



Niobrara National Scenic River Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Position Description

The purpose of the position is two-fold. First, it will supplement the park ranger workforce by performing duties related to resource education and conservation, visitor services, visitor safety, and other related park duties. Second, it will allow the teacher to more fully explore the national parks to enrich his/her classrooms with a clearer understanding and appreciation of park resources.

The Teacher/Ranger will have the opportunity to work on various projects and activities including, but not limited to, conducting Junior Ranger and interpretive programs, writing and/or reviewing curriculum-based school activities for all grades, participating in outreach efforts, and providing roving interpretation during canoe or kayak day trips.

The Teacher/Ranger will:

- 1) Facilitate visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources. Visitors include all park audiences, whether visiting physically or intellectually via the Web, publications, school programs, etc.
- 2) Encourage citizens, especially students, to develop a sense of stewardship for their national park resources.
- 3) Facilitate and induce visitor behavior consistent with resource protection by gaining friendly compliance with the laws and rules for safe use of the park and positive exposure to national park values.

Major Duties while at the National Park:

- Participates in the research, design and development of curriculum-based materials for specific grade levels and assists with the evaluation of all curriculum-based materials for appropriateness, effectiveness, and alignment with state curriculum standards. Materials include on-site activities and pre- and post-visit activities to be conducted in the school classroom.
- Conducts independent research on varied topics for the purpose of providing resource education programs. Learns about park resources by attending in-park training, reading park research materials and maps, and by interviewing other park rangers or staff, researchers, and other professionals.
- Prepares for a variety of informal programs including Junior Ranger activities and roving interpretation. Programs are based on the established park interpretive themes and current management issues, and conform to the standards for NPS interpretation.

Duties when back in the classroom:

- Incorporates activities related to the National Park Service into their classroom curriculum during the school year.
- Wears the NPS uniform during National Park Week and conducts activities related to the National Park Service and gives several presentations to their classes, a possible school assembly, and to one other school within the district.
- Shares information about National Parks and their experience with fellow staff members in the district.
- Where possible, arranges class excursion to river to pilot on-site activities.