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Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program





Teacher Ranger Teacher

A professional development opportunity for k-12 classroom teachers to learn about the educational resources, programs and themes provided by the National Park Service.



Goals for TRT Program

1. Reach underserved k-12 students in urban and rural schools by training their teachers.
2. Reach students in Title I and tribal schools.
3. Provide teacher professional development in STEM and historical/cultural resources skills.



Goals Cont'd

4. Train teachers in place-based learning.
5. Train teachers to use primary resources and scientific data in lesson plans and learning activities.



What Teacher Ranger Teacher is not:

- Summer employment with NPS or CU Denver
- Opportunity for parks to get extra summer staff
- Summer vacations for teachers in national parks

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Legal Status of TRTs

- TRTs are student interns of CU Denver, they are not employees of NPS nor CU Denver.
- TRTs receive a stipend, thereby IRS does not allow NPS to claim as volunteers (VIPs).
- Stipend is for living and travel expenses, not compensation for work performed by TRTs.
- Liability in case of incidents lies jointly between NPS and CU Denver. TRTs are not employees of either organization and cannot file for worker's compensation. Tort claims can be filed against NPS or CU Denver as would any member of the public participating in an NPS public program.

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U.S. Department of Labor definition of interns:

<http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs71.pdf>

1. The internship, even though it includes actual operation of the facilities of the employer, **is similar to training which would be given in an educational environment;**
2. **The internship experience is for the benefit of the intern;**
3. The intern does not displace regular employees, but works under close supervision of existing staff;
4. The employer that provides the training derives no immediate advantage from the activities of the intern;
and on occasion its operations may actually be impeded;
5. The intern is not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the internship; and
6. **The employer and the intern understand that the intern is not entitled to wages for the time spent in the internship**

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Continuing Program Elements from 2015

- CESU partnership with CU Denver
- www.teacherrangerteacher.org



Continuing Program Elements from 2015

- Every TRT will be enrolled in the CU Denver online graduate course and receive 3 grad credit hours.
- All program requirements must be fulfilled in order to receive internship stipend at the end of the program.
- CU Denver has a website manager so updates will be done quickly.

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- **Roles and Responsibilities**

- **Teacher**
 - Participate in Webinar
 - Complete major education project
 - Complete Lesson Plan
 - Complete online course requirements
 - Participate in course discussion forum
 - Submit Lesson Plan for Park review and posting on website
 - Complete evaluation

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Roles and Responsibilities

- **Park TRT Coordinator**
 - Participate in Webinar
 - Develop work plan
 - Park education project
 - Time for teacher research
 - Review Lesson Plan for inclusion of park resources/accuracy
 - Complete TRT Report
 - Post Lesson Plan on nps.gov/teachers portal
 - Process TRT forms and paperwork
 - Supervise TRT progress in NPS training experience