



Teacher to Ranger to Teacher



The intent of the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program is to provide opportunities for teachers to have well-rounded work experiences in national parks. Teachers will develop lesson plans based on their experience for use in the classroom. The program focuses on teachers from schools that have underserved student populations, who have had no experience with national parks, or little opportunity to explore the relevance these areas can have in their lives.

Background

The challenge for the National Park Service (NPS) is to provide opportunities for all audiences to connect to their national heritage as embodied by national parks. The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) program focuses on the education community and engages teachers from schools that are not currently being reached with park programs, paying particular attention to areas with large, ethnically diverse populations.

Teachers are detailed to parks as park rangers through an Inter-governmental Personnel Act agreement between their school district and the NPS. Teachers spend their summer working and often also living in their park. The parks provide a uniform, housing, and a supplementary payment for the teachers. They perform various duties

depending on the professional development needs and interests of the teacher as well as the needs of their park. Specific duties may include developing and reviewing curriculum-based park materials, developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, assisting resource management, and working with teacher institutes.

During the school year teacher-rangers bring the parks into classrooms by developing and presenting curriculum-based lesson plans that draw on their summer's experience. In April, during National Park Week, teacher-rangers will wear their NPS uniforms to school, discuss their summer experience, and engage students and other teachers in activities that relate to America's national parks.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield Park Opportunities

Fort Necessity National Battlefield is nationally significant as the 1754 site of George Washington first battle and the start of the French and Indian War. The park also interprets the National Road through the 1840s stagecoach stop, the Mount Washington Tavern. Additionally, the park is important for its natural resources.

Education is a core part of the park mission. School

programs related to park history were successfully delivered to over 3,400 students last year. However, this is only a fraction of the school children who live within field trip reach of the park.

Join us in summer 2009 and become a teacher-ranger at Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Teachers receive \$300/week, a uniform, and housing at the park (if needed).

Concepts Learned and Incorporated into the Classroom

Teacher-rangers who work in parks with significant cultural and historic resources learn about the complexities of interpreting and researching human history and current ethnographic matters in park today. For example, teacher-rangers can learn how:

- parks research and interpret the events surrounding the French and Indian War, and regularly consult with historians and others who have a relationship with the park and its resources;
- a variety of resources can be used for research, and how these resources will be used to tell complex stories from a variety of viewpoints;
- working with other divisions within the park affects a project.

Program Benefits

Benefits for Teacher-Rangers

- √ Participating teacher-rangers have the opportunity to develop a personal connection with national parks.
- √ Teacher-rangers develop a wide array of teaching examples based on real life experience in parks and create “curricula enhancers” that highlight issues surrounding heritage conservation.
- √ Teacher-rangers become life-long friends of the National Park Service and begin teaching an ethic of heritage conservation in the schools where much of America’s future resides.
- √ Teacher-rangers obtain a wide range of knowledge and skills by working with personnel of other park divisions.

Benefits to the School District

- √ Other educators exposed to a teacher-ranger in their schools benefit from “curricula enhancers” and other resources. They also gain access to a wide array of resources and teaching tools.
- √ Teacher-rangers join a network of resource specialists, scientists, historians, curators, and the teaching programs and resources of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior.
- √ School districts profit from having teacher-rangers who have been exposed to current resource-based issues and teaching activities.

Benefits to Underserved Urban and Rural School Children

- √ This program provides the opportunity for students to connect to the nation’s heritage through the experiences of their teacher-rangers.
- √ A variety of resource issues, based on the teacher’s summer experience, are discussed in class. These might include historic preservation, exotic species, and water issues.
- √ Students learn about opportunities for summer and permanent employment with the National Park Service.
- √ Students share the enthusiasm of a teacher who has had the opportunity to be a National Park Ranger.

Contacts

For specific program details and information on how to apply please contact:

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For additional information on the park please visit our website at:
www.nps.gov/fone