



Teacher to Ranger to Teacher

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve



Barataria Preserve, 2012



Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve
Barataria Preserve
6588 Barataria Boulevard
Marrero, LA 70072
504 689-3690 ext. 10

Teacher as Ranger as Teacher: Teachers in the National Parks

Why have Teachers in Parks?

National parks enrich the lives of many in this nation. They provide access to the powerful ideas, values, and meanings associated with the remarkable cultural, natural, and recreational heritage of the United States. The National Park Service (NPS) strives to provide opportunities for all Americans to connect to their national heritage through the national parks. However, these opportunities are lacking for some children- often due to a variety of social and economic factors.

The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) Program offers a solution, by linking National Park units with teachers from Title I (40% of students on free or reduced cost lunch) schools or school districts. Teacher Rangers form a link between school children and National Parks.

What would I do as a Teacher-Ranger?

Under TRT, selected teachers spend a summer working as uniformed park rangers, often living in the park. They perform various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park, including developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing the visitor center desk, developing curriculum-based materials for the park, or taking on educational projects.

Then, during the school year, these Teacher Rangers bring the park resources "into the classroom" by developing and presenting curriculum-based lesson plans that draw on their summer's experience. In April, during National Park Week, Teacher Rangers wear the NPS uniforms to school, discuss their summer as a park ranger, and engage students and other teachers in activities that relate to America's national parks.



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Position Description

Position: Teacher as Ranger as Teacher

Park: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Primary Duty Station: Barataria Preserve, Marrero, LA

Description of duties

The Teacher-Ranger will perform duties equivalent to the level of a GS-5 Interpretive Park Ranger. Formal duties will begin on June 6, 2012 and end on August 1, 2012. The Teacher-Ranger will work closely with the Barataria Preserve Interpretive staff and the Education and Outreach Ranger doing the following:

- Work with the Barataria Education and Outreach ranger to develop secondary science curriculum-based programs. These programs will be used in educational activities for visiting school groups.
- Develop other k-12 educational activities and programs, curriculum and/or non-curriculum based.
- Assist in Interpretive duties, including but not limited to, running the Visitor Center desk, answering visitor inquiries, and leading guided tours.
- Assist with Barataria Preserve summer camps as needed, including running camp programs and developing new activities.
- Work with the Maintenance and Resource Management divisions on projects as needed in order to gain a better understanding of the park and develop better programs.
- Collaborate with the Education and Outreach ranger to design a traveling table-top display to be used in various outreach programs.
- Document his or her experience by providing at least 20 digital photos and keeping a log of daily activities and experiences. Photos should be of the Teacher-Ranger working both in the park and in the classroom.
- Participate in a mid-term and end of season evaluation to discuss successes to and improvements for the TRT program
- Write one essay about the TRT experience, topic TBD.
- Perform other duties as assigned.



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Park and TRT Responsibilities

The intent of the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) program is to provide a well-rounded experience for the teacher in national parks as a park ranger. From their experience, the teachers will develop National Park Service materials to be shared with their students in the classroom. The program will focus on teachers from schools that have diverse student populations.

The TRT program is a partnership between the sponsoring park, the teacher, and his or her school district. As such, both the sponsoring park and teacher have certain responsibilities and agreements to adhere to in order to ensure a safe, successful, and professional program.

Park Responsibilities

Jean Lafitte NHP& Pres. will:

- Supply a Ranger uniform for the Teacher-Ranger
- Supply some park specific training. Jean Lafitte NHP& Pres. will supply sufficient materials for the teacher to gain general knowledge about the park's resources. After this training, the Teacher-Ranger will be able to provide some interpretive services and support park operations in other ways as well.
- Pay the Teacher-Ranger \$300 per week
- Supply teachers with access to equipment to produce media products and documentation of his or her work.
- Provide copies of JELA and BTNEP education materials

Teacher-Ranger Responsibilities

To qualify for the program, teachers must:

- Commit to an 8-week season position between June and August, 2012
- Agree to wear a park ranger uniform while working at the park and during National Parks week in April 2013
- Adhere to park policy
- Obtain a letter of support from their school principal
- Incorporate JELA/BTNEP curriculums in the classroom
- Give presentations during National Parks week to each section of classes for his or her grade level



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- Document his or her experience with at least 20 photos. Some of these photos must show the Teacher-Ranger in uniform both in the park and in the classroom and some must show the Teacher-Ranger in civilian clothes in the classroom. All photos should be submitted to the Park via e-mail or on CD-ROM.
- Participate in National Park Week activities both at the Barataria Preserve and in the classroom
- Provide one workshop for fellow teachers on completion of the program.
- Write one essay, topic TBD

Program Schedule

February 27, 2012:	Application Due
March 4-9, 2012:	Barataria Preserve staff interviews applicants
March 12-30, 2012:	Teacher receives offer from Park
April 14-15, 2012:	Teacher receives orientation to Park Interpretive & Education divisions
May 19-20, 2012:	Teacher receives training in Interpretive & Education divisions
June 6-August 1, 2012:	TRT program dates
July 2, 2012:	Mid-season check-in between Teacher-Ranger and park staff
August 2, 2012:	End of program report and evaluations



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Application Form: Teacher-to-Ranger-to Teacher Program, Barataria Preserve FY2012

Instructions:

Please print or type your answers in the fields below. You may use additional paper if necessary. Please also submit a **letter of support from your principal** and the names and numbers from **two (2) references**.

You may submit your application either in a hard copy or via e-mail to the following:

Stacy Meyers
 6588 Barataria Blvd.
 Marrero, LA 70072
 Stacy_Meyers@nps.gov

Applicant's name:	
Home Address:	Home Phone and/or Cell Phone:
School Name:	School District:
School Address:	School Phone:
E-mail Address:	Grade level and classes taught (past 3 years):



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1. What is the percentage of diverse populations at your school? This could be based on the School Lunch program or other factor. Please describe if needed.

2. Can you commit to approximately 8 weeks of work during the summer season, June-August? Small leave requests can be considered. **Please circle YES NO**

3. Are you available to attend 2 to 4 days of training sessions as needed in the two months prior to working at the Barataria Preserve for the summer? **Please circle YES NO**

4. Are you willing to attend an additional meeting after the summer season with Park staff to share your experiences, talk about improvements to the program and to share activities? **Please circle YES NO**

5. Are you willing to wear the National Park Service uniform to your school during National Park Week in April? **Please circle YES NO**

6. Are you willing to possibly do presentations about the National Park Service for your school and possibly in other district schools? **Please circle YES NO**

7. Why do you want to be a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher?

8. What are your experiences with parks? Please include your experiences with city, state, and national parks.



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References Form

Reference 1:

Name:	Phone Number:
Relationship to Applicant:	

Reference 2:

Name:	Phone Number:
Relationship to Applicant:	

Application Check List:

- Application form
- Letter of support
- References form