What is a Park Ranger?

When I go to a national park, I will see *park rangers*. Park rangers are people who work at the national parks. Park rangers do a lot of jobs, including education, protecting the park resources, and law enforcement. In national parks, you can tell someone is a park ranger because they will be wearing a gray button-down shirt, green pants, a gold badge, and sometimes a straw flat hat.

NPS / N. Spicuzza

I can talk to a park ranger to learn more about the park. I may see park rangers at the visitor center, or on the hiking trails. These rangers are there to help me and keep me safe. The rangers can also answer any questions I have. I can ask about where a trail begins, what I can see in Death Valley, or how to be safe in the park.

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I can also go to a *ranger program*. Ranger programs are events that can teach me about the park. There are different kinds of ranger programs. In Death Valley National Park, most ranger programs are guided walks, where a park ranger will walk with a group on a trail. I can choose to hike with a park ranger or hike on my own. If I want to hike with a ranger, I do not need to sign up anywhere. I will meet the ranger at the beginning of the trail and at the starting time of the program. I can find the program schedule at the visitor center.

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At Death Valley National Park, there are also *night sky ranger programs.* These ranger programs happen at night and a ranger will point out different constellations and objects in the dark sky. If I want to go to any ranger program, I can ask a park ranger about which ones are available at the visitor center. Ranger programs are good ways for me to learn about the park!

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Park rangers are there to help me have a great time in any national park! They help the park run smoothly and can give me new experiences. If I ever need help, I can go to a park ranger and they can help me have a safe and fun time in my national parks.

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