



# Mount Rainier National Park Citizen Ranger Program



## Longmire Area Quest #1

**Title:** A Valley in a Wonderland

**Introduction:** For many years Longmire has been a place to discover while getting ready to visit other areas around the mountain. Let's explore this unique place and get to know what makes it special!

**Length:** 30 minutes to one hour

**Safety Reminders:** Watch your step crossing roads. Dress for the weather. In winter, consider wearing "shoe chains" for traction.

**Materials Needed:** Pen, or pencil. Historic Walk signs (In winter get these from the ranger at the information center). In summer the signs are in front of the historic buildings. Historic Walk Map: get this when you obtain this quest. It shows where the historic structures are in Longmire that you are observing. **Optional:** digital camera, note paper, binoculars

**Guidelines:** Quests can be completed by individuals or families/small groups. Have your Citizen Ranger Certificate stamped and initialed for each Quest you complete. Get your certificate after completing your first Quest. Complete (and have verified) four Quests to become a Mount Rainier Citizen Ranger.

**Level of Difficulty:** Recommended for ages 12 through adult. Younger children may be able to complete with assistance.

1. The rustic style structures at Longmire have been an inspiration and model for architecture at other national parks. They are part of the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District. Visit the historic structures that are part of the Longmire Historic walk (get map from ranger). Read about the structures and observe them. Each structure has its own unique story. Pick the building that you find most interesting (oldest, biggest, hardest to build?). Draw your favorite Longmire structure (below); or take your picture by the building (be prepared to show picture to ranger). Describe below (or be prepared to describe verbally to the ranger) why you chose that structure as your favorite. Favorite Longmire Structure: \_\_\_\_\_ Why is that your favorite Longmire Structure? \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing (or show picture to ranger): \_\_\_\_\_

1a. Which of the structures on the historic walk is: The oldest?

Had the most uses?

Was not originally a National Park Service structure?

1b. Describe below why you think the National Park Service uses rustic style architecture (OK to guess): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Use your questing skills and find the natural feature of this area that most influenced James Longmire to get a claim and develop this area back in 1883. Take a picture of this feature or draw an example below.

3. How do you think you would have felt traveling to this area via “horse train” back in the late 1800’s and staying at the Longmire’s hotel?

4. The Longmire family made this area a tourist destination back in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Longmire is surrounded by some grand natural features (peaks, ridges, river, old growth forest). Use the 3-D relief map in the Wilderness Information Center (building with a flagpole) to get an overview of the area. .In the space below, name the surrounding feature that you would most like to explore. Describe why you picked that feature.

What:

Why:

5. The natural surroundings were a draw for those visiting Longmire in the late 1800’s and they are today as well. Like all areas, Longmire has its own unique ecological relationships. Find a plant or animal that catches your attention. Use your Questing skills to find out how that living thing is connected to other living or non-living things (what does it eat or use, what eats it or uses something it produces)? You may check out a field guide the ranger has at the desk or ask the ranger questions. Describe and/or draw at least one way the living thing you chose is interconnected with other living or non-living things in this area.

6. The human and natural history of the Longmire are preserved by the National Park Service so that present and future generations may experience our heritage. Once you complete four Citizen Ranger Quests you will have demonstrated that you have the understanding necessary to care and share about Mount Rainier National Park! What are your favorite aspects of the Longmire area that you are most interested in helping others understand?

Longmire “Valley in a Wonderland” Quest Completion Verification:

Ranger Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Obtain a Citizen Ranger Certificate from a visitor center. Have it stamped and initialed each time you complete a Quest! Complete and get verification stamps for four Quests to become a Mount Rainier Citizen Ranger.