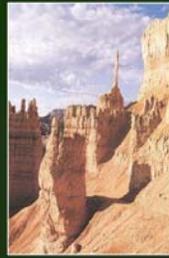


Welcome!

The United States was the first country in the world to set aside public lands to be used as parks. Congress created the National Park Service nearly one hundred years ago in 1916 to care for these parks, and many dedicated people work for the National Park Service to ensure that the public can continue to enjoy and appreciate these national treasures.

Our mission, as set out by Congress is “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife 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.” (the Organic Act, August 25, 1916)



Clockwise from top right: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii; Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah; White Sands National Monument, New Mexico; Denali National Park & Preserve, Alaska

Clockwise from top right: Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida; Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado; C & O Canal National Historical Park, Maryland; Booker T. Washington National Monument, Virginia

The National Park System Is Diverse

In your National Parks you will find natural beauty such as America's highest mountain and largest geyser, active and dormant volcanoes, canyons, glaciers, and sand dunes.

But you will also find factories, forts, canals, battlefields, cliff dwellings, slave cabins, and the homes of Presidents.

In 1916 there were just 37 parks. Today there are almost 400!



Director Mary A. Bomar



What do rangers do?

Dedicated People

The National Parks exist today because of the dedicated men and women who protect and improve the parks for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of future generations. To accomplish this, the National Park Service employs people in a wide variety of jobs.



Rangers research and protect natural resources

Natural Resources

Rangers protect natural resources like forests and beaches, and plants and animals. They learn about all the living things in their parks and work to make sure they are protected so that visitors now and in the future may see and enjoy them.



Rangers keep our parks clean and in good repair

Maintenance

Rangers are needed to keep our parks clean and in good repair. Parks employ carpenters, gardeners, custodians, motor vehicle operators, and electricians among other specialties.



Rangers protect park resources and visitors

Resource and Visitor Protection

Law enforcement rangers protect park cultural and natural resources and keep the parks safe for visitors by enforcing the law and park regulations. Law enforcement rangers patrol the parks in vehicles, on foot, on horseback, and on bicycles. They receive extensive training on the legal system, park rules and regulations, and firearms.



Rangers manage fires and perform searches & rescues

Fire Management and Search & Rescue Operations

Specially trained fire rangers both put out and start fires. Forests need fire to keep them healthy. Some pine cones open and release seeds only after being heated by fire. Fire rangers go all over the country to work on fires. It can be dangerous work, but the rangers' special training and equipment keeps them safe. Other rangers are trained in search and rescue. These rangers are on call to help when a visitor gets lost or is injured in a park.



Rangers manage parks and
perform administrative tasks

Administration

Running a park, hiring and paying park staff, and planning for future needs involves a good bit of paperwork. Without rangers who take care of budgeting, personnel, and supply, parks wouldn't function. To keep track of all the information involved in administering a park takes good computer skills. In fact, computers play a large role in many National Park Service jobs.



Rangers conduct resource education

Resource Education

National Parks are classrooms where everyone can learn about history, culture, and nature. While every National Park Service employee may have contact with visitors, it is the primary job of rangers in Resource Education to be the main contacts for visitors to the parks. In a sense, Resource Education rangers are storytellers who provide visitors an opportunity to learn more about the parks and their resources.

Some of the duties of Resource Education rangers include giving talks, leading hikes, giving demonstrations, designing exhibits, and producing brochures. But the best part of the job is meeting people from all around the country and the world!



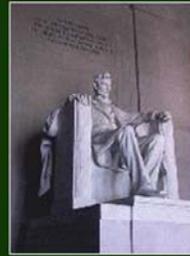
Rangers research and protect cultural resources

Cultural Resources

Rangers also work to protect cultural resources. Rangers conduct archeological and historical research to learn more about the past and gather information about sites beyond what is in the written records. Other specialists work in museums to protect and curate both natural and cultural objects. They receive special training to learn how to protect artifacts from damage or deterioration.

A Challenging Career

Monocacy National Battlefield
Frederick, Maryland



A career in the National Park Service is challenging
and rewarding ... you can do just about anything

Take Up the Challenge!

The National Park Service provides a wide variety of challenging and rewarding careers. Perhaps you will consider accepting the challenges that come with being a steward of the national parks and join us. But even if you take a different path, remember that these special places – the national parks – belong to you. Come visit Monocacy National Battlefield when you are in Frederick, Maryland and talk to our rangers and learn about the rich history of the region. Or wherever you go, visit the national parks and discover the history, natural beauty, and grandeur they contain.