

Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program Fire Education Position Description

The purpose of this position is two-fold. First, it will supplement the Fire Management Division's fire education operations by performing duties related to wildland fire education, prevention, and information distribution. Second, it will allow the teacher to more fully explore the national parks to enrich their classrooms with a clearer understanding and appreciation of park resources.

The Teacher/Ranger will have the opportunity to work on various projects and activities at Saguaro National Park, including but not limited to: developing curriculum-based lesson plans; developing outreach programs and materials; and assisting with dissemination of fire information (if there are active fires in the park).

This position is different than other TRT positions at Saguaro National Park in that the teacher ranger is expected to work independently with minimal supervision much of the time. This is primarily an office position; however, it may require working outdoors during the extreme summer heat at times. Some week-end work may be required. It is recommended that the teacher have a biology background or be very interested in science and natural history. For a general overview of fire management at Saguaro National Park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm>

The Teacher/Ranger will:

- 1) Facilitate visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources. Park visitors include all audiences, whether visiting physically or intellectually via the web, publications, school programs, and other outreach programs to the community.
- 2) Encourage citizens, especially students, to develop a sense of stewardship for park resources.

Major Duties while at the National Park:

- Develop one or more lesson plans for specific grade levels that relate to wildland fire in the National Park Service and Saguaro National Park that meet state curriculum standards.
- Develop a program on wildland fire management at Saguaro National Park to present at the park's visitor center. May also assist with presenting Junior Ranger Camp activities and roving interpretation. Programs are based on the established park interpretive themes and current management issues, and conform to the standards for NPS interpretation.
- May develop outreach materials including a wildland fire education traveling trunk and fire education/information displays for the park visitor center and/or community events.

- May assist with community outreach events, helping staff information booths and providing information about park resources.
- If there are active fires in the park, may assist with providing fire information in the park and community including helping update websites, staffing information booths, visiting local businesses to provide fire information updates, and providing roving interpretation.
- Conducts independent research on varied topics for the purpose of providing resource education programs. Learn about park resources by attending in-park training, participating in on-line training and research, reading park research materials and maps, and by interviewing other park rangers or staff, researchers, and other professionals.
- Operate a variety of audiovisual and other equipment used in connection with interpretive programs, including slide or power point projector, VCR, audio cassette player, video cassette and/or DVD players, digital cameras, etc.

Duties when back in the classroom:

- Incorporates activities related to the National Park Service into their classroom curriculum during the school year.
- Wears the Park Service uniform during National Park Week, or another time as agreed to with the park representative and the school district, and conducts activities related to the National Park Service and gives several presentations to their class, a school assembly and to one other school within the district.
- Presents an interpretive program to a community or school audience on Saguaro National Park.
- Coordinates with park staff a community field trip from the teacher's school to Saguaro National Park for a half-day field trip.

Park Responsibilities

Parks will:

- Supply a park ranger uniform and name tag.
- Provide park specific and ranger training at the park, including safety training.
- Provide payment for the teachers for the eight week program.
- Make available equipment and software needed to accomplish work.

Teacher Responsibilities

To qualify for the program, teachers must:

- Complete the application.
- Obtain approval from their school principal, endorsing them.
- Commit to work eight weeks at Saguaro National Park during the summer with possible days during the school year for park special events. This will be negotiated

between the teacher and the park supervisor.

- Agree to wear a park ranger uniform according to NPS uniform standards.
- Adhere to all National Park Service policies and guidelines.
- Develop a series of student activities related to Saguaro National Park and the National Park Service to use in their classroom.
- Wear their Park Service uniform during National Park Week, or another time as agreed to with the park representatives and the school district. Teachers will also present programs on the National Park Service to the following: their individual class, other classes within their school, a school assembly and to at least one other school within their district.
- Present a program for peers through the district's professional development program that will present background information about Saguaro National Park and outline curriculum based programs offered by the park.
- Participate in National Park Week activities.
- Write at least one newspaper article for their local paper or a general press release for the park to distribute to media contacts.
- Document their experience with at least 20 photos, some in uniform (both in the park and the classroom), and some in civilian clothes in the classroom.

Training for Teachers

The park staff will provide basic training in interpretation/education skills for working with the general public and foundational knowledge about the National Park Service. The training will also cover supervisory expectations.

The school district will provide teachers currently under contract in the district. The compensation and benefit requirement of the district contracts remain in force during the term of their assignments to the National Park Service at Saguaro National Park.

I agree to the terms and conditions above:

Teacher

Date