

BECAUSE OF HER STORY

 Smithsonian

American Women's History Initiative
Because of Her Story 2021 Virtual Summer Internship

VIRTUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

June 14–August 6, 2021

Deadline to Submit: **February 28, 2021**



2019 Because of Her Story Internship Cohort

This program is administered by the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative's Education and National Access Committee with support from the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships.

The American Women's History Initiative is funded through a public-private partnership with Congress, the American people and private donors, corporations and foundations. Learn more by visiting <https://womenshistory.si.edu/leadership-donors>.

American Women’s History Initiative Project Selection

Please select **three (3) virtual projects** that interest you from the descriptions below, and enter your first, second, and third preferences on your application form. Highlight your skills and knowledge in these areas in your personal statement and resume.

American Women’s History Initiative 2021 Project Descriptions

#1 “Wikimedia, Gender Equity, and the Digital Museum”

American Women’s History Initiative (AWHI) | Office of the Undersecretary for Museums and Culture (OUSMC)

Wikipedia is the 5th most visited website globally, but only 18% of its biographies are about women and only 10% of editors identify as female. Without equitable representation on Wikipedia, notable American women in a variety of fields are written out of history – we are taking steps to change that. The Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative is working alongside the Wikimedia community to advance gender equity on Wikipedia by making our collections about women accessible on the Wikimedia platforms. This internship will be entirely digitally focused and will allow for the exploration of the place of open access platforms in museums, how to use sites like Wikipedia to reach a wider audience, and engaging with open access and museum communities around these sites. The future of museums is increasingly digital. The intern will learn about the current open access movement in museums and will be urged to think of how young leaders can participate in these innovations.

#2 “Women’s Work, Women’s Words”

Archives of American Art (AAA)

Founded in 1954, the Archives of American Art fosters advanced research through the accumulation and dissemination of primary sources, unequalled in historical depth and breadth, that document more than 200 years of our nation’s artists and art communities. The Archives’ oral history collection includes more than 2,500 audio interviews, the largest accumulation of in-depth, first-person accounts of the American art world. The intern will work within the oral history program, getting hands-on experience with the full process of proposing, planning, and conducting oral history interviews as well as making them

accessible. The Archives continually strives to make our collections even more inclusive and available, and we will soon introduce a podcast series that explores underrepresented voices from our collections. The intern will contribute research and input for the realization of at least one podcast episode, for which they will receive published credit. By listening to and learning from women's lives in their own words, the intern will amplify these powerful legacies for generations to come.

#3 "Sally's Legacy: Engaging Girls and Women in STEM at the Smithsonian"

National Air and Space Museum (NASM)

As women continue to be underrepresented in aviation and space careers, the Smithsonian is committed to disrupting this pattern by fostering a lifelong interest in STEM for girls and young women. We continue to learn how to effectively activate our one-of-a-kind collections, research, and programs to inspire our learners to think about their roles in defining our future in aviation and spaceflight -- and we need your help! As part of the Smithsonian team you will participate in new and exciting virtual programming that focuses on the stories of women in aviation and aerospace, and help us learn how to create meaningful engagement and lasting impact for women and girls in virtual spaces. During your internship, you'll participate in a pilot program that uplifts and amplifies the contributions of women to space and space sciences inspired by the legacy of Dr. Sally K. Ride, path-breaking American astronaut. This event will advance her commitment to engaging all learners, especially women and girls, in STEM. As part of your work with our team, you'll explore digital evaluation strategy and how to gauge impact in virtual environments. You'll also work with us to research best practices in STEM and historical learning for women and girls, especially in the virtual realm. Finally, after working together to find a story of a historical heroine in aviation and aerospace that you'd like to explore, you'll demonstrate the best practices through research and evaluation you conducted during the summer through a miniature facilitation or experience for a public audience. You'll be a part of helping NASM and SAO use historic collections to connect to the present and create a more equitable future. We can't wait for you to join us!

#4 “Teaching Nondominant Histories: Centering Women’s History in the Classroom through the National Youth Summit”

National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Join the 2021 National Youth Summit team with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History (NMAH)! Through this project, you will research and develop a set of digital learning resources for the Summit tied to the content and scholarship of NMAH’s new exhibit "Girlhood, It’s Complicated." This internship will be grounded in the question: What curricular resources are needed to support gender equitable teaching in secondary classrooms? You will research best practices for teaching nondominant (and countering dominant) narratives, including reading against the grain, centering inclusive language and content, and teaching historical thinking and argumentation. These pedagogical approaches will be applied to the content of the National Youth Summit to create digital teaching resources for educators teaching secondary Social Studies courses. In this process, you will conduct independent research, consult with Smithsonian educators and curators, and enlist educators for critical feedback. You will be expected to share findings and engage with the Summit planning team during weekly team meetings. The project will conclude with the development of a set of teaching resources made available through the Learning Lab platform. This set of digital tools will be featured in the National Youth Summit suite of curricular resources and shared with thousands of middle and high school students and teachers nationwide in the fall of 2021.

#5 “Programming that Challenges the Face of Science: Sharing Scientists’ Stories”

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

If you are interested in science communication and helping to motivate conversations about gender and other biases that women face in science, then this internship is for you! During the 8 weeks the intern will work with education, science, communications, and other staff at the National Museum of Natural History to produce a 3-part webinar series called “Challenging the Face of Science – Expert Online.” The intern will learn skills necessary to plan, implement, evaluate, and share the stories of leading female scientists at the museum. Part of the experience will involve learning how to conduct interviews, write program scripts, and use audience feedback. These programs are aimed at fostering conversations with middle and high school-aged audiences so the intern will learn how to inspire such interactions. Depending on interest, the intern can either learn how to facilitate the live programs, or participate in the behind the scenes planning. Using social media to recruit the audiences and helping to design a

Splash Page for the work on the NMNH website are other skills embedded in this internship. The intern will leave with a stronger sense of the biases women in science face and know that the live and archived programs she created will serve as important resources for our large audiences, particularly teen girls inspired to pursue science.

#6 “An Irrepressible Wave: A Timeline of Women in Smithsonian Ocean Science”

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) | Smithsonian Marine Station | Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA)

Though men dominated the early days of ocean science at the Smithsonian, women are not absent; they are, as many women have been in the annals of science, obscured. And their influence may still be seen on the rising wave of women in ocean science that has grown stronger over recent years. The intern, working with Smithsonian Archives, the Smithsonian Marine Station, and NMNH’s Ocean Portal will develop an online, interactive timeline of notable women in ocean sciences at the National Museum of Natural History, from its earliest days to the present. This project will highlight notable women and their contributions to ocean science at the Museum through photographs, audio of interviews, documents and other archival materials. The timeline will be published on the Ocean Portal and cross-promoted on NMNH’s and Smithsonian Marine Station’s websites and social media channels.

#7 “Using Data Science Tools to Study Smithsonian Women in Science”

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)

The OCIO Data Science Lab (datascience.si.edu) is a multidisciplinary research group that is using data science tools to study digitized collections and archives data. One active research project, which supports the American Women’s History Initiative, is using machine learning to surface the stories of Smithsonian women in science and learn more about how women have shaped Smithsonian collections. In particular, we are interested in learning how many Smithsonian digitized collections objects can be linked to Smithsonian women in science as collectors or creators, where Smithsonian women in science traveled, with which other scientists they worked, and what collections and archives can tell us about how the career trajectories of women in science have changed over the history of the Smithsonian. Natural language processing and other machine learning tools allow us to query large digitized datasets for these answers, which we can then use to build visualizations, including the networks of Smithsonian

women in science and maps showing their travels and collections. The ideal candidate will have a background in computer science or computational biology.

#8 “Women on Wikipedia: Closing the Representation Gap”

Smithsonian Affiliations (SA)

Did you know only 18% of biographies on Wikipedia English are about women? The Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative is working to change this by bringing content on notable American women to Wikipedia and we need your help to continue this important work. During this internship, you’ll work with Smithsonian Affiliations, the Smithsonian’s Senior Digital Strategy Officer, and the Smithsonian Affiliate museum, History Colorado—home to the Center for Colorado Women’s History—to research and write stories about un- or under-represented women to add to Wikipedia. By creating up to 8 new entries during your internship, you’ll build valuable research and writing skills, while also helping us reach thousands of people each month and build public understanding of the important role women have played throughout American history.

#9 “Reach Across the Stars”

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO)

Science education enthusiasts interested in communication and public history should take a look at this opportunity to help document and promote women’s central role in the history of space science. The intern’s work will focus on a project entitled "Reach Across the Stars: A Universe of Explorers," a free augmented reality (AR) app for ARcompatible tablets and smartphones. This app, created by a team of women and selected by Apple as an App of the Day, allows users to explore the universe and unlock the often-overlooked stories of women and their contributions to space exploration and science, including computer scientist Grace Hopper, astronomer Nancy Roman, and mathematician Katherine Johnson. Women within the app are featured in short “stories” (a duration of one to two minutes) and longer “journeys” (five to eight minutes). Current users of the app can explore NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory with astronaut Cady Coleman and get a behind-the-scenes look at the Mars 2020 Rover with Christina Hernandez, an engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, among other adventures. The app will also include “serialized” content slated to deliver additional stories and journeys in the coming months. This opportunity will encourage active outputs on behalf of the intern that shape and drive the new content included. The intern will also assist with the app’s “life cycle” overall – from

content organization and research to dissemination of the app and related outreach. Get experience on a popular AR-driven app as we seek to expand the universe of stories from underrepresented groups available for our diverse audiences.

#10 “Star Stories: The Women Behind the Science”

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) | NASA’s Universe of Learning (UoL)

The NASA’s Universe of Learning (UoL) team at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory is creating a new audio series to highlight stories of astrophysical discovery and the people behind the science, with a specific focus on women scientists and scientists from underrepresented minorities. The intern will work with the UoL team to develop an episode of this audio series. Responsibilities will include choosing one (or more) American women in astrophysics to showcase, translating their science into a story for public consumption, and interviewing an American woman astrophysicist on the current implications of their work. They will have the opportunity to collaborate with team members at both SAO and UoL, and will interact with and learn from experts in various fields. Through this project, the intern will combine scientific thinking, creativity and writing skills, reporting and interviewing skills, and an understanding of how to communicate with diverse audiences, all culminating in the creation of an exciting in-depth audio story about a revolutionary American woman and her breakthrough in astrophysics. This project explores the questions: Who are the unsung heroines of American astrophysics, and how can we better highlight their stories? What are the intricacies and subtleties of the scientific process, and how can we communicate them in a way to foster public understanding and trust in science? How can we combine science, culture, and human stories to showcase a comprehensive history of discovery in true Smithsonian fashion?

#11 “Digital Storytelling with Smithsonian Magazine”

Smithsonian Enterprises | *Smithsonian Magazine*

This internship with *Smithsonian* magazine offers an opportunity for a burgeoning writer, journalist, or historian to tell stories about the diversity of women whose accomplishments have yet to be shared with the world. Who are the unsung heroes of science, the ingenious brains of technology, the brave souls of the military who, as women, have for too long been relegated to the footnotes of history? Learn how *Smithsonian* magazine reaches millions of readers each month, and be part of a vibrant team of editors and writers who work to educate their curious audience with new narratives. The ideal candidate will be hungry to learn the skills of a professional reporter and eager to challenge a status quo

in which women, particularly women of color, have been ignored by the books, newspapers, and movies of years past. The intern will have the chance to meet researchers from across the Smithsonian as they dive deeper into the lives of these unheralded women, and will work with editors to fine-tune their journalistic chops as they write stories for publication on Smithsonianmag.com. The ideal candidate will have some experience as a journalist and must have curiosity running through their veins.

#12 “Recovering the History of Smithsonian Women in Science”

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA)

Work alongside the Smithsonian Archives AWHI Digital Curator to research and produce digital resources and exhibitions about Smithsonian women working in science—from the Smithsonian’s founding to the present. The intern will help create a digital exhibition, geared towards college students with an interest in the history of science and women's history, about the challenges and triumphs of some of the Smithsonian's first women in science, with particular emphasis on the first women of color to work in the sciences at the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The intern will contribute to a dataset that contains information about women in science at the Smithsonian, and will explore and compile compelling resources through accessing archival records online, including oral histories, photographs, manuscript collections, and specimen collections. This internship seeks to answer the questions: What can we learn from the first women in science at the Smithsonian? What can their stories tell us about the development of American science and women's history? How can we curate that history online to open access to archival resources that help us tell stories about women in science, especially women of color? What are the barriers to telling the stories of women in science, particularly the stories of women of color? How can we engage college students with this history of SI women in science?