



A Retrospective of the GeoCorps America™ and Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Partnership

GSA Annual Meeting
October 28, 2013

Presented by Lisa Norby

What is Geoscientists-in-the-Parks?



- National Park Service internship program run in partnership with GeoCorps America™
- 3 – 12 month positions in parks and central offices to complete geology and integrated science projects
- Each NPS “volunteer” participant receives stipend, housing or housing allowance, and travel allowance



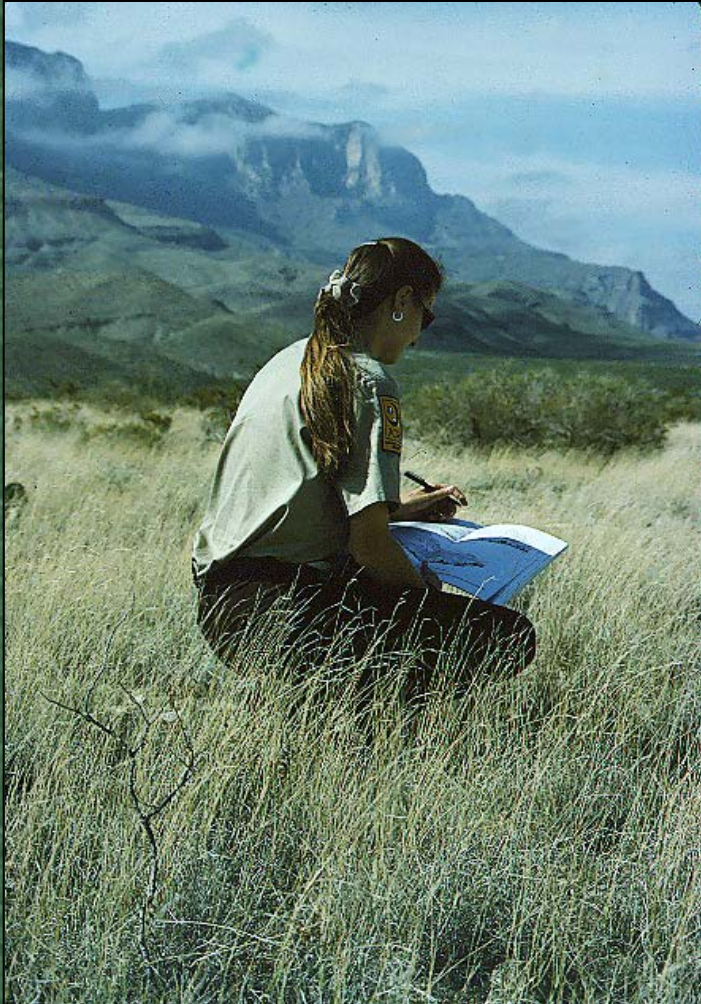


Program Objectives

- Provide on-the-job geoscience training for America's youth
- Build technical capacity for parks
- Introduce students to careers in the NPS
- Enhance the public's understanding of the Earth sciences



Geoscience Expertise

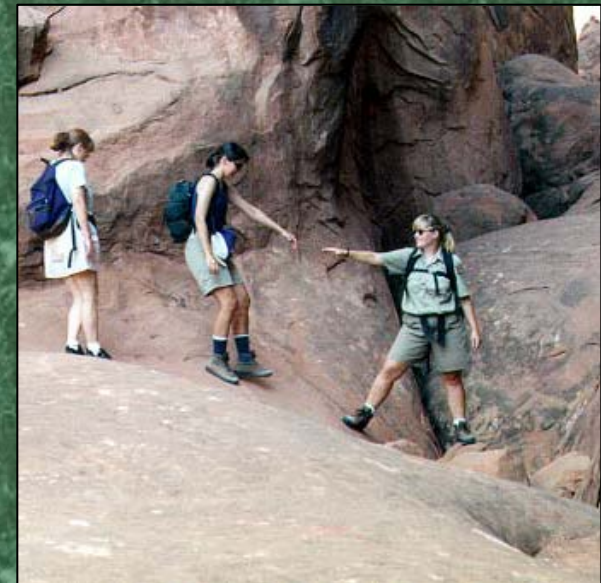
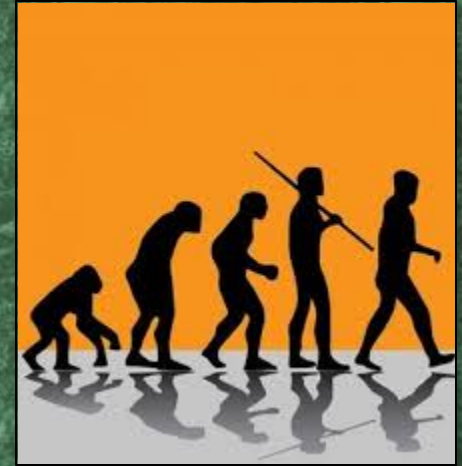


- Students – undergraduate and graduate
- Recent college graduates
- Professors and Earth Science Teachers
- Other Professionals
- Retired Professionals

Creation of GLP Program



- Program conceived in 1995, first positions filled in 1996
- Program developed to assist NPS with filling gaps in geoscience expertise throughout the Service
- Parks posted “want ads” on-line; NPS-GRD and SCA posted job listings online and advertised with universities and organizations. Matched resumes with park needs
- GSA sponsored a number of positions from 1996 - 2000 (2 – 12 positions)



Geocorps America™ Program



- 1996 – 2000 – GSA Sponsored NPS interns
- GeoCorps formally created in 2000, partnered with NPS (GIP Program) and USFS
- 2005 – BLM added as new partner
- 2011 – State of CA became partner
- 2013 – GeoCorps named 21st Century Conservation Service Corps



Program Enhancements



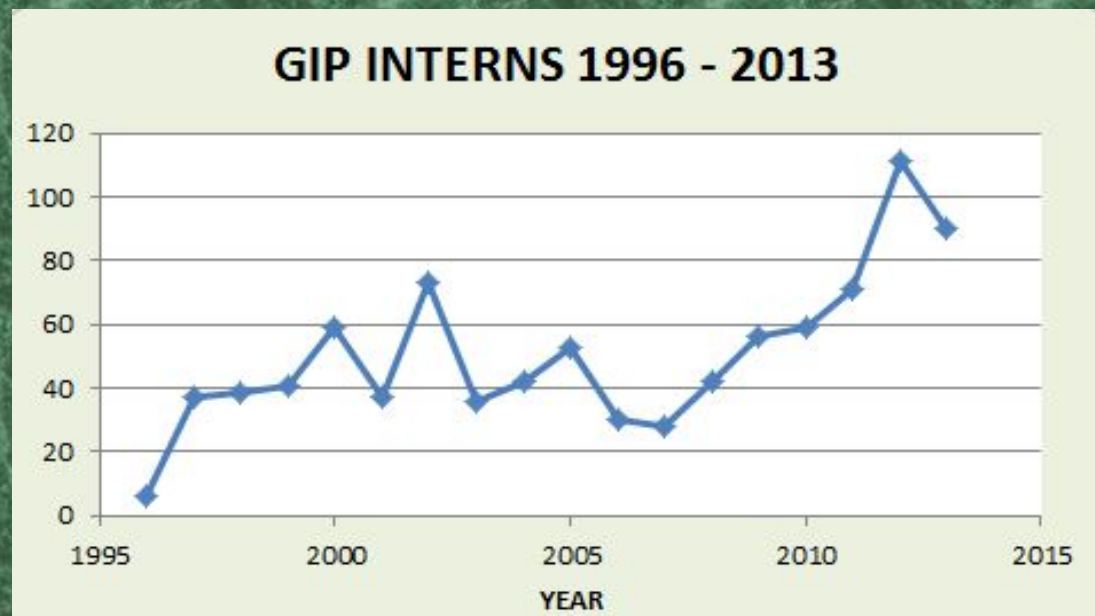
- Improved website and recruiting
- Increased stipend, added travel allowance
- More types of positions – GeoCorps/GIPs, Guest Scientists, Diversity Internships
- Two advertising periods
- Orientation and mentoring Toolkit
(<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/gip/mentor.cfm>)
- National Youth Agreement
- Created Mosaics in Science – not part of GeoCorps but modeled after successful GeoCorps/GIP program

Current GeoCorps/GIP Program



- Approximately 100 geoscientists / year
- Emphasis on youth 17 – 25 yrs. old
- Focusing on integrated science projects
- Diversity and inclusion - program diversity increased to 25% in 2013

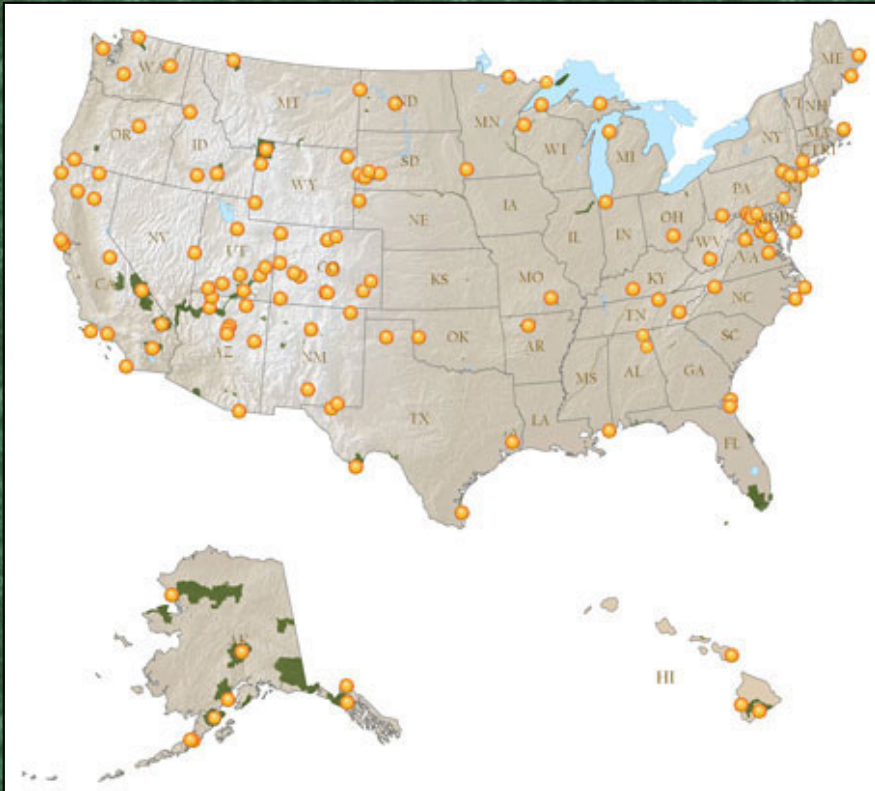
(far better than ethnic diversity of university students currently enrolled in the Earth sciences - avg. ~4%)



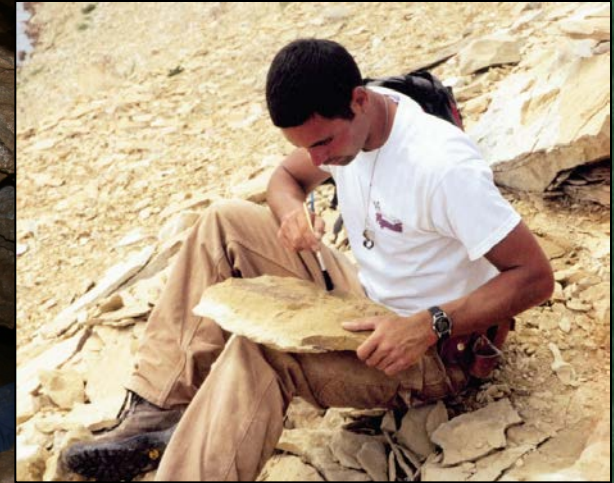


Key Accomplishments

- Completed over 900 geology and integrated science projects in 150 NPS units
- Provided on-the-ground training for America's youth
- Encouraged students to pursue geoscience careers
- Elevated the importance of the Earth sciences to park managers and public
- Hired many interns in to seasonal and permanent NPS positions



Inventory and Monitoring Projects



Research Projects



Education/Interpretation Projects



BRAIN TEASERS STOP 1: A'a Lava Flow

Inquiry-based Exercises for Young Scientists

GO TO

Go to the Spatter Cones Trail parking lot. Go to the southern end of the parking lot by the trailheads. Find the outcrop pictured below.

BACKGROUND

This exposure shows the inside of a single 'a' flow. 'A'a flows are a type of lava flow which have sharp, jagged, uneven pieces of cooled lava on the surface that make a "clinkering" noise as they hit each other.



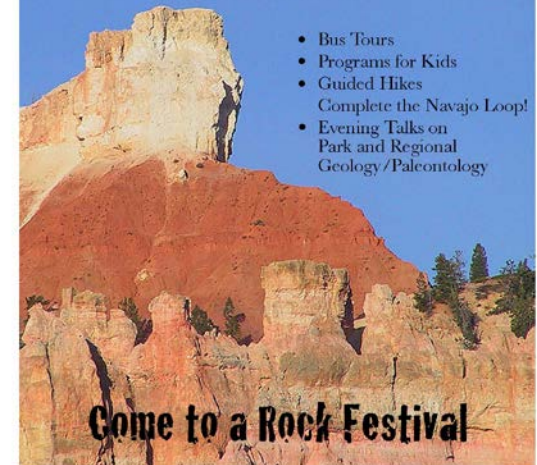
OBSERVE

Look at the way the texture of the lava changes in different parts of the lava flow. Write your observations in the space below.

BRYCE CANYON GEOLOGY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10-11, 2007

- Bus Tours
- Programs for Kids
- Guided Hikes
- Complete the Navajo Loop!
- Evening Talks on Park and Regional Geology/Paleontology



Sponsored by the National Park Service and the Geological Society of America's GeoCorps program.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SCIENCE • STEWARDSHIP • SERVICE

What the Future Holds....



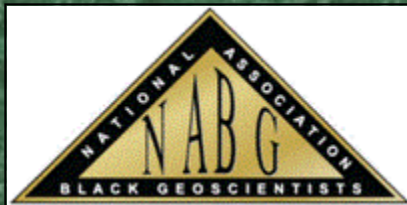
- Continue to help parks address their geoscience and integrated science needs
- Work towards hiring more geoscientists in the NPS
- Develop mechanism for participants to obtain Americorps scholarships and educational credit for their work
- Create a more diverse workforce that looks like the make-up of the U.S.
- Obtain long-term sustainable program funding



Many Partners



- Geological Society of America, GeoCorps America™ Program
- GSA Foundation



AGENCIES



ORGANIZATIONS



UNIVERSITIES



PARK FRIENDS GROUPS

Questions / More Information



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- NPS Geoscientists-in-the-Parks:
<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/gip/index.cfm>
- NPS Mosaics in Science:
<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/mosaics/index.cfm>
- GSA GeoCorps America website:
<http://www.geosociety.org/geocorps/>