

Teachers: Be a National Park Ranger This Summer

As a teacher at Carver Elementary School in San Francisco, Michelle Irwin continued to pursue her love of the outdoors, taking her kids camping and fostering a distant dream to one day be a park ranger. Well, last summer the dream became a reality when Michelle donned a NPS uniform and worked as a park ranger on Hyde Street Pier in the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) program.

Michelle conducted interpretive programs, worked in the Visitor Center, and developed a PowerPoint program. Using existing research, combined with her own studies in the park's library, Michelle created a photographic and historical tour of the history of the Underground Rail Road in San Francisco. She has presented a modified version of the program to fifth graders at Carver Elementary and the full



NPS Photo

version at the park last February during Black History Month. According to Michelle, "Why put aside that dream of being a park ranger when you can actualize it?"

Help the National Park Service foster stewardship for new and diverse generations of Americans. Receive training and

then work for eight weeks from June 15 through August 14, 2009. In the fall, bring your experience back to the classroom to share with your students.

Teachers receive a \$600 per week stipend, uniform, and a week of training conducted at the park. Teacher-Rangers will have the opportunity to get involved in a variety of activities including outreach efforts, writing and reviewing curriculum, conducting interpretive programs, and staffing the Visitor Center information desk.

The application deadline is April 24, 2009. For information and an application, please call Park Ranger John Cunnane at 415-561-7170; john_cunnane@nps.gov.

Photo, above: Michelle Irwin, in the green jacket, helping to raise a sail on the scow schooner *Alma*. Sailing on the *Alma* is included in the week of training.

Teachers Pope and Guzmán Join Ranger Ranks

Last summer the park was fortunate to welcome two San Francisco public elementary school teachers, Marseille Pope and Rubén Guzmán, as park employees in the Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) program.

Marseille and Rueben arrived in late June, donned the NPS uniform, and immediately immersed themselves in learning maritime history and developing educational programs for the public. They had to rapidly learn the ropes of working at a national park. Their duties included opening and closing the park, staffing the information desk, and presenting programs to visitors.

As if that wasn't enough for eight weeks of employment, they also tackled some special projects. Marseille began work on a traveling trunk that will be filled with hands-on maritime activities aimed at first through third graders.

Rubén, whose first language is Spanish, offered his educational programs in English and Spanish, and worked with

several employees to develop programs to best reach the Spanish speaking public. He also researched and translated the park's Junior Ranger Program and park safety information. This will be the first time the Junior Ranger program will be available in a second language.

The TRT program aims to engage teachers from under-served schools that are not currently being reached with park programs, and pays particular attention to school districts with large, ethnically diverse populations.

This past October Marseille and Rubén returned to the park with their classes for a ranger-led tour. The students boarded the ships, helped raise a sail on the park's historic square-rigged ship *Balclutha*, and sang a sea chantey.

Rubén and Marsaille will continue to draw on their summer experience and incorporate NPS themes into their lessons. In April 2008, during National Park Week, they will wear their uniforms to school and do a

special program on National Parks.

The park plans on continuing the TRT program for the 2008 summer season. For more information, and how to apply, please call Park Ranger John Cunnane at 415-561-7170.



Park Ranger Ruben Guzmán with a visitor. Photo: NPS