Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program at George Washington Carver National Monument

For the second year in a row, George Washington Carver National Monument participated in the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program. This unique program links national parks with teachers from schools with Title I student populations in urban and rural school districts. While students and other teachers are on summer break, teacher-rangers are working in the national parks, wearing the ranger uniform and learning the job of a park ranger. Teacher-rangers develop curriculum-based education programs or other special projects. Teachers return to school using their knowledge of the National Park Service to enrich their lessons. Knowledge of their individual park's story is used throughout the year. To conclude the experience, teacher-rangers wear the park ranger uniform in school during National Park Service Week, in April.



Students at Granby Elementary know how cool it is to have a park ranger for a teacher! Their ESL teacher, Ms. Brandi Shores, was a park ranger at George Washington Carver National Monument during the summer of 2010. She provided guided tours and education programs for visitors, staffed the greeter desk and met people from across the globe, worked during special events, conducted programs for community events, and created an outstanding web quest. The *George Washington Carver*

Web Quest follows the typical web quest outline, with an introduction, task, process, evaluation, and conclusion, and is aligned to Missouri Writing and Communication Arts Grade Level Expectations.

Ms. Shores recommended the park utilize current technology to effectively reach more students and teachers. Interactive whiteboards make using the web quest incredibly easy, with no need to copy or distribute paper handouts. Teachers simply access the park website, www.nps.gov/gwca, select the "For Teachers" link, and open the *George Washington Carver Web Quest*. Students are instantly engaged with the story of George Washington Carver. They use primary documents to explore selected topics of Carver's life.

Ms. Shores brought enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the park and her work will benefit teachers and students anywhere there is Internet access. The success of the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program is obvious. Be on the lookout for more teacher-rangers at George Washington Carver coming up next summer!