

Yellowstone's International Work and Travel Program

Previously referred to as the J-1 program, the Work and Travel program provides an incredible opportunity for global exchange. Students from all over the world travel to Yellowstone for 2-4 month periods of work and cultural experiences. On the flip side, our employees and guests are able to interact with people from other countries; our J-1 students are eager to share their music, food, culture, and language.

We're extremely excited to welcome our students and will even have staff from Kenya (a new country represented in Yellowstone this year!). Our international employees for summer 2019 are coming from 28 different countries across the globe (Thailand, Ecuador, Colombia, Croatia, Jamaica, and Mongolia to name a few). We're hiring from Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa, so our Yellowstone family will have every opportunity to learn new things from one another.

Though there might be just a handful of students from some countries, other places such as Taiwan will have as many as 123 students working in Yellowstone this summer. Each student is currently enrolled in university in their home country and have gone through a rigorous selection and screening process to be considered to work with the J-1 visa program. If they pass the screening process with their agency, they are then able to be interviewed either in person or via Skype by a Xanterra representative. Once they've been selected, we go through the process of hiring them into housekeeping, food & beverage, and sometimes retail.

When students arrive, they're unsure exactly where they will be and what job they will be doing, but they're excited, motivated, and a little jetlagged to say the least! For most students, this will be their first time in Yellowstone, and often their first time in the United States. 48 of the 650+ international students hired this year have worked in Yellowstone before and are returning for their second or third season. This means that the majority of international students are not only adjusting to working and living in a national park, but they're also experiencing some culture shock as well. Chances are some of these students will become your close friends, open the door for you to take an international vacation, and you'll be gifted a more immersive experience. Please be sure to welcome any international students and see how they are enjoying their experience abroad! Stay tuned for monthly international student highlights to learn more about our diverse range of students and their countries.

