



Teacher/Ranger/Teacher Program
Position Description - Interpretation and Education Division
at the Mississippi River's National Park
Twin Cities metropolitan area, Minnesota
www.nps.gov/miss

Teacher-Rangers working with the park's Interpretation and Education Team will be involved in a wide variety of programs and activities with the goal of providing a broad and well-rounded experience during this eight-week period. Teacher-Rangers will learn about the National Park Service, interpret the Mississippi River's natural and cultural history, and work with a wide range of visitors and circumstances. They may provide interpretation and programs at one of many partner parks and sites throughout the metro area, in the Mississippi River Visitor Center, or during outdoor recreation programs such as canoeing and camping. Applicants should enjoy outdoor recreation and tolerate a wide range of outdoor conditions. A driver's license and experience paddling and cycling are helpful. Teacher-Rangers work independently or with light supervision, and work schedules will vary with weekends and some evening hours possible.

The following are areas in which Teacher-Rangers will work:

Park Programs

Teacher-Rangers will provide informal interpretation and tours along the riverfront in places like downtown Minneapolis, Coon Rapids Dam parks and Hastings. Teacher-Rangers may also present programs at partner visitor centers, river festivals, fairs, and events elsewhere within the park. The position will include assisting and leading walking, bicycling and/or paddling tours and other interpretive programs, including portraying or escorting the park's costumed mascot, Freddie the Flathead Catfish!

Mississippi River Visitor Center

Teacher-Rangers will help staff the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located in the Science Museum of Minnesota, downtown Saint Paul. Work involves interpreting the Mississippi River and the entire National Park System to a wide range of visitors in an informal setting, and may include selling related merchandise. Teacher-Rangers will also be expected to occasionally present a more formal program in the Mississippi River Gallery. Duties include miscellaneous tasks such as record keeping, brochure distribution and visitor center operations.

Volunteers-In-Parks program

Teacher-Rangers will work with the Volunteers-In-Parks program to support volunteer engagement with the diverse natural resources of the park for activities such as invasive plant removal or restoration projects. The Teacher-Ranger will conduct interpretive programs during habitat restoration projects in the field for visitors of all ages. This focus area will also include a look at recruiting, outreach, and other volunteer administration.

(over)

School and Youth Programs

Teacher-Rangers may assist with school visits and field trips on or along the Mississippi River – including the “Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures,” delivery of programs to students in the park’s visitor center, partner facilities, and/or schools; special events, public outreach and related tasks. Review of the park’s educational materials and curricula resources may be included.

Technology

Teacher-Rangers may work with electronic-based interpretive materials by reviewing or updating information posted on the website; assisting park employees with researching, obtaining and developing content for the website; enhancing web and computer kiosks for teachers and students. Experience with development of information in printed and on-line formats is helpful.

Natural Resource Management

Even though the focus of this position is interpretation and education, the Teacher-Ranger will have an opportunity to spend some time with the park's natural and cultural resource management staff. The goal is to have each Teacher-Ranger be able to share many different park experiences and career opportunities with their students and other teachers. Teacher-Rangers will have several opportunities to spend time on and off the river with the Biological Technicians, making site visits, participating in water quality initiatives, or many other activities depending on weather and workloads.

Duties when back in the classroom

Teacher-Ranger incorporates activities related to the National Park Service into their classroom curriculum during the school year, and wears the NPS uniform during National Park Week; conducts activities related to the National Park Service and gives several presentations to their classes; may present to a school assembly, and one other school within the district.