



Teacher Ranger Teacher- Professional Development Opportunity Interpretation and Education

Professional Development Opportunity

The Teacher Ranger Teacher program is a professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers to spend the summer acquiring new skills in experiential learning through a program provided by a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the University of Colorado Denver (CUD). The participants spend between four and six weeks in a NPS unit developing a major educational project and participating in an online graduate course from CU Denver. The goal of the program is to train teachers in the resources and themes of the NPS so that they can return to their schools in the fall and incorporate their new skills into their classroom activities. NPS aims to especially reach students from underserved schools and districts by recruiting teachers from Title 1, urban or rural schools and from tribal schools to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program.

Park Name: Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Mailing Address: 18555 Hwy 47A, Suite A, Cheyenne, OK 73628

Park Contact: Kevin Bowles Mohr

Park Contact Email Address: kevin_bowles_mohr@nps.gov

Park Phone Number: 580-497-2742 x3003

Projected Dates of Detail: Mid June to the end of July

Housing Availability: No

Stipend: \$3000.00 upon completion of program and graduate course requirements

Graduate Credit: 3 graduate credit hours through University of Colorado Denver

Program Hourly Requirements: Total of 240 hours of effort; 160 hours of major educational project, 45 hours of online coursework, discussion, course readings, 35 hours of NPS operational experiences.

Additional Information:

Established in 1996, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site recognizes the attack by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the 7th U.S. Cavalry on the Cheyenne encampment of peace Chief Black Kettle and the importance of the battle as a nationally significant element of the United States government Indian policy.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is looking for teachers with experience in lesson plan development and knowledge and skills in long range educational planning.

The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) will assist Park staff to develop a 5 year Education Plan. The major theme for the plan is the sesquicentennial of the Battle of the Washita, which is in 2018. Developing an education plan and supporting curriculum is crucial for the successful 150th commemoration and the future of the education program. The TRT will connect with other National Park Service sites with strong education programs to help Washita Battlefield create a park specific education plan. While researching the other programs, the TRT will learn about NPS education themes and resources like distance learning, lesson plans, and site visits. Once back in the classroom, the TRT will be a conduit of knowledge for other teachers and schools within the district and can utilize the resources of the NPS education programs.



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The TRT will also review the former 5 year education plan (which is incomplete) and ascertain which goals could be implemented immediately. Lastly, along with our Education Coordinator, the TRT will update the few existing lesson plans and curriculum activities to satisfy Oklahoma's current education standards.

At the end of the TRT's service, Washita Battlefield NHS will have several updated curriculum activities, a 5 year plan drafted with a focus on the sesquicentennial, and some components of the former plan initiated or incorporated into the new 5 year plan.

Other potential projects include:

1. Develop pre- & post-visit materials for teachers in the classroom.
2. Develop a program of outreach materials to be used by schools and other groups that cannot physically visit the park.
3. Develop a Family Fun Fest/Summer Camp
4. Develop a traveling trunk in collaboration with Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Bill Tallbull, Indian Affairs and American Culture Specialist.
5. Develop portable exhibits on various park themes or special initiatives, which can be displayed at schools, community gatherings, or public spaces.

In addition to the major educational project and course work, the TRT will be trained in the field of Interpretation. The TRT will have access to online courses about interpretation, and have the opportunity to develop and present an interpretive program to visitors. The TRT will also learn the basic job duties of operating a visitor center, be involved in special events, and understand the concepts of managing a NPS site.



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Application

Needs to be received by close of business on Friday, May 8, 2015

Email kevin_bowles_mohr@nps.gov Fax 580-497-2712

Mail 18555 Hwy 47a. Suite A, Cheyenne, OK 73628

Applicant Name:

Home Address:

Home/Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Applicant's School Name:

School District/State:

School Address:

School Phone:

Grade level and subject(s) taught:

1. **Do you teach at a Title I school?** (please circle) No Yes If yes, what percentage of your students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunches?
2. **Can you commit to approximately 4-6 weeks of time (230-240 hours) during the summer season (May-August, depending on park needs)?** (please circle) No Yes
3. **Describe your most effective unit or lesson plan that actively engaged students in learning. Why was it successful?**
4. **Why do you want to participate in Teacher Ranger Teacher?**
5. **How will you use your TRT experience to enrich your classroom teaching and create opportunities for your students to connect to the National Park system?**
6. **How will you share information and skills acquired through this experience with your school and district colleagues?**
7. **Describe your familiarity and experiences with local, state or national parks.**

Please provide information for two professional references:

Reference 1: Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to applicant:

Reference 2: Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to applicant: