



Do you live hundreds or even thousands of miles away from Washington D.C. and wish you could take your class here? Why not let Park Rangers bring the sites of National Capital Parks -East to your classroom?

The interpretation staff at National Capital Parks -East has the capability to conduct interactive classroom visits over the Internet through distance learning video conferences. Schools with video conferencing equipment dial the park's IP address (Upon Request) 15 minutes prior to the start of the program.

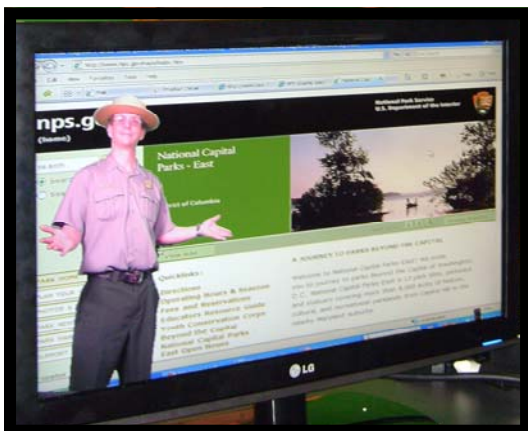
If your school only has the ability to connect through Skype, we unfortunately cannot offer any distance learning programs. All programs require video conferencing equipment.

Our programs are **curriculum-based** and appropriate for a variety of age ranges. The programs are **free** and a great way to introduce your students to this amazing national park, rich in history, science, nature and a variety of scientific studies.

Distance Learning Equipment Requirements

Distance Learning programs require that your school has videoconferencing equipment. Videoconferencing equipment allows for two-way communications that involves both video and audio. The requirements to participate in a Distance Learning program are:

- High Speed Internet--Videoconferencing requires a minimum connection speed of 384 KB per second. To receive the quality of service desired in these presentations, it may be necessary for the school's technology specialist to implement a system that gives priority to videoconference traffic.
- Videoconference Unit--We recommend that you use a standards-based, stand alone videoconference machine (ie. Polycom or Tandberg). The less advanced videoconferencing devices like the Polycom PVX software, **Skype and Apple iChat are not sufficient** to participate in one of our Distance Learning programs
- IP Address-- In order to connect with your school, you need to provide us with your school's Internet Portal address. Your school's technology specialist should know this address if you do not.
- Firewalls- Firewalls, which are in place to protect your school's computer networks, can sometimes prevent us from connecting with your school. Please contact your technology specialist to determine if this may be a problem. If so, these firewalls will need to be temporarily inactivated in order for us to make the connection.
- TV or LCD Projector



If you are a teacher interested in participating in Distance Learning, you will need to contact your district or school technology specialist. This person will be able to help set up the videoconferencing equipment, and can help with making the connection to our studio.