



Who Works in a National Park?

Pre-Program Teacher Lesson Plan

Revised 7/13/2018

General Lesson Overview:

The National Park Service, established over 100 years ago, strives to protect various resources in over 400 sites across the country. To accomplish this goal, the National Park Service employs various types of rangers whose unique roles support the mission of the NPS.

School Subjects:	Social Studies; Reading, Writing & Communicating
Grade Level:	3-5th
Time Requirement:	One class period (45min- 1hr)

Pre-Program Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- 1) Explore the role of at least one type of ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park
- 2) Describe three tasks their ranger may perform on a given day
- 3) Recognize the variety of resources protected within NPS sites

Background Information:

The National Park Service was created in 1916 with the foundation of the Organic Act signed by Woodrow Wilson, whose goals were *"....to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*

There are 417 National Park Sites across the country with each site proudly displaying the Park Service emblem, the arrowhead. Each symbol within the arrowhead represents objects that the Park Service vowed to protect in every site that was created. To help protect and guard these resources, the NPS employs over 20,000 permanent, seasonal, and temporary rangers. Ranger duties vary vastly between divisions, but can entail providing information to visitors, providing education programs, working on wildfire management, cleaning facilities within the park, clearing roads from snow, removing invasive plant species, studying wildlife within the park, providing emergency medical treatment, and enforcing laws.



National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park

Pre-Program Lesson:

Complete the following “Meet Your Rocky Ranger” video activity prior to the live distance learning program to introduce the roles of a few rangers at RMNP and the idea that these rangers help protect various resources within our National Parks.

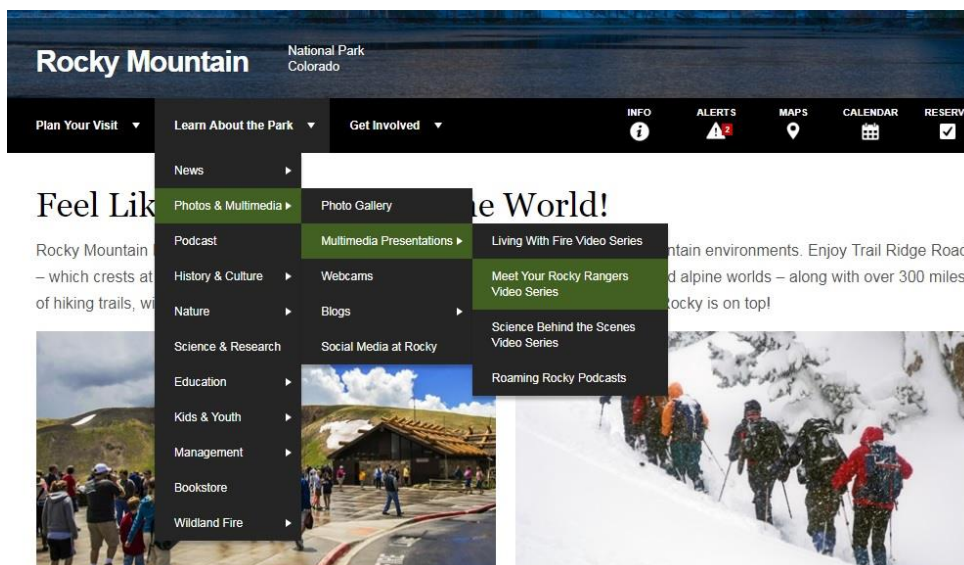
Materials:

- Computer(s)
- “My Rocky Ranger” log provided below
- Poster paper/construction paper
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, other art supplies for creating a symbol for their ranger

Pre-Program Lesson Procedure:

“Meet Your Rocky Ranger”

1. Break the students into five groups.
2. Assign each group one of the ranger careers below
 - Trails Ranger
 - Interpretation Ranger
 - Restoration Ranger
 - Wildlife Biologist Ranger
 - Search and Rescue Ranger
3. Hand out the “My Rocky Ranger” log sheet.
4. Have the students navigate to [nps.gov/romo](https://www.nps.gov/romo) and locate the rocky ranger video series page found here: <https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/photosmultimedia/rockyrangersvideos.htm>
5. Once each group has found their ranger’s video on the webpage, have each group watch the short video about their ranger and answer the questions on their log sheet.
6. When completed, have students share with other groups their Rocky Ranger to consider how different Rangers might work together.
7. Prepare each group to give short presentation on their Rocky Ranger to the ranger during the live program.





Who Works in a National Park? **Live Program Teacher Lesson Plan**

Revised 7/13/2018

General Lesson Overview:

The National Park Service, established over 100 years ago, strives to protect various resources in over 400 sites across the country. To accomplish this goal, the National Park Service employs various types of rangers whose unique roles support the mission of the NPS.

School Subjects:	Social Studies; Reading, Writing & Communicating
Targeted Grade Levels:	3-5th
Time Requirement:	One 60 minute class period

Live Program Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- 1) Recognize the variety of Park Service sites and the resources they protect
- 2) Describe at least one Park Ranger role/career in detail
- 3) Discover how all Park Rangers work together to satisfy the mission of the Park Service

Materials for Live Program with Ranger:

- “My Rocky Ranger” log
- Symbol created to represent their ranger

Live Program Lesson Procedure:

1. The ranger(s) will begin by introducing themselves, Rocky Mountain National Park, and give a brief introduction to the NPS.
2. The ranger(s) will then invite each group up individually to present their ranger, drawings, and answer the following questions:
 - a. Who’s your Rocky Ranger?
 - b. What are some tasks your ranger might perform on the job?
 - c. Would you want to be this type of ranger? Why?
 - d. What other types of rangers do you think your ranger might work with?
3. After each ranger is presented, the ranger(s) will elaborate and reinforce the roles of each Ranger with some specific examples at Rocky.
4. At the end of the presentations, all ranger symbols can be placed inside the arrowhead to symbolize how all rangers work together to fulfill the mission statement.
5. Ranger(s) will conclude with 5-10 minutes of Q&A with the students. Encourage your students to come up with a few questions for the ranger(s).



Standards Addressed by Who Works in a National Park?

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL Speaking and Listening

3rd grade: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6

4th grade: 4.1, 4.2, 4.4

5th grade: 5.1, 5.2, 5.4

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W Writing

3rd grade: 3.4, 3.8

4th grade: 4.4, 4.8

5th grade: 5.4, 5.8

Colorado Academic Standards (CAS)

Reading, Writing and Communicating

Elementary

RWC10-GR.5-S.1-GLE.1

Effective communication requires speakers to express opinion, provide information, describe a process, and persuade an audience

RWC10-GR.5-S.1-GLE.2

Listening strategies are techniques that contribute to understanding different situations and serving different purposes

RWC10-GR.4-S.1-GLE.1

A clear communication plan is necessary to effectively deliver and receive information

RWC10-GR.3-S.1-GLE.1

Oral communication is used both informally and formally

RWC10-GR.3-S.1-GLE.2

Successful group activities need the cooperation of everyone



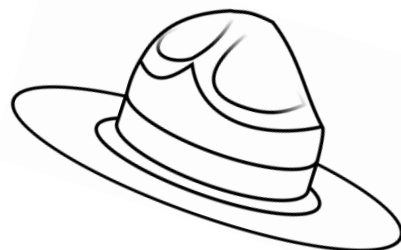
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park

Name: _____
Date: _____

My Rocky Ranger Log

Instructions: Watch the video of your Rocky Ranger on the Rocky Mountain National Park Website (<https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/photosmultimedia/rockyrangersvideos.htm>) and answer the following questions to learn more about your ranger!

1. My Rocky Ranger is the _____ Ranger.
2. Create a list of tasks your Rocky Ranger might perform while at work based on the video:



3. Circle other Rangers you think your Rocky Ranger might interact with or work with while on the job:

Wildlife Biologist

Restoration Ranger

Search and Rescue Ranger

Law Enforcement

Trails Ranger

Interpretation Ranger

4. Would you enjoy being this type of ranger? Why or why not?
5. On a separate piece of paper, design a symbol that represents your Rocky Ranger to help others understand what they do.