



Mount Rainier National Park Citizen Ranger Program



Paradise Area Quest #2

Title: Caring for a Mountain

Introduction: How and why is Mount Rainier National Park cared for? The Jackson Visitor center exhibits help us understand some answers to this question. Let's discover some of the ways Mount Rainier National Park is taken care of while we get to know the biggest visitor center in the park!

Length: 30 minutes to one hour

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. Ask a ranger at the information desk if you need help!

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

Materials Needed: pen or pencil, paper for notes, this Quest sheet

1. Ask the ranger at the information desk on the first floor of the visitor center for a picture of the old 1966 Henry M Jackson Visitor Center. Compare the old visitor center with the current one. Note the roof shape of each of the buildings. Draw the roof shape for the new and old visitor center:

New

Old

How could the shape of the roof on the new Jackson Visitor Center help save money (compared to the old visitor center) and prevent pollution? If you need clues ask the ranger at the front desk.

Answer:

2. Replacing old visitor centers can help prevent pollution like greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases can effect climate change and negatively impact park wildlife. In the upstairs exhibits there is a description of a small animal from the rabbit family. This creature can only survive within a certain temperature range. Climate change is increasing temperatures at Mount Rainier National Park. If the temperature is too high this animal can die.

Be a detective! In the upstairs exhibit area find the picture and information about this small-eared member of the rabbit family. (Note: It is not a Marmot!). You may check out a field guide from the ranger if you wish. In the space below name the animal and write a description and/or make a picture of how this animal survives the harsh winter conditions in the space on the next page:

3. Park staff, volunteers, and visitors work to preserve and protect everything in the park. We hope future generations will be able to enjoy the park as we are today. In the higher subalpine and alpine areas the natural conditions are especially harsh for plants and animals. We ask all visitors to stay on trails so plants are not damaged. We work to educate everyone about the negative effects of feeding wildlife.

Find one plant and one animal (besides the one from #2 above) described in the 2nd floor exhibits. In the space below describe or draw how that plant or animal survives the harsh conditions of the subalpine or alpine environment.

4. The park has millions of visitors every year. That many people generate a lot of waste. The park concessionaire Guest Services Inc. (GSI) works to minimize human environmental impact. Be an investigative reporter and find a method that is used by GSI to minimize environmental impacts. Write or draw your answer below. Note: Inside the Paradise Visitor Center GSI operates the Book & Gift shop as well as the Paradise Camp Deli.
5. View the park film in the first floor theater. Describe below three ways described in the film that the park is cared for by people.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
6. People in the park film describe what Mount Rainier means to them. Research shows that people care for things that they find their own connections with. Find a park ranger at the information desk. In one to three sentences verbally describe to the ranger what Mount Rainier means to you. Put your notes below.

Have the Park Ranger at the desk check your answers and sign in the space below.

Ranger verifying completion: _____
signature date