

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

In-Class Program

Topic: NPS 101

Rationale:

The National Park Service (NPS) is a governmental agency that contains over 400 sites across the country united by a common mission. As future engaged citizens, it is important for students to understand what we do, how we accomplish our mission, and how they are able to help in the future.

Objectives – Students will be able to:

- Identify the benefits of public lands.
- Compare how careers that students are familiar with are similar to careers in the NPS.
- Assess how people in different divisions work together to solve problems.
- Collaborate to solve a real-world problem by role playing, communicating, and negotiating.

Standards:

- NGSS: 3-5 ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.
- STEELS: 3.3.4.E Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.
- EfS: 8. Illustrate the importance of equity, cooperation, teamwork, conflict resolution, and consensus building in addressing regional and global challenges.

Time:

- Ranger Led Program – 40 minutes
- Optional Extended Learning Activity – 30-45 minutes

Targeted Grade Level:

3rd – 6th grade

Contact us to schedule a ranger visit to your classroom.

Phone: (570) 426-2452

Email: dewa_interpretation@nps.gov

Ranger Led Program & Extension Activity

Time:

45 – 85 minutes

Engage: (5-10 minutes)

- Introductions.
- Trivia about National Parks to determine prior knowledge.
- Discussion about why we have National Parks.
- Share images that highlight the diversity of different National Park sites and introduce the Mission of the NPS.

Explore: (15-20 minutes)

- Students share what careers they are interested in pursuing when they grow up.
- Connect those careers to jobs in the NPS.
- Introduce an Organization Chart to show how people have different specialties based on their jobs, but rarely are there problems that are able to be solved by one division.

Explain: (15-20 minutes)

- Present information about a couple NPS careers (Archaeologist, Biologist, Hydrologist, Trails Crew).
- Share examples of real-world situations that arise at a park, and brainstorm which experts might need to be involved in addressing the problem.

Elaborate – Extension Activity: (30-45 minutes)

Students are broken up into groups of four. Each student will role play as an expert in a specific field that was previously discussed to address a situation. The experts are given information specific to their career and what they should be protecting.

Situation: Trails Crew would like to build a new trail through a plot of land. They have a proposed trail that they would like to pursue. Students must coordinate and negotiate with other divisions to listen to their concerns and find a path for the trail that protects natural and cultural resources and stays within the proposed budget.