

A day in the life of a Park Ranger in Glacier National Park



Glacier National Park is a busy place in the summer. There are about 2 million visitors that come to enjoy the beauty of Glacier. To help us protect this special place, Glacier has several types of park rangers. Some rangers protect Glacier National Park by enforcing its laws and regulations created by the US Congress and the Superintendent of the Park. Some rangers protect the park by educating visitors about all the wonderful things about Glacier National Park. Some rangers patrol the trails to make sure that visitors are safe and trails are in good condition.

Protecting the Park and People

A ranger's job is to protect all that is within Glacier National Park from harm. This can be very exciting because you never know what you might do in a day. A ranger might help a visitor who needs some directions to the Visitor Center, help treat and load an injured



patient into an air ambulance, put out a car fire, and investigate a poaching all in one day.



Search and Rescue



A ranger can be called on a Search and Rescue day or night, so they must always have their rescue gear ready to go. Rescues can take a couple hours to several weeks. This ranger is lowering a patient off a cliff in a litter.

Wildlife Management



When bears wander into areas where people are, the rangers have to make certain both are safe. This bear has been put to sleep, when it wakes up, it will have an ear tag to help us identify it.

Interpretation

The job of some rangers is to teach the visitors all about Glacier National Park. They may work in a Visitor Center, lead hikes, give programs to kids, and perform campfire talks and slide programs in the evening. Their job is to help visitors understand and care about Glacier National Park.



Backcountry Ranger



Backcountry rangers hike the trails everyday. They check the trails to make sure that there are no hazards, such as a tree that is across the trail. If a tree is across the trail, the ranger will use a saw to cut it out. The rangers also talk to visitors that are backcountry camping and make sure they are safe and following the rules. Backcountry rangers will often use horses when they travel the trail. Sometimes rangers will spend up to 10 days camping before coming out of the backcountry.

What is so great about being a Park Ranger?

“To be able to share with people what a special and unique place this is” – Ranger Kim

“Being a guardian of our heritage and actively protecting what is best about America”
– Ranger Brad

“All the other cool Park Rangers I get to work with” – Ranger Laura

“Getting to watch deer and bears outside my office” – Ranger Ellen

“The variety of things we get to do” – Ranger Jan

“Getting to work with visitors to make the most of their visit to Glacier National Park”
-Ranger Debby

“You get to live in a National Park and work in a beautiful place” – Ranger Mark