



CONTACT: Dominick Miller
millerd44@michigan.gov
Mackinac State Historic Parks
Phone: (906) 847-3328
www.mackinacparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2019

Mackinac State Historic Parks Hires David Harkleroad as Interpretation Coordinator

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the hiring of David Harkleroad as Interpretation Coordinator. David began work on Monday, February 25, 2019, and his office will be in Mackinaw City during the winter and on Mackinac Island in the summer. David's primary focus will be at Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island.

“We announce this hiring with confidence that David brings excellent skills and excitement to the position of Interpretation Coordinator,” said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director.

Hailing from Kittanning, Pennsylvania near the city of Pittsburgh, David enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard and has served over 14 years as an infantryman, during which time he completed two tours to Iraq and one tour to Afghanistan and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. In January of 2017 he transferred to the Army Reserve in order to take an assignment with a Military History Detachment, where he is the senior non-commissioned officer of the team and will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class.

During his military career he completed a Bachelor of Arts in History degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Arts in History from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh with a focus on the early American period from the Colonial to post Civil War eras.

David's career in the public history field began in 2008 as an intern at Bushy Run Battlefield State Historic Site in Pennsylvania before transitioning into the Interpretation Division with the National Park Service at Fort Necessity National Battlefield until 2014. He then transferred to Friendship Hill

National Historic Site until 2016 and finally Pea Ridge National Military Park as the Park Volunteer and Education Program Coordinator, where he served until taking the position with Mackinac State Historic Parks. He also served a winter off season between 2017 and 2018 as an interpreter at the Alamo in San Antonio.

“I am looking forward to this life experience and adventure with the Mackinac State Historic Parks’ staff and at our amazing site, Fort Mackinac,” David said. “I feel privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of it.”

The interview committee for this position was Steve Brisson, Deputy Director, Craig Wilson, Curator of History, and Haley Yax, Group Travel and Special Events Coordinator.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

###