

Law Enforcement Division

Law Enforcement Park Rangers belong to the “Visitor and Resource Protection Division” within the National Park Service.



Modern law enforcement park rangers have undergone an extraordinary transformation since the late 1800's when rangers carried flintlock rifles to protect wildlife from illegal hunters in Yellowstone National Park, or the early 1900's, when U.S. Army Rangers patrolled the larger National Parks.

Prior to beginning their career at a national park, the law enforcement rangers who serve you today must successfully complete a rigorous 20-week training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Georgia. The curriculum includes a wide range of classroom and tactical training, which covers federal law, defensive tactics, pursuit driving, search and rescue, and first aid. This training academy is the equivalent of a 2-year community college program.

FLETC, also known as the “Center of Excellence”, is the primary training center for Federal Officers from various agencies such as the U.S. Border Patrol and Customs agents, Immigration Officers, U.S. Coast Guard special agents and numerous others. Upon graduation rangers are authorized to carry firearms, conduct investigations, make arrests and serve warrants pursuant to law and policy. Following graduation, each new ranger reports for advanced field training, and works alongside seasoned rangers, in National Parks like the Everglades or Yosemite, to name a few.

You may find rangers behind the wheel of a patrol car, 4-wheel drive vehicle, ATV, or piloting a boat anywhere in the United States. Their duties vary depending upon which of the 388 National Parks they are assigned to. A park ranger's typical duty day may require hiking the Appalachian Trail on a rescue mission, flying over Denali National Park in Alaska, or being out on boat patrol in the Florida Everglades.

So whether responding to a crime in progress, searching for a lost child, rendering CPR to a heart attack victim, or simply giving directions to visitors, rest assured that the Park Rangers assigned to Canaveral National Seashore are well qualified and equipped to serve and protect our visitors, as well as the national resource entrusted to their care.