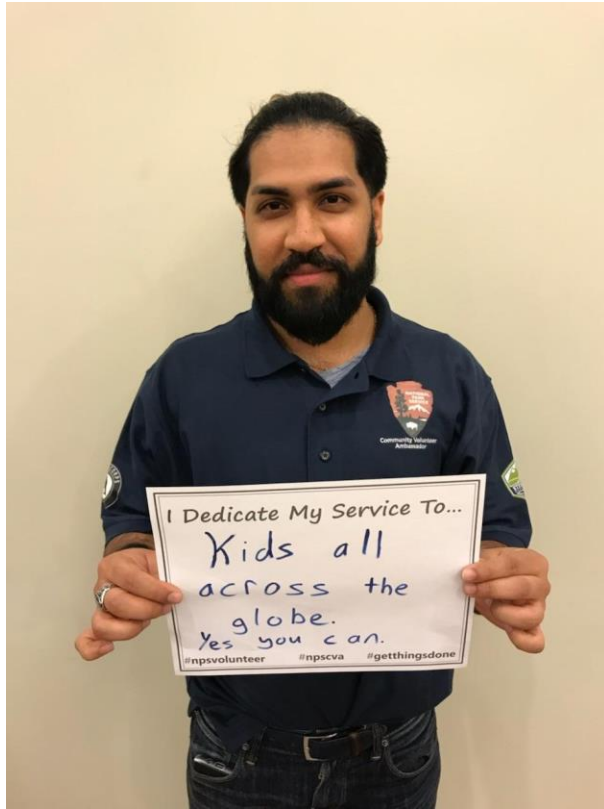


## National Parks of New York Harbor (NY)



Michael Persaud was born in South America in the country of Guyana. As a young child he migrated to New York City and has lived in the borough of Queens since. He found his passion for storytelling soon after and enrolled in college to study the art of the motion picture. After receiving his first B.A. in Film at Brooklyn College and Freelancing in the independent film industry, he realized that he wanted to continue his education in another field he was passion about; history. Michael returned to Brooklyn College and completed his second B.A. studying Public History and walked away with a deep understanding of the capabilities in merging both film and history, utilizing the power of storytelling, to spark change in the world by implementing the lessons of the past. It was during this time that he came across an offer from the National Park Service to

serve as an intern in partnership with the Student Conservation Association. As fortune permitted, he was able extend his internship and has worked for various sites within the National Parks of New York Harbor. At present, he remains at the National Park Service and is finishing up a M.A. degree in the study of Social History; amplifying the voices of those that have been silenced in the past and in some cases, to this day. Themes of his current thesis includes colonialism, race, identity, pluralism, and social mobility. Michael strongly believes in interlinking the analysis of his studies with the National Park Service as it is no secret that there is a current and prominent struggle to increase diversity and promote inclusion. He understands that he is a part of that process and in a unique position to open doors for generations to come.