in school, students may be hired on a temporary basis for up to one year (NTE Intern) or for an indefinite period (Indefinite Intern).

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/2015/16/Pathways_Applicant.pdf

Pathways Recent Graduate Program

Is available to individuals who have completed qualifying degree or certificate programs within the previous two years. Qualified veterans may have an extended application period due to military service.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search?Keyword=pathways&Location=&search=Search&AutoCompleteSelected=False>

Pathways Presidential Management Fellows Program

This program is for individuals who have completed an advanced degree within the past two years. For more information about student opportunities visit

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/2015/16/Pathways_Applicant.pdf

Tip

- The phrase, “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. You can learn more about this motto, the vision, and guiding principles [here](#).
- Volunteers are essential to the management of the forest, this can be a great way to network and get your foot in the door. Learn more [here](#).
- Opportunities for growth and career advancement are limitless at the Forest Service. A career with the Forest Service is a chance to work for nature and leave a lasting impact. You can work in nature or in a role that supports nature. <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/jobs/careers>

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- Job Application tips <http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs-jobs-applicant-tips.pdf>
- Required documents for hiring authorities http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/required_docs_fsjobs.pdf
- How to apply information <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/jobs/how-to-apply>



The Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. It cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Overview

More than 20,000 Americans work to preserve and protect the United States of America’s most prominent natural, historical and recreational resources. They are the employees of the National Park Service. One of eight Department of the Interior bureaus, the NPS oversees 380 locations covering 83 million acres across the US and its territories.

Typical Careers

- Park Rangers
- Fire Management Professionals
- U.S. Park Police
- Guards
- Maintenance Workers
- Administrators (e.g. Management and systems analysts, Finance and Accounting, Clerical personnel, Writers and editors.)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

If you’re a college student, you can explore internship possibilities by finding out if the park you’re interested in offers learning opportunities. Many of the opportunities listed below offer stipendiums. To learn more, including contact information and how to apply, please follow the links.

- [Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Internships](#) **Interest areas:** Geoscience and other natural resource science fields—field and office based internships focus on research, inventory and monitoring, interpretation and education projects
- [Mosaics in Science Diversity Internships](#) **Interest areas:** Focus on hiring students under-represented in natural resource (STEM) fields - summer field and office based internships focused on research, inventory and monitoring, interpretation and education projects disciplines
- [Student Conservation Association](#) **Interest areas:** all
- Public Land Corps **Interest areas:** all
- [Youth Conservation Corps](#) **Interest areas:** conservation work projects and environmental education programs
- [Pathways for Students and Recent Graduates](#) **Interest areas:** all
- [National Park Business Plan and Consulting Internships](#) **Interest areas:** management consulting, park management, strategic and operational planning, commercial services, public-private partnerships
- [Historic Preservation Training Internships](#) **Interest areas:** historians, archeologists, architects, curators, planners, and archivists
- [Cultural Resources Diversity Internships](#) **Interest areas:** historic preservation and cultural resources
- [Historic Sites and Structures Documentation Internships](#) **Interest areas:** architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, history
- [Maritime Documentation Internship](#) **Interest areas:** architecture, engineering, or history, maritime preservation
- [Sally Kress Tompkins Fellowship](#) **Interest area:** research

Tip

Competition for Park Service jobs is often keen, and not all positions are open to external applicants, according to the Park Service’s Web site. So you may need to get your foot in the door as a temporary or seasonal employee, or become one of the more than 100,000 people who volunteer with the NPS each year: [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Seasonal Employment: The National Park Service hires thousands of seasonal employees each year to welcome and educate visitors, conduct research, protect our resources, help keep our parks looking beautiful, and so much more. Seasons vary by park, but summer seasons generally operate between March and September, and winter seasons between October and February. The park service accepts applications for summer positions between October and February and for winter positions between July and August. They post all seasonal vacancies on USAJobs. Search "National Park Service" and select "Temporary" in the Work Type field. Some of the larger parks receive hundreds of applications for only a handful of openings, so your chances for selection may improve if you apply to a smaller park. Consider volunteering or interning with some of our youth program partners to gain additional experience.

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- **NPS – Work with us**
- <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/workwithus.htm>



The Mission

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Overview

The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Under the Fisheries program operate 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 65 fishery resource offices and 86 ecological services field stations. The Service employs approximately 9,000 people at facilities across the U.S. The Service is a decentralized organization with a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., with regional and field offices across the country.

Typical Careers

- Park Ranger
- Fish Biologist
- Biological Science Technician
- Wildlife Refuge Manager
- Forestry Technician
- Veterinary Medical Officer
- Grants Management Specialist
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

The Pathways Program offers federal internship and employment opportunities for current students, recent graduates and those with an advanced degree. There are three different paths available

Pathways Internship Program

The Internship Program is for current students. If you're a current student in high school, college, trade school or other qualifying educational institution, you may be eligible. This program offers paid opportunities to work in federal agencies and explore federal careers while completing your education. [Learn more about the Internship Program](#).

Pathways Recent Graduate Program

The recent graduate program is for those who have graduated, within the past two years, from a qualifying educational institution or certificate program. The recent graduate program offers career development with training and mentorship. You must apply within two years of getting your degree or certificate (veterans have up to six years to apply due to their military service obligation). [Learn more about the recent graduate program](#).

Pathways Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program

This program is for recent graduates with an advanced degree—either a professional or graduate degree such as a master's, Ph.D. or J.D. You may be eligible if you:

- Have completed an advanced degree from a qualifying educational institution or program within the past two years.
- Are a current graduate student and will complete all of your degree requirements (including dissertations) by the PMF application deadline.
- [Learn more about the Presidential Management Fellows program](#).

Tip

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Volunteer opportunities with the USFWS may be found at more than 500 refuges and hatcheries throughout the United States. The best way to begin is to visit the Web site of a particular refuge or hatchery – and then visit the actual location. Locate a [refuge](#) or [hatchery](#) near you.

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- Wage information <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>
- Volunteering information <https://www.fws.gov/volunteers/>



The Mission

To understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs

Overview

NOAA has over 12,000 employees worldwide with an emphasis on 9 focus areas. With over 6,776 scientists and engineers. The 9 key focus areas are Weather, Climate, Oceans & Coasts, Fisheries, Satellites, Research, Marine & Aviation, Charting, and Sanctuaries.

Typical Careers

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a scientific agency providing information and data about life on earth, our oceans, atmosphere, and the Nation's living marine resources. NOAA's programs range from marine sanctuaries, environmental satellites, global climate change, and ocean exploration initiatives to climate, weather, and water services.

- Facilities Operations Specialist
 - Physical Scientist
 - Fish and wildlife Administrator
 - Research Ecologist
 - Sanctuary Research Coordinator
 - Industry Economist
 - Social Scientist
 - General Engineer
 - Program Manager
-
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program \(FEHBP\)](#)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees \(FSAFEDS\)](#)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program \(FLTCIP\)](#)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

- **Student Internships and Scholarships:** NOAA's Office of Education hosts a Student Educational Opportunities website with information about scholarships, internships, fellowships, funding levels and more. <http://www.noaa.gov/opportunities/opportunities-for-students>
- **Presidential Management Fellows Program:** This post graduate program targets recent graduates with advanced degrees from a variety of academic disciplines who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, leadership and management of public policies and programs to the Federal Service. http://www.wfm.noaa.gov/pmf/pmf_fellows_supers.html
- **ORIS Program** Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) is a U.S. Department of Energy institute focusing on scientific initiatives to research health risks from occupational hazards, assess environmental cleanup, respond to radiation medical emergencies, support national security and emergency preparedness, and educate the next generation of scientists. [ORIS Program](#) or <http://orise.orau.gov/>

Tip

Please review the employment requirements prior to applying by visiting http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/recruiting/eligibility_req.html

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- Job vacancies <https://www.usajobs.gov/Search?Keyword=NOAA&Location=&homeRadPublic=public&search=Search&AutoCompleteSelected=False>
- NOAA career Fields http://www.careers.noaa.gov/career_fields.html
- About NOAA http://www.careers.noaa.gov/about_noaa.html



Bureau of Indian Affairs | US Department of Interior

The Mission

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

Overview

There are 567 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) provides education services to approximately 42,000 Indian students. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has over 3,800 employees.

Typical Careers

- Grants Management
- Social Services Representative
- Social worker
- Maintenance Worker
- Supervisory Realty Specialist
- Forester
- Legal instruments examiner
- Lead Forestry technician
- Administrative specialist
- Indian Self Determination Specialist
- Water Treatment plant operator
- Deputy Superintendent
- Laborer
- Contact Representative
- Police Officer
- Correctional Officer
- Telecommunications Equipment Operator
- Assistant Fire Management Officer
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

- The National Center for Cooperative Education in Natural Resources (NCCE) is a student summer employment program. These programs are designed to promote the development of American Indian and Alaska Native natural resources professionals by helping students achieve their educational and career goals. The programs are to help BIA and tribal natural resources managers find qualified employees currently attending college with majors in the fields of forestry, range science, agriculture science, wildlife/fisheries, and other natural resources

areas. <http://www.bia.gov/nifc/jobs/SummerJobs/index.htm>

Tip

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 USC 472), gives priority in selection to eligible Indian preference candidates.

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- Announcements <http://www.bia.gov/index.htm>
- Job search and application <https://www.usajobs.gov/JobSearch/Search/GetResults?OrganizationID=IN06>

Contact



~TRANSFORMING YOUTH~

TYO

~OUTDOORS~

For further information please visit MyTYO.org



This guide has been created by
TYO: Transforming Youth Outdoors
in partnership with US Fish & Wildlife Service