

Nicole M. Algarin

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PROFILE

Dedicated and passionate tropical biologist with a dedicated and passionate record of preserving and restoring cultural and natural areas. Strong background in biological sciences with a focus on education and a deep commitment in leading and developing environmental focused education programs, with professional and volunteer experiences in park management, visitor engagement, and resource connection. Skilled in developing and implementing strategies to maintain the delicate balance between environmental protection and education. I am adept at fostering partnerships with local communities and schools to help achieve common learning standards and creating environmental stewards. I thrive in collaborative environments and am committed to ensuring the long-term viability of our nation's most cherished natural treasures.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Americorps VISTA Steward / Education and Interpretation Park Ranger

September 2023 – March 2025

Location: Biscayne National Park, (9700 SW 328th St, Homestead, FL 33033)

Salary: \$25,000

Hours per week: 40

Grade equivalency: GS-7

Summary: As the 2024-2025 VISTA Intern, I simultaneously support and enhance routine visitor center operations and communications, while assisting with education and interpretation programs with a focus on educating school groups and visitors of all ages on local environmental issues, history of the park, culture, and safe water-related practices along with an overview of our park resources. I maintain and strengthen relationships with various internal and external participants of my program and individuals along with their offices from multiple divisions and from the county level to the park level.

Primary duties and skills include:

COMMUNICATION, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND EDUCATION:

- Created opportunities by developing and implementing environmental-based education programs for preschool through 12th grade students to learn about their local environment in ways that can improve their lives and the health of the planet.
- Led educational programs off-site and on-site at various schools in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- Created curriculum-based programs for in-person and distance learning education programs for K-12th and adult learners.
- Coordinated bus and boat transportation logistics for programming and scheduling for National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) programs, home school and National Park Service programs.
- Led various fishing clinics on-site and off-site for beginner anglers of all ages and experience levels.
- Led, assisted, and taught paddling techniques in paddling clinics for beginners using canoes and kayaks in Biscayne National Park (Convoy Point and Elliott Key).
- Attended tabling sessions to inform parents about upcoming boat field trips and boating safety for upcoming trips.
- Assisted with daily park operations such as: Opening visitor center, answering phone calls, answering questions, swore in junior rangers, park roves and Island Roves (at Convoy Point, Boca Chita Key and Elliott Key)

- Assisted in the park events open to the public hosted by Biscayne National Park.
- Experience with being on a Boston Whaler and Munson boats as a crewmate.
- Experience in developing and leading overnight camp at campsites for students.
- Led ranger programs such as: Kayaking, snorkeling, fishing, plankton lab, seining, marine ecology presentations, and guided park tours.
- Participated in monitoring events with Resource Management in northern FL Keys, using a motorized boat to conduct surveys.
- Engaged with the community through outreach opportunities to inform the community about events and education programs.
- Collaborated with various divisions, including fees, law enforcement, and resource management to fulfill needs of the education programs.
- Produced visual materials using graphic design programs such as Canva and Microsoft Word for curriculum-based programs and social media team.
- Completed radio and safety training according to park standards and received training in the divisions of interpretation and environmental education.
- Maintained fleet utilization every month by updating the mileage and days used in Microsoft Excel.
- Developed curriculum for the education program based on Florida state standards.
- Served as a point of contact for teachers for distance learning and in-person programs via email and phone calls.
- Facilitated translations between English and Spanish for students and visitors in regular park operations.
- Delivered programs in Spanish with an environmental focus on South Florida ecology.
- Proficient in swimming and self-rescue techniques, ensuring safety and confidence in aquatic environments.
- Successfully managed relations with visitors, including handling hostile or negative interactions.
- Maintained quality control of inventory, such as life jackets, paddles for kayaks and canoes, Personal Flotation Devices, bug jackets, ropes, and other equipment needed for the programs.
- Assisted fellow AmeriCorps Community Volunteer Ambassador with the monthly volunteer newsletter
- Performed canoe and kayak self-rescue (rescue oneself and re-enter a canoe and kayak without help from others, or use of land or a dock).
- Able to paddle canoes and kayaks in water subject to windy conditions, challenging maneuverability, changing water levels, underwater obstacles and tidal currents, and carry unwieldy items, and lift heavy loads.
- Trained incoming education staff on programming and interpretation programs done at Biscayne National Park
- Coordinated weekly education programs and led team meetings
- Participated in sea turtle monitoring with Resource Management
- Assisted in beach cleanups with Resource Management, Volunteer Coordinator and led cleanups with educational groups.
- Attended climate change outreach tabling events.
- Worked on social media projects for Instagram and Facebook through Facebook meta.
- Established connections with local organizations and organization in the lower keys.
- Established interpretation and education communication and brought in resources from Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.
- Networked with Southeast region parks

Beekeeping Apprentice

January 2023 – January 2024

Location: Little Farm, (13401 SW 224th St, Miami, FL 33170)

Salary: \$25,000

Hours per week: 20

Summary: As an apprentice, I assisted with beekeeping management of colonies, planted native plants for pollinator garden, developed educational programming, assisted with farm animal feeding and cage cleaning, maintained inventory in a sub-tropical climate with local pollinators and native species.

Primary duties and skills include:

MANAGEMENT, ANALYTICAL, RESEARCH:

- Created social media posts and flyers for outreach events.
- Managed beehive colonies by inspecting for pests, checking for living conditions, nutrition addition and honey extraction.
- Organized volunteer and education programs
- Worked on a research project relating bees with local pollinators by planting native Florida plant species
- Fed and cleaned cages and pens for farm animals
- Organized and led events for local organizations on the farm

Wildlife Environmental Technician 2023

October 2022 – January

Location: Florida Power & Light/ Turkey Point, (9700 Southwest 344th Street Homestead, Florida, 33035)

Salary: \$45,000

Hours per week: 40

Summary: As a technician, I worked in a nuclear power plant in the environmental department performing inspections and removing wildlife from highly secured areas.

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

WET AND DRY SKILLS, DATA COLLECTION, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Assisted wildlife biologist with crocodile surveys and necropsies
- Set traps for invasive wildlife species on property
- Handled humane methods on removing invasive reptiles
- Performed daily, weekly and monthly inspections of MET towers, maintenance facilities, channel markers, water treatment plant
- Kept detailed record of data management (Field sample sheets, logbooks, lab reports).
- Reviewed Data and sample results for compliance
- Conducted Crocodile Surveys during nesting season within the cooling canals and Everglades mitigation
- Worked out in the field in extreme weather conditions including high humidity and hot temperatures

- Coordinated and scheduled with outside vendors for regulatory compliance related field and laboratory activities
- Complied with herbicide and pesticide requirements including implementation

Fellow

October 2022 – January 2023

Location: Montgomery Botanical Center, (11901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33156)

Salary: \$45,000

Hours per week: 40

Summary: Applied garden and cultivation management skills to a botanical garden which hosts many subtropical and tropical plants from various parts of the world.

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Assisted in various horticulture departments such as palm, dicot, landscaping, data collections, nursery and land maintenance.
- Implemented IPM, pruning techniques, handling of hand tools, soil or media use for plantings, plant identification
- Helped with outreach events such as fundraising or yearly events for donors.
- Gave tours to visitors at the botanical garden in golf carts.

EDUCATION

Florida International University, Miami, FL, United States

B.S. June 2023

Major: Biological Sciences

RELEVANT COURSEWORK:

- Upper-level Spanish coursework
 - Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking
- Led outdoor Education programs in Spanish and English.
- Voice and Speech (public speaking)
- STEM intensive courses (biology, chemistry, ecology, physics and math)
- Tropical ecology
- Botany
- Strong foundational understanding of aquatic wetland and saltwater ecology

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

- Visitor services volunteer Biscayne National Park
- Volunteer with education back-country camping, boating and canoeing/kayaking at Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park
- Volunteer with South Florida National Parks Association events and dark sky night programs.
- Park photographer at Chamizal National Memorial
- Interpretation and Education volunteer at Colorado National Monument

TRAINING

- Operational Leadership (2024)
- Foundations of Interpretation (2024)
- First Aid, CPR, AED and O2 administration course (2024)
- Earth to Sky Climate Conference hosted by NASA (2024)
- Virtual Education Summit hosted by NPS (2024)
- Newfound Harbor Marine Institute (NHMI) Teacher Workshop (2024)
- Green DOT Training (2024)
- Education workshop hosted by Jimmy Carter National Historical Park Education Program
 - (2024)
- NPS Social media training (2024)
- Canoe water safety training (2023)
- Golf cart certified (2015)

SPECIAL SKILLS

- Native spanish speaker fluent in reading, writing, and speaking (Conversational)
- Able to understand languages such as: Italian and Portuguese
- Computer/Data Skills (MS Word, Excel, Canva, PowerPoint, Google Suite, Adobe and Acrobat)
- Typing Speed: 55 words per minute
- Training/class instructor experience
- Nautical experience
- Able to create social media posts (reels, canva, captions, photography and video editing)
- Swim tested and able to perform self-rescues on boats, canoes and kayaks
- Experience kayaking, canoeing and snorkeling in-shore and open ocean
- Ability to maintain and ride mountain bikes and ATVs/4x4s
- Experienced in horticulture
- Experience working with reptiles, birds, small and large mammals

REFERENCES:

- Jhulian Gutierrez - ([REDACTED])
- Lily Orazi - ([REDACTED])
- David Riera - ([REDACTED])