



Live Hike: What's in Your Backpack, Park Ranger? Lesson Plan

Overview Students explore park ranger jobs through meeting a ranger in an interactive distance learning program. Students discuss the ranger's job responsibilities using objects from the ranger's backpack as discussion prompts. Program was developed for classes reading *Exploring Parks with Ranger Dockett* in their Houghton Mifflin Harcourt language arts textbook.

Grade level Second grade

Objectives addressed

- Give one reason why we have national parks.
- Explain one job park rangers have.
- Share whether or not you would like to be a park ranger and why.
- Share one thing you can do to help protect national parks.

Duration 30 minutes for Live Hike; 20 minutes for pre-program activity; 30 minutes for post-program activity

Essential question

What can citizens do to protect "special places"?

Group size Suggest not more than two classes for ideal viewing and interactivity

Setting Classroom or other suitable broadcast location

National/state standards

California/history/social science—Grade 2.3

Vocabulary Exploring, habitat, protect, ranger, tours, visitors

Background Read *Exploring Parks with Ranger Dockett* for information about park rangers and their jobs.

Materials For How to Participate and the PDFs listed below:
www.nps.gov/chis/forteachers/learning/hikejobs.htm

Pre- and post-program activities (PDF)

Drawings for post-program activity (PDF)

Drawing paper

Pencils, crayons

Scissors

Glue

Procedure Follow steps in How to Participate to reserve a Live Hike for your students.

Before the Live Hike

Read *Exploring Parks with Ranger Dockett*. Have students complete the pre-program activity.

For California schools in Ventura and southern Santa Barbara counties, contact the park about an hour-long, ranger-led classroom programs on ranger jobs:

www.nps.gov/chis/forteachers/classrooms/ranger-led-programs-in-your-classroom.htm

During the Live Hike

The Live Hike lasts about 30 minutes. Your students will be able to ask the ranger questions. Students must speak loudly and clearly. If the ranger cannot hear a student's question, please be ready to repeat the name of the student and the question. The ranger will also ask questions of the students. Many times they can answer loudly in unison.

After the Live Hike

Have students complete the post-program activity.

Additional resources

Programs for classes and other organized groups are also available at the park visitor center. Floating Classroom programs to the islands are available through Island Packers, a boat concessioner.

www.nps.gov/chis/forteachers/classrooms/fieldtrips.htm

Encourage your students and their families to visit National Park Service sites in your area. Most parks have Junior Ranger programs for children and their families to participate in. Go to www.nps.gov to search for a park by state or name. Free booklets for Channel Islands National Park's Junior Ranger program are available at the park visitor center and on Island Packers boats traveling to the islands.

Also encourage students to complete the online WebRangers program at home on their own:

www.nps.gov/webrangers

The visitor center bookstore carries many excellent educational materials relating to the park. Educators receive a 20 percent discount upon request.