

# American Indian Student Interpretive Ranger Program

## Student Mentor Position Outreach

**Program Contact:** Dave McKee, President, Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association

**TO Apply:** Contact Dave at [daveabtmckee@gmail.com](mailto:daveabtmckee@gmail.com) or phone at (307) 751.5486 by March 1, 2023

### Introduction:

The Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association (FPK/BTA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will recruit and employ two American Indian college students as interpretive rangers at the Medicine Wheel and Fort Phil Kearny National Historic Landmarks from June 12<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The program will be implemented in partnership with the Bighorn National Forest and Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. **A special component of the program will be recruitment of two American Indian mentors to support and council the students.**

American Indian culture and history are fundamental elements of the spiritual and physical landscape at both sites. Mentors will council students with specific reference to the American Indian history and culture at the project site locations and larger regional landscapes. Mentors will review and critique current interpretive presentations and materials of the hosting agencies. Mentors will provide an end of season review to the program partners to identify program strengths and weaknesses that need to be addressed. Grant funding would be used to reimburse mentors for travel expenses, and a daily stipend for up to 16 days of program work.

### Mentor Participation Requirements:

Once student and mentor participants have been selected, we will jointly determine if a mentor will work with one student through the summer at both sites or focus on one site and work with both students at that site. In short, we will consult with to develop a mentoring plan that provides the best educational experience for the students.

Each mentor will make a minimum of four on-site visits with the student during the nine-week program. An additional 4 days are also planned for mentor travel. Mentors will spend a minimum of two days mentoring the student in their home community, once at the beginning and once at the end of the program.

Additional mentor workdays can include time to gather information on the program sites and to consult with program partners prior to, during, and at and the conclusion of the on-site program. Mentors will provide a written and/or orally presented review to program partners on current and suggested site interpretive programs and displays, as well as sharing observations of the students experience in the program.

Finally, mentors will agree to be interviewed by the Wyoming Council for the Humanities for a video to be placed on the Humanities Council website. For the interview mentors will provide comments on the cultural and historic importance of the program sites and share impressions of the over-all Student Interpreter Program.

## **Mentor Compensation:**

**Mentor Stipend:** \$100/day x 16 days = \$1,600

**Mentor Travel:** mileage, per diem (Food & Lodging) 1 mentor x 4 trips x \$600/trip = \$2,400

Mentors will produce a voucher itemizing time works and travel expenses on a bi-weekly or monthly basis and submit to the FPK/BTA for reimbursement.

## **Program Overview:**

Interested students will apply to participate in the program by submitting a letter of interest and resume with references to the FPK/BTA for review and participant selection. The project partners will recruit participants by making visits to college campuses. Once selected, students will receive a weekly stipend, housing, and travel support. Students will receive National Association for Interpretation (NAI), interpreter training and certification as part of their employment. The students will work four weeks at each site under the supervision of Forest Service and State Parks staff, then trade places to experience working at both sites. The FPK/BTA also has funding to pay for independent study college credits for a student to produce a paper relevant to current interpretive programs or history at one or both sites. Project funding is provided by the Bighorn National Forest and Wyoming Council for the Humanities, with in-kind volunteer labor from FPK/BTA to implement the program.

Shared partnership goals include: (1) providing education, training, career development, and employment opportunities for underserved American Indian college students, (2) expand diversity of summer seasonal staffs, (3) improve interpretive programs and materials at each site to present a more inclusive perspective of history, and (4) develop and strengthen relationships between the partners and American Indian colleges and communities.

## **Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association (FPK/BTA):**

FPK/BTA was founded and received non-profit status in 1985. FPK/BTA is dedicated to the preservation, development, education, and promotion of the Bozeman Trail and associated historic sites including Fort Phil Kearny, Fetterman Battlefield, and Wagon Box Battlefield. We currently have over 400 dues paying members. To learn more about our organization and sponsored programs visit our website at [www.fortphilkearny.com](http://www.fortphilkearny.com)

## **Dave McKee: Program Leader**

Dave is president of the FPKBTA. He completed a 34-year career with the U.S. Forest Service as an archaeologist, tribal liaison, and Forest recreation program manager. While on the Black Hills National Forest, Dave established a Tribal Youth Conservation Corps program under a cost share agreement with the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Tribes. Dave served as liaison between tribal representatives, the U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service to complete the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain National Historic Landmark nomination. Dave continues to attend and participate in the annual Medicine Wheel consultation meetings at the invitation of the consulting parties.