

Rangers of Denali

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve



What is it like to be a ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve?

Denali National Park and Preserve is an exciting place to live and work! There are many kinds of rangers in Denali, and each work team has a variety of responsibilities during each season of the year.



Maintenance and Trail Rangers

Denali National Park and Preserve is like a small city, with its own roads, wastewater treatment, and water systems. Maintenance and trail rangers help plow roads in the winter, keep bathrooms clean and stocked with toilet paper, make sure that heaters are working, clear trees from trails, and help build special projects like the welcome sign at the park entrance.

Backcountry Rangers

Most of Denali's 6 million acres has no trails. Backcountry rangers help people feel comfortable exploring on their own in a place where they aren't allowed to use motors. These rangers give tips about the geography, help people know how to be safe around wildlife, and are there to help in an emergency.



Interpretation and Education Rangers

These rangers are communicators! They help visitors and students learn about the park, help figure out what trail might be best, and answer questions at the information desk, on the phone, by e-mail, and by letter. Sometimes, these rangers get to give presentations to people during a hike or at a campground.

Kennels Rangers

Denali has the only kennel of working sled dogs in the entire National Park Service! The kennels rangers care for, feed, exercise, and train the sled dogs. In the winter, they work with the dogs to assist with scientific projects in the wilderness, and help clear trails for other dog teams to use.



Planning and Administration Rangers

These rangers help figure out how things can run smoothly in the park. They ask members of the public how they feel about new projects, like trails, communicate with the park's neighbors, and make sure that the budget is being followed, including paying the rangers on time.

Visitor Resource and Protection Rangers

If Denali is like a small city, then these rangers are the ones who help keep everyone — and everything — safe. Protection rangers help people know how to use the land respectfully, remind people about the rules in the park, and offer help as emergency medical technicians. These rangers have an ambulance, fire truck, and police cars that they drive in the park.



Resource Rangers

Do you ever wonder about Denali? Resource rangers are scientists who help us understand how people, animals, plants, water, air, and the land interact. They make recordings of sounds, study how people used the land in the past, examine animal populations, and observe how the changing climate affects everything in Denali.

Your Turn

All the rangers have different roles to play in the park, but all work towards a common goal of protecting Denali to honor the past, present, and future.

Are there any other jobs that might need to be done in Denali? What kind of jobs do people do near your home?