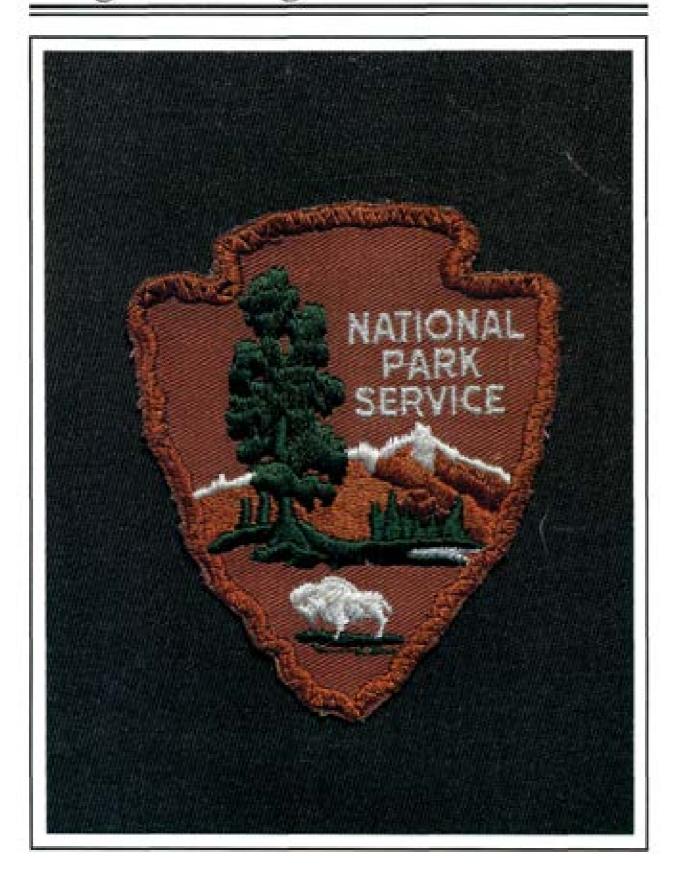
Badges and Insignia 1894-1991





Stephen Tyng Mather First Director of the National Park Service 1916-1929

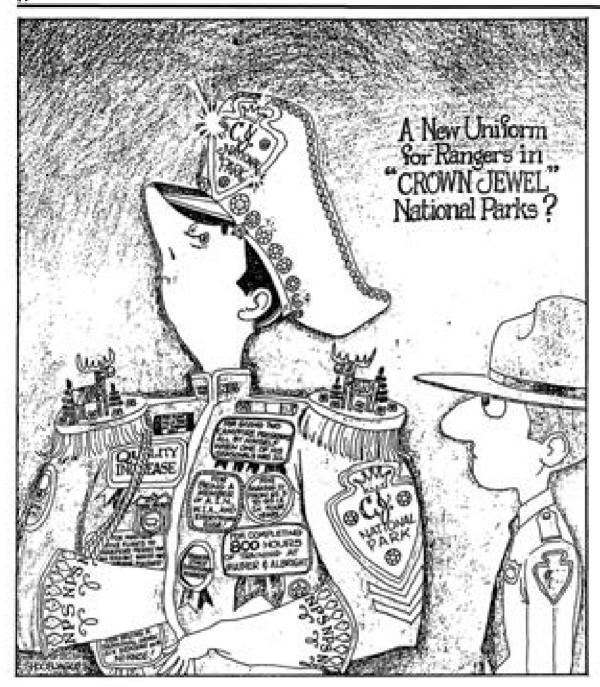
National Park Service Uniforms

Badges and Insignia 1894-1991

Number 1

By R. Bryce Workman

A Publication of the National Park Service History Collection Office of Library, Archives and Graphics Research Harpers Ferry Center Harpers Ferry, WV 1991



Keith Hoofnagle originally drew this cartoon for the final issue of In Touch, Summer 1982, but it wasn't used. In Touch was a monthly magazine for interpreters.

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Foreword

A sthe National Park Service celebrates its Diamond Jubilee we are reminded of all of the contributions made by the men and women who over the years have protected and preserved our national treasures.

The ranger force has held a mystique all its own since the early days in Yellowstone. There have been many books written about the activities and accomplishments of rangers in the parks, but none of these works has tackled the sometimes hazy history of the uniforms and insignia they wear. The "National Park Service Uniforms" series, of which this is the first volume, fills that gap and should be of great value to scholars studying the history and culture of the Service.

David G. Wright

Manager, Harpers Ferry Center

Introduction

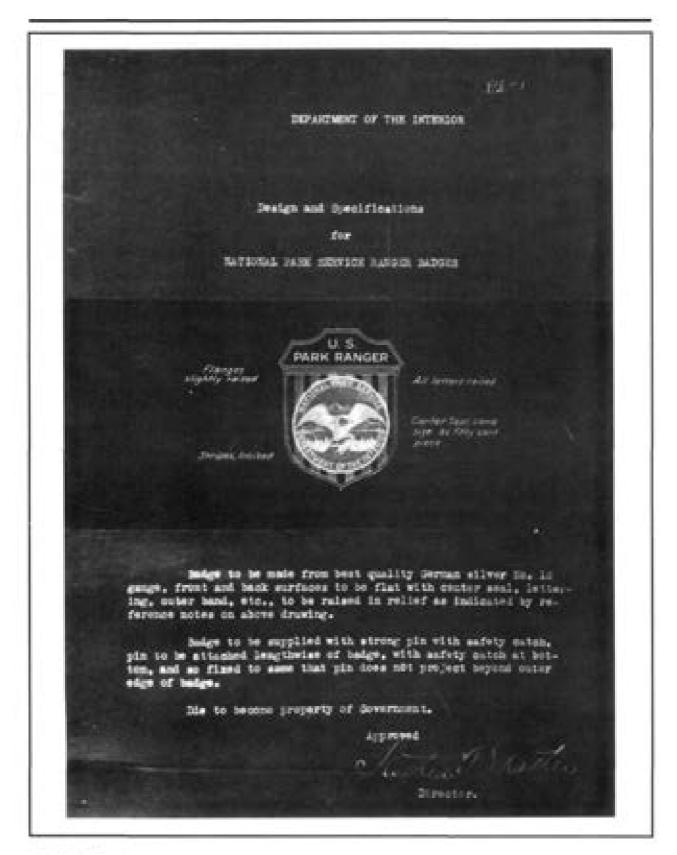
From the early days of Yellowstone National Park, there was a need to distinguish the men who would protect the national parks from those who would damage them. The first rangers, such as Harry Yount, did not wear uniforms and may or may not have carried a badge. The first clear reference to badges for rangers relates to their use by Yellowstone park scouts. The 1898 U.S. Department of the Interior badge was evidently the first universal badge to be used by the "forest rangers," as the rangers in Interior's parks as well as forest reserves were then called. From then until the first uniform came into being a decade later, badges were all that identified rangers. The uniform enabled the greater public recognition that was desired.

In the beginning, the National Park Service had the trappings of a military unit similar to the U.S. Army, which it replaced in some of the western parks. Materials and ornamentation for the officers (those who were not rangers) were of higher quality than those for the rangers. Officers were serge instead of heavy wool and gold fill instead of nickel plate or German silver. Patches, or brassards as they were called, were used to distinguish the various positions. These distinctions came to an end, for the most part, in 1928 when it was decided to raise the ranger in the field to the same level as those in administration.

The following is a history of the various articles of adornment that have been used over the years to identify the National Park Service ranger. This information has been gleaned from public records as well as the Service's Harpers Ferry Center Archical collection of badges and insignia that have been donated over the years by people interested in perpetuating the history of what the "man in the field" wore. Past and present National Park Service employees plus a small but elite band of private collectors have helped immensely in this endeavor by opening their minds and boxes of treasured memorabilia.

I would especially like to thank Jack Williams for the inspiration of his earlier history; Barry MacIntosh for making sense out of my research; Tom Durant, whose help was invaluable in locating images to illustrate items used by the rangers; Deryl Stone and Ron Howard for allowing me to utilize their badge and insignia collections to fill in the gaps; David Guiney and Susan Myers for the many hours they spent in putting this all together, and last, but by no means least, the many men and women throughout the Service that contributed objects, information, photographs and assistance that made this study possible.

With the publication of this booklet, no doubt other objects and information will come to the surface. I surely hope so. National Park Service rangers have made their mark in the history of this country and deserve recognition.



Original drawing for 1920 National Park Service ranger badge

Badges



In 1883 Congress authorized the use of Army troops to protect Yellowstone National Park. When they started patrolling in 1886, however, they were not empowered to arrest offenders. They could only escort them out of the park. Here and in the California national parks after 1890 the troops sometimes employed ingenious methods, such as expelling offenders from one side of the park while driving their flocks or casting their weapons out the opposite side. But a more regular form of law enforcement was needed. For this duty civilian rangers, or scouts as they were known in Yellowstone, were hired. These early forest rangers, as they would be called, displayed their authority in the form of a badge, usually from some local jurisdiction, or in the case of Yellowstone, the park.

The earliest known badge attributed to a national park is that of the "Yellowstone Park Scout." It probably came in after the 1894 Lacey Act, when scouts were hired to enforce the hunting prohibition in the national parks. It was silver, round, 2-inches in diameter, with YEL-LOWSTONE PARK SCOUT stamped around the perimeter. The middle was cut out in the shape of a star and a badge number was stamped in the center. It was made by the J. P. Cook Company of Omaha, Nebraska. The chief scout's badge was sterling and cost \$1.25. The other scouts wore badges of German silver and were charged 75 cents if they lost them, probably the replacement cost. These badges were probably worn by rangers at Yellowstone National Park until after the formation of the National Park Service in 1917.

It is not known exactly what the badges issued to rangers in the other parks looked like. But from correspondence and photographs we know that they were being worn. There are three extant photographs of rangers in Sequoia National Park wearing what appear to be two different badges, a round badge over one with a shield configuration. Two of these photographs are circa 1902; the other one, while undated, shows one of the rangers from the other photographs, Lew Davis, wearing the same clothes. So it can be assumed that it was taken about the same time as the others. The two 1902 photographs are of the same four rangers, taken on the same day. The images are not very clear, but from the shadows on the badges of the two rangers in the center of one of them, the top badge appears to be the size of the 1905 National Park Service "eagle" badge (for want of a better term at this time).

There is a forest reserve ranger badge in a private collection that is stamped "Department of the Interior." This indicates its use before the 1905 separation, for Gifford Pinchot, chief of Agriculture's new Bureau of Forestry, immediately ordered a new badge when he obtained the forest reserves. A photograph in the Forest Service photo collection depicts William Watts Hooper wearing what appears to be this badge. (Hooper received an appointment as a forester in the Kenosha Range country of Colorado sometime after 1887 and moved to Agriculture with the forest reserves in 1905.)

The badge in the private collection was made by the John Robbins Manufacturing Company of Boston, Massachusetts. It is 2-inches in diameter, convex in shape and made of German, or nickel, silver. It has US in inch-high letters in the center with FOREST RESERVE RANGER around it in 3/16-inch letters. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR is superimposed over the US in 1/8-inch letters. As was common practice with badges at the time, all the letters are stamped into the metal instead of being raised. The park rangers may have worn this badge or one stamped "park ranger" rather than "forest reserve ranger." If this was the case, though, it seems logical that they would have been known as park rangers instead of forest rangers.

This is probably the badge alluded to by Frank F. Liebig in an article he wrote in 1944 for the Forest Service, concerning his recollections as a ranger on the Flathead Forest Reserve in 1902. "The Supervisor gave me a notebook or two and a nice shiny silver badge," he recalled. "It said on it, "Department of the Interior, Ranger." No example of a "Department of the Interior Ranger" badge from this era is known, so Liebig's recollection may have been faulty. The US and FOREST RESERVE are much larger than the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR and it seems likely that he would have remembered them if indeed this was the style of badge issued to him. Yet such a badge may have been used before 1905 when the national parks and forest reserves were both under Interior, with "National Park Service" supplanting "Ranger" after the forest reserves were transferred to the Department

of Agriculture. "National park service" then denoted Interior's park function, not the future bureau. It is interesting to note that he also has what appears to be a second small badge under his ranger badge.

The origin of the bottom shield badge in the photographs is unknown. It would appear to be some kind of patrol badge. To complicate matters further, the shield badge on Charlie Blossom is different from that on the other three rangers, but it has the most contrast of the group. The sketch in the badge layout is the best interpretation possible from magnification.

To clarify the narrative from here on, the badges are assigned numbers based on their dates of introduction.

There is some question as to just how early the 1905 badge came into use. One school of thought is that it came in with the departmental separation of the park and forest personnel in 1905, but there is no corroborating evidence for this. It is possible that the 1905 badge may postdate that year. Correspondence shows that it certainly was in use by 1909. The first "National Park Service" buttons, obtained in 1912, were made utilizing its design. The example in the NPS collection at Harpers Ferry Center Archives is either tin or nickel plated, two inches in diameter, with a variation of the Interior Department's eagle seal used until 1913 (actually a cross between Interior's eagle and the Army breastplate eagle of Civil War vintage). There is a rope edge around the badge, with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE around the top inside the rope edge, and DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR around the bottom. On the back is a pin, without safety catch, for fastening the badge. Yellowstone has another example of this badge in its collection.

It is not known where these badges were made, but there were several sterling examples and at least one gold example made at Tiffany & Company, New York. The gold one was Stephen T. Mather's, while Horace M. Albright and Jesse Nusbaum each received one of the sterling ones. These badges were all cast instead of the usual stamping. It is not known how many sterling badges were produced. Albright's was stolen from his coat, but Jesse Nusbaum carried his around in his pocket for many years afterward.⁴

The 1905 badges were to be turned in to Park Service headquarters upon receipt of the new 1920 badges. But because the demand for the new badges was greater than the quantity initially produced, the parks were authorized to retain some of the old badges for their temporary rangers. There is a photograph taken at Yosemite in 1926 of six nature guides wearing these badges.

Apparently there was another badge issued in some of the parks around 1917 or 1918. There is evidence that Yosemite and Yellowstone received them, but whether or not any of the other parks did is not known. There are photographs showing rangers in Yosemite wearing a small badge approximately 1-1/4 inches in diameter, about the size of the 1921 superintendent's badge. Replying to the uniform committee's questionnaire of December 2, 1922, Chief Ranger Sam T. Woodring, at Yellowstone, answered question 5b by saying: "The present badge is a great deal larger than necessary. I believe that the small round badge issued prior to the one now used should be readopted."6 It has been suggested that this was the coined center of the 1920 badge and that it was applied to a shield to make the 1920 park ranger badge. This is highly speculative, and it is inconceivable that there would not be some reference in the official correspondence to the fact that the new director's and superintendent's badges were the same as the old ranger badges.

One possible answer may lie in a badge that was issued by the Interior Department in 1919. That year the department adopted a design for a new field service badge that was available for the use of all its bureaus. This design consisted of an adaptation of the departmental seal, with US over the buffalo and a blank space under the feet of the animal in which the name of the particular field service could be inserted. If this is the case, then the 1917 date on the photograph is wrong. There are also two photographs from Yellowstone that fit this category. One, taken in 1919, shows a group of rangers on motorcycles. While not uniformed, Eivind Scoyen's small badge can be seen protruding below his pocket flap.

The second photograph is of E. Burket, taken in 1922. At first glance this image would appear to have been taken prior to 1918. He is wearing a uniform with a military cut which was not to be purchased after 1918. Ranger Burket is also wearing a small round badge. The answer is quite simple. Burket was hired as a temporary ranger in 1921. Rangers had to pay their own expenses and due to their low salary, temporary rangers, for the most part, did not want to spend money for a uniform that they might only be wearing for one summer. Consequently, they were allowed to wear whatever they wished. Many purchased surplus Army uniforms to wear. Superintendent Horace M. Albright changed this at Yellowstone in 1922 by requiring the purchase of a regulation uniform as a condition of employment. Apparently, with the issuance of the 1920 badges, the 1905 badges were not redistributed to the parks to cover the shortage. Instead, the parks retained the badges

previously used. In the case of Yellowstone and Yosemite, this was the small round badge.

Although badges were omitted from the 1920 uniform regulations, there was a new badge designed and passed for the use of the National Park Service. This badge was first issued in June 1920. It is a flat, two-piece badge, with a coined center the size of a fifty cent piece featuring an eagle facing forward, with outswept wings, its head looking to the left, mounted on a shield with U.S. PARK RANGER across the top. The coined center is an exact copy of a seal that appears on the back of the cover paper of the National Park Portfolio published in 1916. This seal does not appear elsewhere. All subsequent editions of the portfolio used the Department of the Interior seal.

There was only one style of badge and it was intended that all qualified employees, officers and rangers were to wear it. The whole was nickel plated. Apparently the nickel plating was of an inferior quality, because on January 7, 1921, Engineer George E. Goodwin complained that "the present badges are not satisfactorily plated, in that they are beginning to turn yellow and do not retain their original silver color."9

There was also much dissatisfaction over the fact that the officers (all permanent employees other than rangers) were required to wear the same badge as the rangers. It was suggested that the 1905 badge be retained for the officers, and that to differentiate between the chief and assistant chief rangers and the park and temporary rangers, the former two have gold-plated badges.¹⁰

Service headquarters agreed that the badges of the officers should be different from those of the rangers. So when the 1921 regulations were drawn up, they specified that the officers would have a round badge, actually the coined center portion of the standard ranger badge. The ranger badge design remained the same as the 1920. The regulations authorized the following:

Director and assistant director-gold-plated round badge All other officers-nickel plated round badge Chief and assistant chief rangers-gold-plated shield badge Park and temporary rangers-nickel-plated shield badge

Even though the 1921 regulations prescribed that the park ranger badge be the same as the 1920, the specifications sent with the contract called for it to be German silver. The chief and assistant chief ranger badges were the same as the ranger, except for the gold plating. There is also evidence that although the regulations called for the superintendent's badge to be nickel plated, at least some of them were sterling.¹²

The 1921 badges were furnished by F.J. Heiberger & Son, Inc., of Washington, D.C., but since they are unmarked the manufacturer is unknown.

In early April 1921, exception was taken to all of the officers wearing the same badge. Acting Director Arno B. Cammerer considered the badge to be an emblem of authority and felt that only those in positions of command should wear them. About this time a request came in from a superintendent for badges for his clerks, per the regulations. This prompted Director Mather, on April 13, 1921, to amend the new regulations to read that the only officers authorized to wear badges were superintendents, assistant superintendents, and custodians.¹³

The 1921 uniform regulations were amended on June 13, 1922, to specify that "the service badge, that had previously been issued to employees without charge, would now require a \$5 deposit." When the badge was lost previously, the replacement cost of eighty cents was levied. Cammerer explained the rationale for the higher deposit: "Without questioning the honesty of any individual or group of employees we have best reasons to believe that a number of badges are kept or given to friends by employees for souvenirs after paying the small amount to cover cost. These badges are issued to indicate Federal authority and every precaution must be taken to prevent them from falling into the hands of unauthorized persons," 15

If a ranger "lost" his badge, the deposit was forfeit, and another five dollars was required before he could be issued a new one. No charge was made for replacing broken badges. If the ranger could prove to his superintendent that the badge had been lost through no negligence on his part, the superintendent had the authority to issue another without additional charge. 16

This arrangement remained in effect until June 15, 1938, when Office Order No. 350 rescinded the five-dollar deposit requirement. It declared instead that "Each temporary ranger and/or fire guard . . . must be informed that unless the badge and collar ornaments are returned in good condition, a deduction of \$5.00 will be made for each badge which may be lost."

When the regulations were being revised in 1928, it was questioned whether badges were necessary for the director and assistant director. It was decided that since these officials did not have direct command responsibility in the field, they were not necessary, and they were subsequently eliminated from the new regulations. The other badges, though, remained the same.

At the 1929 superintendents' conference, it was decided to design a new ranger budge. This task was assigned to Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint of the Landscape Division. A number of designs were submitted, but none of them met the approval of the Washington office. It was thought that it would be advantageous to have a number on the face of the badge, but with all the information that was required by the department, this did not lend itself to a pleasing image. Horace Albright suggested that the committee consider using the departmental buffalo. Even though a drawing was made to this effect, it apparently died from lack of interest.

Because a new badge design could not be agreed upon when new badges were purchased in June 1930, the current design was retained. This time, though, since a new style was in the offing, the badges were stamped in one piece instead of two, probably as a cost-cutting measure. They were still flat with a clasp on the back. Regulations called for them to be numbered, but the wording is somewhat ambiguous. Unlike the later fire guard badges, which were to be consecutively numbered, it is not clear whether they were to be numbered at the factory, at Service headquarters before issue to the field, or in the parks. There are several specimens in the NPS collection, two of which have numbers crudely engraved on their backs, the others being blank. From them it may be assumed that the numbering took place in the field.

Designs for new badges were periodically drawn up, but none of these were satisfactory. Finally, at the Twelfth National Park Conference held at Hot Springs National Park in April 1932, the uniform regulations committee recommended that "there be no change in the design for the Rangers Badge." Consequently, the 1930 badges, along with any 1920 or 1921 badges still in good repair, continued in use until a new badge was designed and issued in 1946.

Separate badges were authorized for the fire guards in the 1932 uniform regulations. These badges were in the shape of a shield (different from the ranger shield) and made of bronze. They were to be consecutively numbered for controllability. Until that time, fire guards were issued standard park ranger badges whenever the need arose.

On April 13, 1936, Office Order No. 324 authorized the round gold-plated badge for use by the superintendents and custodians. This badge had formerly been used by the directors but had been idle since 1928. The assistant superintendents still retained the nickel-plated round badge.

The 1940 uniform regulations called for two more badges to be added to the cadre. These were to be used by the park guards and junior park wardens. Both badges were to be the same design as those of the rangers with the substitution of "Guard" and "Warden" for "Ranger."

With the establishment of guide positions at Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth Cave National Parks in the middle of 1941, the need for a guide badge arose. Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson wrote to the Uniform Committee chairman, Superintendent John C. Preston of Lassen Volcanic National Park: "The Uniform Regulations do not now provide for a badge for guides, although they do cover badges of similar design for "park ranger", "park warden" and "park guard". It is believed that we should have a badge with the words "Park Guide" included in the Uniform Regulations."

The Uniform Committee took this suggestion under advisement and recommended "that a badge of similar design with the words "Park Guide" be included in the Uniform Regulations," 19 It is not known whether these badges were ever made and issued, or whether the events of World War II overtook them. There are no known examples of these badges or the guard and warden badges in the nickel-plated, flat configuration. All the special badges in the NPS collection are of the silver-plated, convex (or "dapped" in departmental terminology) configuration issued in 1946. The 1940 regulations are dated November 22, 1940, so it seems logical that at least the guard and warden badges would have been made and issued.

By 1941, the National Park Service had grown to the point that it was no longer feasible to have the usual two- or three-man Uniform Committee. Consequently, the Uniform Committee was expanded to include two representatives from each of the four NPS regions. Lemuel A. Garrison, superintendent of Hopewell Village National Historic Site, and Benjamin L. Hadley, assistant superintendent of Acadia National Park, were selected from Region One. In reply to the customary uniform change suggestion request, several suggestions related to badges, a couple of them somewhat prophetic. One thought that all of the uniformed personnel should wear the same badge. Another suggested that the badges be reduced to two, one for rangers, the other to

have "National Park Service" across the top for all others required to wear a badge. The war precluded any changes at that time.

After hostilities ceased, new badges were obtained by the NPS in 1946. There were five different badges in this series: chief and assistant chief ranger, park ranger, park guard, park warden, and park guide. These were of the same basic design as the 1930 issue except for being dapped, or convex, so that the pin did not make them stand away from the uniform, resulting in a more pleasing appearance. The chief and assistant chief ranger badges were the same as the park ranger badge, only gold plated as before. Although the regulations called for the other badges to be nickel plated, all the examples in the NPS collection are silver-plated brass with an oxidized finish. The plating was evidently thin, for the majority of these specimens show considerable wear. The superintendents and assistant superintendents still wore the small round badges in gold and silver, respectively.

Also at this time, new badges were authorized for the fire guards, now called fire control aides. After the initial order, all subsequent orders changed the spelling on the badge to "Fire Control Aid," While not covered in the uniform regulations, there is a silver fire control aid badge in the NPS collection that is purported to have been issued to supervisors.

In 1955 the Service considered changing the badge. Memos were sent out soliciting suggestions from the men in the field. The NPS collection has one, possibly two, of these "proposed" badges. The first, developed by Frank F. Kowski, had the Service's new arrowhead emblem supplanting the eagle in the center. Three of these were struck, but the idea did not catch on and it was dropped. It was also suggested that an enameled badge of the arrowhead be used, but this brought forth vigorous protestations from the field.²⁰

The other possible 1955 candidate has a more obscure history. It was purchased on the outside and donated to the NPS collection. It is assembled from parts of a park ranger badge and an assistant superintendent badge. The badge parts are stamped in brass, using what appears to be the "National Park Ranger" badge die. A piece of brass was cut to match the shape of the shield of the badge, only 1/8-inch larger all around. The center was then cut out to accommodate the ranger badge. Two parallel lines are engraved around the 1/8-inch border. The top of the shield, with the "U.S. PARK RANGER," along with a short section of the two center stripes, was then separated from

the badge. This was soldered inside the top of the brass border. A short section of the bottom of the two center stripes was also cut out and soldered to the bottom of the border. A 1-1/4-inch brass circle was then soldered as a bridge between the top and bottom sections of the center stripes. On top of this brass circle is mounted a silver-plated assistant superintendent's badge. The rest of the badge is unplated brass.

In December 1959, new uniform regulations were released, to become effective on January 1, 1961. These regulations called for the number of different badges worn by uniformed personnel to be reduced to three. The superintendents and assistant superintendents were to wear a "gold rolled fill" badge with NATIONAL PARK RANGER on the top. All park rangers were to wear the same badge, but made of sterling silver and oxidized. All other uniformed personnel requiring a badge would wear one like the ranger badge but with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE at the top.

While at first glance the badges appear to be of the same design as the previous ones, there are a couple of differences. The eagle now faces to the right, and the circle surrounding the eagle contains UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR instead of NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. These badges are dapped like the earlier ones.

Although the regulations were not to take effect until 1961, the new badges were probably purchased and issued, if a new badge was required, in 1960.

The 1961 regulations were somewhat ambiguous concerning the use of badges by women. Under the general heading of "Badge" they state: "The 'National Park Service' Badge. All uniformed employees except women, boat officers and boat crews, lifeguards, nurses, and fire control aids will wear the shield badge." Yet under the heading of "Women's Uniform" they state: "Badge to be worn on coat and optional on shirt." This could be interpreted to mean that women were to wear the "Park Ranger" rather than the "National Park Service" badge, but there were then no female park rangers. It was suggested at the time that women wear a smaller badge, but this did not happen. Lifeguards and fire control aids had their own badges.

Even though the smaller badge idea was dropped, in January 1962 the wearing of a small silver arrowhead pin was authorized for women in lieu of a badge.²² This was extremely unpopular among the women, and justifiably so, for the absence of a badge suggested a lack of authority. Some women were so incensed at this that they refused to wear the arrowhead. In some parks, superintendents issued them standard badges. The arrowhead "badge" issued to Betty Otto when she joined the Service in 1963 resembled the standard ranger tie tack except for having a raised edge, as if it had been made to be enameled in the center, and a pin fastening device. It was also nickel plated rather than sterling. The pins were poorly fashioned and were constantly in need of repair.

An Interior Department graphic change came in 1968, during Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's last year in office. The buffalo seal was replaced by one containing a small circle, symbolizing the sun, over two triangles, symbolizing mountains, over nine small triangles, symbolizing water, all framed by a stylized pair of hands and encircled by "U.S. Department of the Interior." The National Park Service, being a bureau of Interior, followed suit and changed the badge design to reflect the new departmental seal. This time there were only two badges made. The superintendents' and assistant superintendents' badges were gold, while all others were sterling silver. Both badges were identical in design. The shield remained the same, with only the departmental seal replacing the eagle.

The "good hands" emblem met with a great deal of opposition in the Park Service and the department as a whole—so much so that the seal, and the badge, were changed again in less than two years. Secretary Walter J. Hickel, Udall's successor, restored the buffalo to the Interior seal in 1969. The National Park Service again followed suit, using the buffalo this time instead of the eagle previously used. There was only one badge, and all uniformed personnel were to wear it. It was gold and consisted of the standard shield, with the Department of the Interior seal in the center. This comprises a buffalo, facing to the left, standing on grass in front of mountains with a rising sun background, encircled by a band with the words U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/MARCH 3, 1849. This is the badge that is worn today.

In addition to the metal badges, the National Park Service has authorized three cloth badges over the years. Some people think of these as patches, but because they were designed to denote the authority of the wearer they are properly considered badges.

Two of these were issued to lifeguards. The first cloth badge (1937) was made out of olive green gabardine, with U.S. PARK LIFE GUARD and an eagle and other symbols embroidered in yellow. Under the eagle is a yellow bar with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/DEPT OF THE INTERIOR embroidered in white. This badge was to be worn on the lower right side of the bathing suit. There are no known photographs of lifeguards wearing this badge.

In 1953, in keeping with the Service's attempt to associate all its activities and locations with its new emblem, the 1937 badge was replaced with one incorporating a variation of the arrowhead. The new badge consisted of a light brown arrowhead with a dark brown border. At the top was NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, and below was DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, both embroidered in black. In the center was embroidered LIFE GUARD in large white letters. With slight variations in size and style, this badge is still worn today.

The third cloth badge, or badge patch, as it is called, was authorized in 1991. The general statement, prepared by John Townsend, in the 1990 uniform committee recommendations regarding situations in which this badge patch should be worn best defines its use: "The badge patch is to be worn on special purpose outerwear not normally part of the uniform where identification of the wearer as an NPS employee is essential to the performance of the employee's mission and where the employee would wear a regular gold badge if dressed in a standard uniform." Specific applications for this badge are "raid" vests, snow machine suits, flight suits, survival suits, and tactical vests.



This emblem was printed on the back of the cover for the National Park Portfolio, 1916. It was used as a model for the center of the 1920 ranger and 1921 officer badges.

1894-1916?

YELLOWSTONE PARK SCOUTS

Chief scouts (sterling silver) Scouts (nickel-plated) 2-inch diameter, convex, pierced star

1898-1905

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

All forest rangers (park & reserve), except Yellowstone National Park 2-inch diameter, nickel silver

1902-1905

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK PATROL

Worn by rangers at Sequoia National Park Documentation incomplete

1905-1920

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PERSONNEL

Worn by most rangers, except at Yellowstone National Park

2-inch diameter, sterling silver or nickel-plated Gold badge made for Director Stephen T. Mather





RANGERS AT YELLOWSTONE AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARKS

Circular, approx. 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inchs in diameter Documentation incomplete

1920-1930

UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

1920-1930 Permanent and temporary rangers 1920-1921 All other personnel Flat, two-piece, nickel-plated (German silver after 1920)

1921-1928 and 1936-1960

DIRECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

1921-1928 Director and assistant directors 1936-1960 Superintendents Gold filled

1921-1960

SUPERINTENDENTS AND OFFICERS

1921-1936 Superintendents 1921-1960 Assistant superintendents 1921 (Jan-Apr) All other officers Nickel-plated; a few sterling silver badges also made

CHIEF AND ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

Flat, two-piece, gold-plated German silver

1930-1946

CHIEF AND ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

1930-1936 Flat, one-piece, gold-plated German silver

1936-1946 Dapped, one-piece, gold-plated German silver

Regulations specified badges be numbered; however, most surviving examples lack serial numbers

1930-1946

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY PARK RANGERS

1930-1936 Flat, one-piece, nickle-plated German silver

1936-1946 Dapped, one-piece, nickle-plated German silver

Regulations specified badges be numbered; however, most surviving examples lack serial numbers

1940-1946

PARK GUARDS

Dapped, nickel-plated German silver No remaining examples located





PARK WARDEN

Dapped, nickel-plated German silver

1946-1960

CHIEF AND ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

Dapped, gold-plated brass

1946-1960

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY PARK RANGERS

Dupped, silver-plated brass, oxidized

1946-1960

PARK GUARDS

Dupped, silver-plated brass, oxidized

PARK WARDEN

Dapped, silver-plated brass, oxidized

1946-1960

PARK GUIDE

Dupped, silver-plated brass, oxidized

1960-1968

SUPERINTENDENTS

Dapped, gold-filled sterling silver

1960-1968

PARK RANGERS

Dapped, sterling silver, oxidized





UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OTHER THAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND RANGERS

Dupped, sterling silver, exidized

1968-1970

SUPERINTENDENTS

Dapped, gold-filled sterling silver

1968-1970

ALL OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO WEAR BADGE

Dupped, sterling silver, oxidized

1970-present

ALL AUTHORIZED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

Dapped, gold-filled

Miscellaneous Badges

The following specialized badges are listed separately. Among these are prototypes that were never approved for use; cloth badges used by lifeguards; the "badge patch" used by rangers for special activities, and metal badges issued to fire control personnel.

Some badges are made of cloth. Although at first glance they may be taken for "patches", they are true badges and give the wearer the full authority of a metal badge.

1955 PROPOSED RANGER BADGE

Design submitted by Frank F. Kowski Dapped, silver-plated brass, oxidized Only three prototypes made

Unknown

PROPOSED RANGER BADGE

Donated to the NPS Badge Collection by Michael Mastrangelo

Parts of badge soldered to pierced brass shield; silver-plated center medallion soldered to shield.





LIFE GUARD

Otive green gabardine with yellow and white embroidery



1953-present

LIFE GUARD

Light brown cloth with dark brown border, black & white embroidery



1991

PARK RANGER / SPECIAL SERVICE

Badge patch used on outer garments where metal badges would be inappropriate

Golden yellow gabardine with dark olive-green embroidery

FIRE GUARD

Bronze, oxidized, consecutively numbered Before this badge was issued, fire guards used standard ranger badges when needed.

1946

FIRE CONTROL AIDE

Dapped, bronze

This badge issued for one year only. "Aide" was changed to "aid" in 1947.

1947-1960

FIRE CONTROL SUPERVISOR

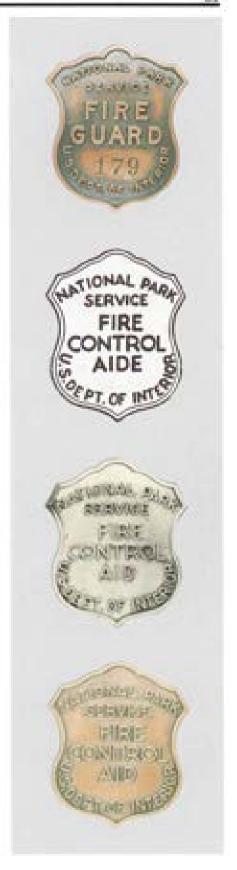
Dapped, silver-plated

Regulations do not mention this badge, but there are numerous examples extant.

1947-present

FIRE CONTROL AID

Dapped, bronze, oxidized



Insignia



From the first, the men guarding our parks looked for an identity.

They wanted a uniform and all of the trappings that would let the world know who they were.

When the National Park Service was inaugurated as a bureau in 1917, an "officer and men" mentality prevailed, with the basic rangers being the "men" and everyone else being "officers." This was reflected in the first insignia allocated to each. In succeeding years many different things were tried, polished, and in some cases abandoned before the great "leveling" of the 1928 uniform regulations.

The following is a breakdown of the various insignia that have been used, or proposed for use in some cases, by Service personnel.

Arrowhead Patch

For years there had been agitation within the Park Service for some emblem that would identify the Service as the shield did the Forest Service. A contest was held in 1949 because it was thought at that time that the only emblem used by the Service, the Sequoia cone, did not adequately symbolize the bureau. The winner of the contest, Dudley Bayliss, collected the fifty dollar prize, but his "road badge" design was never used. Conrad L. Wirth, then in the Newton B. Drury directorate, served on the review committee that made the winning selection. He thought that Bayliss' design was "good and well presented, but it was, as were most of the submissions, a formal modern type." They had expected something that would have symbolized what the parks were all about.²³

Shortly after the contest was over, Aubrey V. Neasham, a historian in the Region IV (now Western Region) Engineering Division in San Francisco, in a letter to Director Drury, suggested that the Service should have an emblem depicting its primary function "like an arrowhead, or a tree or a buffalo."24 With the letter Neasham submitted a rough sketch of a design incorporating an elongated arrowhead and a pine tree. Drury thought the design had "the important merit of simplicity" and was "adequate so far as the symbolism is concerned."25

When Wirth became director in 1951, he turned Neasham's design over to Herbert Maier, then assistant director of Region IV. Maier's staff, including Sanford "Red" Hill, Cecil J. Doty, and Walter Rivers, were all involved in the design process and ultimately came up with the arrowhead design in use today.²⁶

The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. While not spelled out in official documents, the elements of the emblem symbolized the major facets of the national park system, or as Wirth put it, "what the parks were all about." The Sequoia tree and bison represented vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represented scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represented historical and archeological values.²⁷

The arrowhead was probably first used on an information folder for Oregon Caves National Monument published in April 1952. It soon gained recognition as the Service symbol and became widely used on signs and publications. Instructions for its use on signs were first sent to the field on September 25, 1952.²⁸

Amendment No. 12, September 2, 1952, to the 1947 uniform regulations prescribed the use of the arrowhead as a patch for the uniform. Enough of these patches were sent to each area so that each permanent uniformed employee received three and each seasonal uniformed employee received one. The first patches were embroidered on a non-sanforized material and could only be used on coats. Subsequent orders corrected this problem.

At first there was only one size of patch. A reduced version was soon produced for women. The smaller patch was also used on hats and the fronts of jackets.

To forestall unseemly commercial uses of the arrowhead design, an official notice, approved March 7, 1962, was published in the Federal Register of March 15, 1962 (27 F.R. 2486), designating it as the official symbol of the National Park Service.²⁹

In 1966, following MISSION 66, Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., came forth with a new agenda titled PARKSCAPE U.S.A. Hartzog

assured employees that the symbol accompanying the program, three interlocking angles surrounding three dots, would supplement rather than supplant the arrowhead. In 1968, however, when Secretary Udall adopted the new Interior seal (designed by the same New York firm of Chermayeff and Geismar Associates), Hartzog seized the opportunity to replace the arrowhead with the Parkscape symbol. With the buffalo gone from the Interior seal, he rationalized, the arrowhead with its buffalo was no longer relevant. Field reaction to this move was nevertheless unenthusiastic, for the representational arrowhead was far better liked than the abstract Parkscape symbol.

On March 3, 1969, Acting Director Edward Hummel sent a memorandum to all regional directors ordering the removal of the arrowhead shoulder patch. "In keeping with the Director's desire to act positively on field suggestions, it has been decided that effective June 1, 1969, Service emblem shoulder and cap patches will not be worn on any National Park Service garments," he wrote. Before this unpopular directive could be implemented, Secretary Hickel reinstated the buffalo seal. Hartzog thereupon reinstated the arrowhead as the official NPS emblem and continued its use as a patch in a memorandum dated May 15, 1969. Perhaps as a gesture to the few supporters of the Parkscape symbol, he simultaneously ordered its retention as the official NPS tie tack. The arrowhead has continued to be worn on the uniform and to enjoy strong acceptance among Service employees. 30



National Park Service emblem prior to the adoption of the arrowhead in 1952.

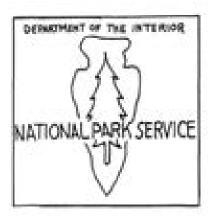


1952-present ARROWHEAD PATCH

First authorized to be wom on uniforms in September 1952. Large size was initially used by both men and women. Women later used a smaller patch. From 1964-1970, the small patch was used on women's hats. In 1970 it began being used on the standard cap for men and women.



Dudley Bayliss' winning design 1949 NPS Emblem Design Contest



Dr. Aubrey Neasham's suggested arrowhead emblem



Official 1952 NPS arrowhead emblem, also used to make shoulder patch



1954 revision of arrowhead emblem

PILE COFF

United States Patent Office

784,960 Registered Feb. 9, 1965

PRINCIPAL REGISTER Service Mark

Sec. No.: 140,799, 854 Apr. 16, 2942



U.S. Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor, Imerior Building Warkington 25, D.C. For (I) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RECEEATEONAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH PARKS, MONUMENTS, CAMP STEEL TRAILS, MUSICIONI AND SINELAR INSTITUTIONS, AND (2) MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER IN-FORMATIONAL MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF (1), in CLASS IN. Ping IN April 1952; in commerce April 1952.

Relt

Possibly because the coat was usually worn with the uniform, belts do not appear as an article covered by the regulations until 1936. Earlier photographs confirm the prior absence of any standard belt or buckle. Probably the only thing covering belts was the stipulation that all leather would be of a cordovan color.

In Office Order No. 324, National Park Service Uniform Regulations, April 13, 1936, a web belt was stipulated. In 1938, Office Order No. 350 added a leather belt. That order states:

A-1 BELT

Forestry green, web-waist belt, 1-1/8 inches wide, with buckle approved by the Director, is prescribed for wear when breeches are worm with or without coat.

A.-2 LEATHER BELT

Forestry green, 1-1/4 inches wide, with nickel-plated backle approved by the Director, is prescribed for wear only when coat is worn.

Apparently the original order did not contain the above description of the leather belt, because on November 10, 1938, Office Order 350 was amended to include a description and a sketch of the leather belt. The drawing shows a plain belt with a line tooled all around, approximately 1/8-inch from the edge. It has two retaining loops, or cinches, for the end of the belt. The buckle was a simple open-frame, single-loop style. The web belt probably utilized the standard military type of buckle.

Office Order 350 was again revised on April 19, 1939. This time the web-waist belt was eliminated and the color of the leather belt changed to the standard cordovan color of the Park Service leather goods. The width was also increased to 1-1/2 inches.

The 1940 uniform regulations brought with them two additional optional belts. Besides the standard belt, rangers could now wear a 1/8-inch-thick by 1-1/2-inch-wide belt embossed with a design similar to the hat band. This belt was of the "western gun holster" style, which has a secondary narrow belt sewn on top of the wider main belt. The narrow belt is used to secure the larger belt. In addition, Service employees required to wear side arms could wear a belt with a strap over the shoulder to support the weight of the weapon if they desired. This style belt, known as a Sam Browne, was copied from the British

military and used by the U.S. Army as well as law enforcement agencies. Both of these belts were to be cordovan.

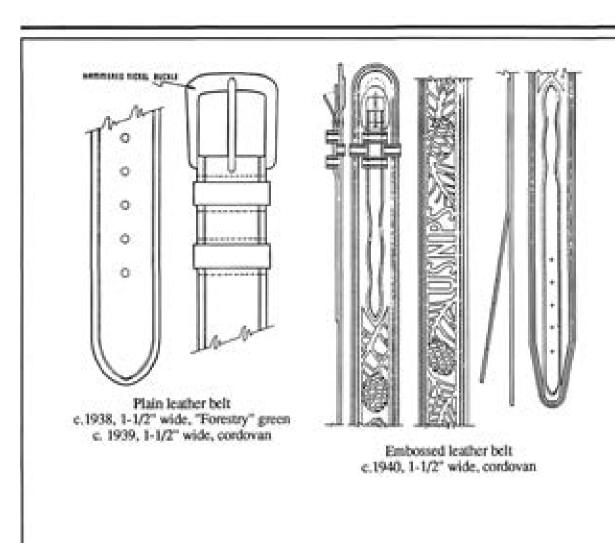
The 1961 uniform regulations changed the embossed belt. It remained 1-1/2 inches wide, but now the buckle was the full width of the belt and the "USNPS" was eliminated. This became the standard belt of the National Park Service and continues to this day.





Watch fob and belt buckle design suggested by Natt N. Dodge, naturalist, Southwestern National Monuments.

- NPS Bulletin, Nov.-Dec. 1940, Vol. X, No.6, p.11





Embossed leather belt c.1961, 1-1/2" wide, cordovan

Buttons

U.S. Army buttons were doubtless used by rangers before the introduction of civilian uniforms. The first button known to have been used by a ranger in the Interior Department's "park service" is the 1907 Forest Service button. This button shows up in a photograph of Karl Keller, a ranger in Sequoia National Park, taken in 1910. It has a pine tree in the center, with the words Forest on top and Service underneath.

In 1911 the first uniforms were officially authorized for use by rangers in the park service. These uniforms were purchased from Parker, Bridget & Company of Washington, D.C.³¹ The matter of special park service buttons was broached, but the department concluded that: "inasmuch as we would have to have a die made for the special buttons for the park service which would cost about \$28, we had best drop the matter of the special buttons until the future of the national park service is definitely determined. If the Bureau of National Parks is created, another design of button might be necessary. The uniforms are now equipped with United States Army buttons." 32

That winter, Sigmund Eisner of Red Bank, New Jersey, began negotiating with the department to furnish new uniforms for the park rangers. In his correspondence, he offered to have "buttons made to any design for the service for which they are intended. I would keep these buttons in stock subject to your orders." At a subsequent meeting with Chief Clerk Clement Ucker in Washington in December or early January 1912, Eisner was apparently shown one of the park service badges as a possible pattern for the new buttons. "

Soon after the interview, Assistant Secretary Arno Thompson wrote Eisner requesting drawings of the proposed uniforms, together with "advice as to whether bronze buttons bearing the eagle design surrounded by the words "National Park Service, Department of the Interior," as used upon the park ranger service badge shown you, will be purchased and placed upon the uniforms." Eisner agreed to this and stated that he would "have die made for these buttons in all sizes." 35

Subsequently, not only were these buttons used on the uniforms made by Eisner, but the department also purchased them for uniforms the rangers had made by other manufacturers and to replace those lost through attrition. Even though the rangers had to furnish their own uniforms, the buttons were given without charge.

These buttons were stocked and sold to the department by Eisner. The early buttons were made by the Waterbury Button Company of Waterbury, Connecticut, but were back-stamped SIGMUND EISNER/RED BANK, NJ. Later buttons carry the Waterbury back stamp. As stated above, they were modeled after the 1905 badge and were finished in what was classified as a "bronze" finish. This appears to be a sort of heavy coating. This coating was the subject of much controversy in later years because of its chipping and flaking.

Walter Fry, the ranger in charge at Sequoia National Park, has long been credited with suggesting that the "National Park Service" badge be used as the model for this button. This may or may not be partially correct. In a letter he wrote to the Secretary of the Interior requesting authority to purchase "Forestry green winter uniforms," he also requested that they be "equipped with the bronze Army buttons, bearing design of eagle, same as our badges now worn, instead of the Forest Service button." The rangers at Sequoia National Park had worn the forest green uniform with Forest Service buttons since 1909, and Fry probably only wanted the new uniforms to have "bronze Army buttons" like the new uniforms then being made. It is possible that his statement "bearing design of eagle, same as our badges now worn" may have influenced the department when they considered a design for the new buttons, but there is no documentation to substantiate this.

In a letter dated May 14, 1915, Mark Daniels, general superintendent of national parks (a position roughly equivalent to the later director), proposed that a "bright" button replace the "bronze" buttons then being used on the service uniforms.³⁷ He included a sample button with his request, which the department forwarded to Sigmund Eisner, requesting prices. Eisner responded with prices of \$5.00 and \$2.50 per gross for large and small buttons respectively, whereupon the department ordered a gross of each.³⁸

Delivery lagged for months, with the department requesting the buttons, and Eisner promising them any day, until finally in October he wrote the secretary that he was unable to make the manufacturer (Waterbury) understand what was requested and needed another sample.³⁹ This request was forwarded to Daniels, but the records are mute as to the disposition of the matter. There is no evidence that these buttons were ever made.

The 1926 Uniform Committee (to report at the 1927 meeting) voted four to two to change the uniform coat buttons from bronze to gilt.

They believed that gilt buttons would set off the forestry-colored cloth to a greater advantage and added "distinctiveness and snappiness" to the uniform. This recommendation was included in the proposed changes for the new uniform regulations. Upon reviewing the committee's suggested regulation changes, Horace Albright, then Yellow-stone superintendent and assistant director (field), found several of the proposed revisions "particularly objectionable." Among them was the change to gilt buttons. He recommended that the current regulations be continued in force for 1927 and that the revisions be submitted to the superintendents for their comments. Albright must have done his work well, for nothing else was heard of "gilt" buttons.

Complaints were still being heard about the lacquered finish on the buttons flaking and coming off. In the mid-1930s Waterbury started using an "acid treated" process. This insured that the button was clean so that the plating would be securely bonded, obviating the use of heavy lacquers. This process is still used on the National Park Service buttons today.⁴¹



U.S.Department of the Interior seal, 1889-1913. This same basic seal has been used since 1849.

1909-1911

FOREST SERVICE BUTTON, c. 1907

Used on ranger uniforms, Squoia National Park. Bronze

1911

U.S. ARMY BUTTON, c.1903

Used on uniforms made by Parker Bridget & Co., Washington, D.C. Bronze.

1912

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUTTON

Supplied by Sigmund Eisner, Red Bank, New Jesey. Enameled bronze.

1915?

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUTTON

Use unknown. Unplated brass.

1930s-present

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUTTON

Bronze, oxidized.



Cap Insignia

The soft, or "English" army officer, cap was authorized in 1928 for rangers assigned to motorcycle duties only, but there was no decoration applied to it until Office Order No. 204, revised, in 1932. This order specified that a "modified form of the National Park Service band" was to be worn with the cap. This consisted of a chin strap, with some of the same elements found on the hat band impressed on it. It also had USNPS tooled on the front center. It was held at the sides by two sterling silver Sequoia cones, like those used on the hatband.

Even though no ornament was specified for the front of the cap, photographs show several rangers sporting what looks like a large eagle on the front of their caps. There had been some discussion concerning this back in the late 1920s, when the cap was initially proposed, but the matter of the ornament had been dropped at that time. There is one photograph of a ranger wearing his ranger badge on the front of his cap.

The 1938 superintendents' conference had recommended an aluminum-colored pith helmet, with a large sterling silver Sequoia cone ornament. But when Office Order No. 350, revised, was issued on April 19, 1939, the color of the helmet was changed to forestry green and there was no mention of an ornament. This was cleared up in a memorandum from Acting Director Demaray on July 27, 1939. "It was found that aluminum colored helmets could not be purchased and no satisfactory sequoia cone has been devised for use on the helmet," he stated. "Consequently the color of the helmet was changed to forestry green and the cone ornament eliminated."

The 1940 uniform regulations changed the color of the helmet again. This time it was to be of a "sand tan color." And apparently, because of availability, the sterling silver Sequoia cone was reinstated, but this time it was to be the same size as those worn on the hatband. On September 18, 1953, the sun helmet was eliminated from the uniform regulations and the Sequoia cone reverted to being used solely on the standard hat and cap.

In 1940 the ski cap was introduced. This was the first of a series of caps bearing an embroidered USNPS. The letters were to be gold and 3/4-inch high. In 1960 the women's "airline stewardess" hats had USNPS embroidered on them in 1/2-inch gold letters. The letters were either embroidered directly on the hat or on a piece of material matching

the hat. The color of the letters on the ski cap, now called a service cap, was changed in 1964 to silver (white). These were now embroidered on a patch with a silver border. At the same time, the letters were eliminated on the women's hat and replaced with a 2-1/2-inch arrowhead.

Before the adoption of the "stewardess" hat, since 1947, uniformed women employees had been wearing a uniform copied from the Army WACs, complete with overseas cap. One of the USNPS collar ornaments was attached to the left front of this cap.

The arrowhead was officially removed from the women's hat in 1969 but was still worn until the uniform change of 1970. The small arrowhead patch replaced the USNPS patch on the men's service caps at that time. Since 1974, the arrowhead has seen service on many different types of hats, either as a patch or a decal. It was used on baseball caps, "Black Watch style" (ski) caps, and mouton-trimmed caps, to name a few. The soft cap worn by the motorcycle patrol rangers gave way to the safer hard helmets with the arrowhead decal on them.



Drawing of cap ornament proposed in 1932 by William. M. Robinson, Jr., Colonial National Monument.



1930-1981

HAT BAND ORNAMENT

1930-1981 Hat band, sterling 1932-1961 Cap chin strap, sterling 1940-1953 Sun helmet, sterling

1981-1984

HAT BAND ORNAMENT

Gold plated

1984-present

HAT BAND ORNAMENT

Solid brass

1940-1964

MEN'S SKI CAP

3/4-inch letters embroidered in gold thread

1960-1964

WOMEN'S HAT

"Airline stewardess," Style 1 1/2-inch letters embroidered on hat in gold thread

1960-1964

WOMEN'S HAT

"Airline stewardess," Style 2

1/2-inch letters embroidered in gold thread on piece of material applied to hat

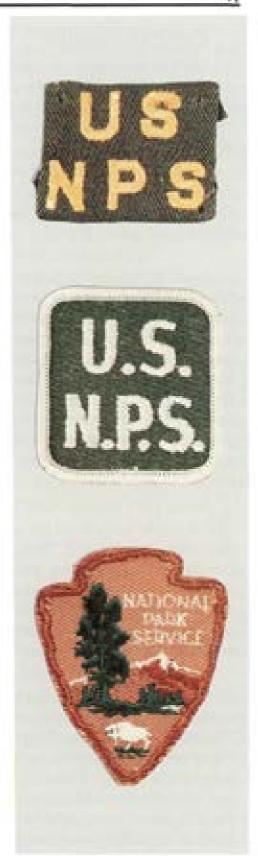
1964-1969

MEN'S CAP PATCH

5/8-inch letters embroidered in white thread applied to front of cap

1964-present ARROWHEAD CAP PATCH

1964-1969 Women's hats 1969-present Men's standard cap Sewn on front of hats and caps



Collar Ornaments

The first documented collar ornament to be worn on the uniform of a park ranger was the US from the Army collar insignia. This shows up in two portraits of rangers in Sequoia National Park circa 1910 and 1912-16. It was easy to obtain and dressed the uniform up to look official.

Although the Secretary of the Interior had authorized the use of a uniform in the parks in 1911, nothing was said about distinctive insignia. Consequently, the various parks were left to their own devices.

In 1916 Washington B. Lewis, then supervisor at Yosemite, had Meyer's Military Shop in Washington, D.C., make up several NPS insignia. When Lewis proposed that the National Park Service adopt an ornament for the new 1920 coat, he offered one of these as a possible model. From the correspondence, it would appear that these were simply letters attached to a bar, which could be pinned to the collar. Responding to Lewis, Acting Director Cammerer wrote, "There are a number of serious defects in the design, which is a stock-cut proposition put out in the cheapest possible way for the largest gain." No examples of this ornament have been found.

In late 1917 or early 1918, Service headquarters started requiring "N.P.S." to be stitched on the collar of the uniform in bronze thread, "to match the buttons." ⁴⁴ There is a 1919 forestry green cloth coat in the Yellowstone collection with NPS on the collar. In this case the 'N.P.S.' is embroidered on a piece of coat material and then stitched to the coat collar. The original bronze-colored thread has faded to an orange. This coat would indicate that the NPS was used until the new metal USNPS collar insignia came in with the 1920 regulations.

The 1920 uniform regulations ushered in what was to become the second oldest insignia still used by the National Park Service: the USNPS collar ornament. Only the button is older. Building on Washington Lewis's suggestion, the Service finally decided to use the NPS but with US over it. A drawing of the ornament shows that the letters were to be 1/4-inch high and states: "Device to be supplied with strong pin with safety catch, pin to be attached lengthwise of device, and so fixed to same that pin does not project beyond outer edge of device. Die to become property of Government."

The officers' ornaments were to be heavy gold plate, the rangers' were to be No. 12 gauge German silver, and the temporary rangers' were to be bronze. The die was retained by the Service and loaned to the successful bidder whenever new ornaments were required. From the appearance of the extant examples of this early pin, the die must have been rather crude in comparison with later ones.

At the 1926 superintendents' conference, it was decided to replace the USNPS collar device by a new insignia consisting of the Interior Department or National Park Service seal or words superimposed with the letters US. The Landscape Engineering Division was assigned to come up with design recommendations. The field was invited to send ideas to the chief landscape engineer for consideration.⁴⁵

The first offering returned by Thomas C. Vint of the Landscape Division was a pencil sketch of a circle with a large US in the center surrounded by DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. 46 Shortly thereafter, a blueprint was forwarded to the Washington office. After examining the blueprint, Acting Director Cammerer returned it suggesting that the US be made smaller, so as not to fill the entire circle. The following months brought forth a number of drawings of suggested collar devices. Unfortunately, none of these have been found with the correspondence. The favorite seems to have been a shield-shaped device. Apparently the draftsman thought that this design had the inside track, for he included it on the initial rendering of the 1928 regulation uniform.

It was decided at the superintendents' conference in 1928 to dispense with the silver and bronze collar devices and to have everyone wear gold ornaments. But no agreement could be reached on the design, so the ornament revision was tabled. In January 1931 it was decided that because of the lack of "inspiration," the Service would keep using the old ornaments until "something really appropriate can be devised."⁴⁷ And that is where it stands today.

While retaining the same basic design, the ornaments have undergone minor changes over the years. In the late 1930s the fastening device was changed to a screw post like that used by the military. This was changed again in the 1960s to the popular and much more convenient bayonet pin with spring fasteners. In the 1961 handbook, released in November 1959, the colors were changed again. Now only the superintendents and assistant superintendents were to wear gold collar ornaments and everyone else was to wear silver. With the 1971 uniform regulations, gold devices once again became the standard for all uniformed personnel. They remain so today.

For a while in the 1980s, plastic collar ornaments were being sent with the uniforms. It was difficult to distinguish these from the metal ornaments, although they would scratch and break if handled roughly. The current ornaments are again of metal.



Sketch of new collar ornament proposed by Thomas C. Vint, chief landscape architect. It was returned with the suggestion that the US be made smaller. It was but one of many designs submitted but not approved.

- NA/RG 79 208.30

1909-1917?

COLLAR ORNAMENT, SEQUOIA

Standard U.S. Army collar insignia, used by rangers at Sequoia National Park. Bronze.

1916-1917

COLLAR ORNAMENT, YOSEMITE

Made for Washington B. Lewis by Meyers Military Shop, Washington, D.C. Wom by rangers at Yosemite National Park. Bronze.

1917-1920

COLLAR INSIGNIA

Wom by all uniformed NPS personnel. Stitched directly on collar, or on a putch applied to collar. Bronze-colored thread.

1920-present

COLLAR ORNAMENTS

Heavy gold plate

1920-present All uniformed officers 1928-1961 All uniformed personnel 1971-present All uniformed personnel

German silver

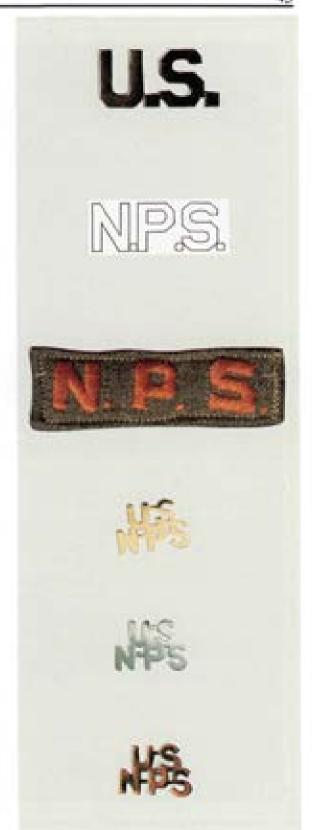
1920-1928 All park rangers

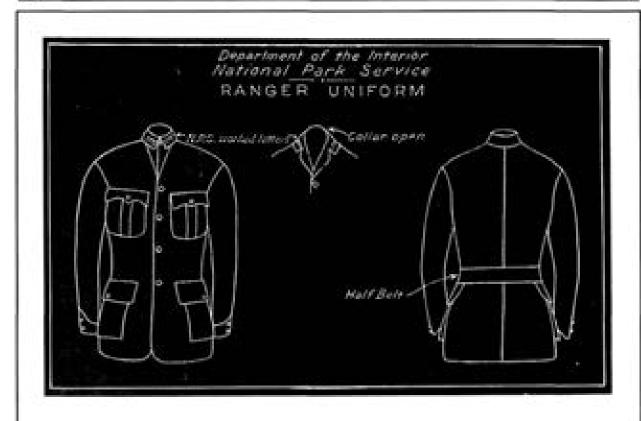
1961-1970 All uniformed personnel except.

superintendents

Brunze, anodized

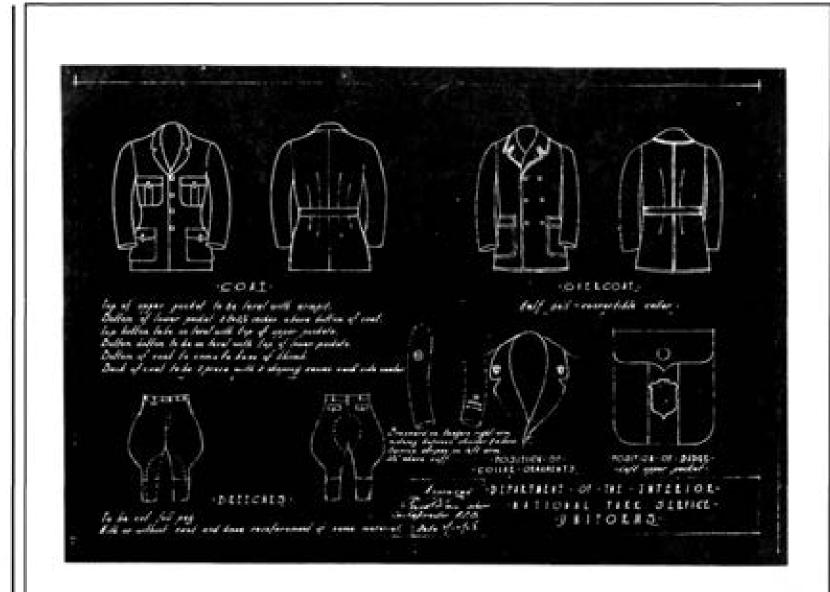
1920-1928 All temporary rangers





Drawing was altered to conform to the new 1920 uniform regulations. It was sent to uniform suppliers for new coats, the only change being the elimination of the embroidered "N.P.S." on the collar. It was replaced by the metal "USNPS."

DEPARTMENT OF THE PERSON. SATIONAL PAR SERVICE Design and Specifications Device to be heavy gold plate, German silver, No. 18 gange or broase, as ordered, and of discusions corresponding to above or of the second Device to be supplied with strong pin with safety satch, pin to be attacked lengthwise of device, and so fixed to some that pindoes not project beyond outer edge of device. his to become property of Government. Cleston Omister Distriction of



Original 1928 drawing of NPS uniforms showing proposed shield-style collar ornaments

Hat

While technically not an insignia, the ranger hat has become synonymous with the ranger service. Even similar police hats are called "Smokey the Bear" hats. Speaking of Smokey, it is ironic that the symbol of the Forest Service should be wearing a Park Service ranger hat. It would appear that this "Stetson" style of felt hat evolved from Stetson's first "Boss of the Plains," which he marketed in 1863. This style has long been known as the "ranger" hat, no doubt from being used previously by the Texas Rangers. The first hats worn by rangers in the Park Service were Stetsons like those of the Army. These were usually creased fore and aft, but there were no regulations on the subject and it was left to the ranger to do whatever styling he wished.

When the first "authorized" uniforms were ordered in 1911, they included a "felt camping hat after the Stetson style." It can be assumed that this was a continuation of what the rangers were familiar with. With the ordering of uniforms in 1912, though, an "Alpine" style hat was specified. From the drawing submitted by Sigmund Eisner, it would appear that this was the forerunner of the current stiff-brimmed hat. Photographs bear this out. They show a hat similar to what the rangers wear now, except for a higher "Montana" peak. This would seem to prove that when Mark Daniels attempted to formalize the Park Service uniform in 1914, the hat was already being used. 51

The hat was first formally specified in the 1920 uniform regulations. They stated that it would be "Stetson, either stiff or cardboard brim, belly' color." This, more than likely, is a ratification of what was already being worn by the rangers.

The 1932 regulations specified that the "Stetson hat" was to have a "three inch stiff brim," was to be equipped with the "prescribed National Park Service leather hatband," and was to be considered the standard headpiece for use in "all National Parks and National Monuments." There were exceptions to the "all." Employees in the eastern parks and monuments and rangers assigned to motorcycle duties were authorized to wear an "English Army Officer" style, of the same material as their uniforms.

In 1935, there was some agitation from the field, especially the western parks, for a wider brim to help protect the head from the sun and rain. Office Order No. 324 of April 13, 1936, changed the hat specifications to call for a "Stiff brim 3 to 3 1/2 inches wide, and 4 - 4 5/8 inch crown, side color." Why the color was changed from "belly" to "side" is not known. The John B. Stetson Company, which started selling hats to the Park Service in 1934, initially had trouble with the "side color," and the Service ordered all purchases from the company to stop. In September 1936 the company notified the Uniform Committee chairman that it had "developed the exact color desired by the National Park Service" and was in a "position to manufacture hats and fill orders." It also agreed to replace all hats of the wrong color previously ordered at no charge. The Service rescinded the stop purchase order. ⁵²

Office Order No. 350 of June 15, 1938, changed the color back to "belly" and added three ventilator holes on each side. They were to be arranged in the "form of an equilateral triangle, bottom leg of triangle 1 1/2 inches above brim, legs of triangle 1 inch."

Until 1959 employees were instructed to put four small dents in the hat crown. Thereafter the dents were blocked at the factory.

Uniform regulations issued beginning November 1959 were contained within a National Park Service Uniforms Handbook effective beginning January 1, 1961. This handbook contained uniform specifications and other information pertinent to the wearing and care of the various garments. Under the heading of hats, it stated:

Care should be used in selecting the correct size and head shape. Width of brim should be chosen to suit shape of face and physical appearance. Generally, average sized individuals should wear 3 I/4" brim, short stocky persons or those with long thin faces should wear the 3" brim. The felt hat is available in "long oval," "regular oval" and "wide oval." If the hat fits the head properly, it will be more comfortable, look better, and will not be easily dislodged by sudden gusts of wind. The average life expectancy of a felt hat is three years. It should be worn at a slight angle to the right side and not tilted forward over the eyes or worn on the back of the head. The cloth hat band that comes with new hat should be removed and never should be worn under the uniform leather hat band.

Regarding hat care and maintenance, the handbook stated:

Excessive sweating or the use of hair oil will quickly ruin the appearance of the felt hat. Accumulations of oil around the sweatband and brim will also penetrate the hatband. For this reason, care should be used in placing an old hatband on a new hat or the new hat will be soiled. Clean the hatband with saddle soap. A compound of carbon tetrachloride "Carbona" is available for cleaning hats and the inner surface of hatbands. French chalk may be used to remove fresh grease stains. If the hat becomes wet it can be satisfactorily dried by turning the sweatband outward and allowing the hat to stand on the sweatband until thoroughly dry. Sandpaper or a nail file can be used to remove accumulations of dirt and grease.

The Stetson Company will recondition felt uniform hats for \$7.50 if the hat is not too far gone.

The straw hat was inaugurated in 1959. Its specifications were as follows:

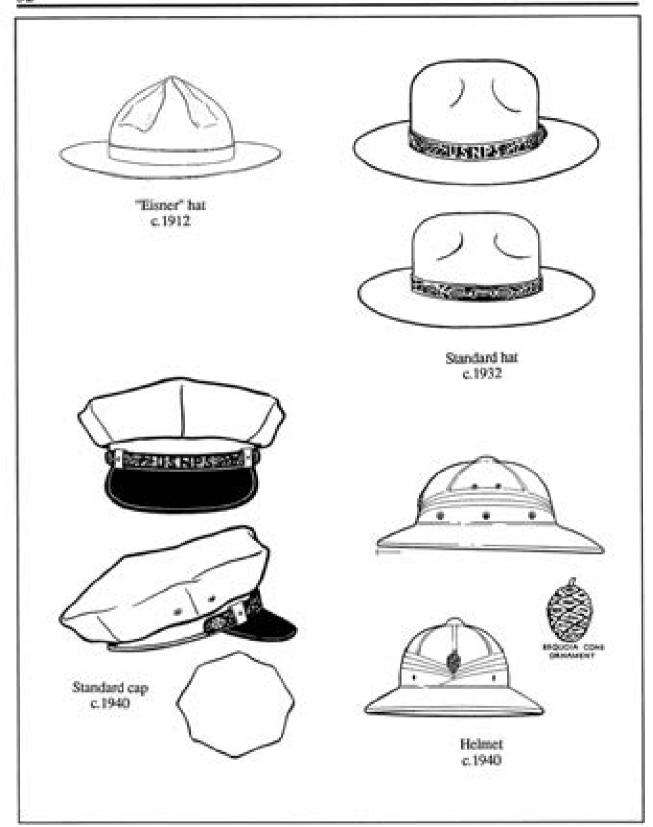
Style--"National Park Service" ventilated milan braid material, Belgium Belly color, crown specifications same as for the felt hat. Stiff brim, flat set, average width 3-1/4", marine service curl, leather sweatband and hat [sic]. Indentations in crown, same as for the felt hat.

A transparent plastic hat cover was made available for the protection of both the felt and straw hats.

These hats have carried over to the present time. Down through the years there has been an array of other headgear, but nothing has stood out as a symbol of the National Park Service like the regulation "Smokey the Bear" felt hat.



"Environman," 1972. One of the many emblems used briefly by the NPS for its environmental programs.



National Park Service ranger hats

Hatband and Straps

Through the 1920s ranger hatbands were either the plain grosgrain bands that came with the hat or individualistic replacements by the rangers. At the San Francisco National Park Conference in 1928, the subject of a special band for the ranger hats was brought to the floor for discussion. One design was submitted (description unknown), and another proposed design included a "pressed" style of hatband. There was considerable criticism of the Sequoia cone because it was significant to California alone. It was felt that the design should be more emblematic of the Park Service as a whole. A ranger on a horse, buffalos, and geometric designs were suggested. A pack horse drew the most interest because it dealt with park work and had the essence of the tourist and out-of-doors in it.

At the 1929 superintendents' conference at Yellowstone, the Uniform Committee recommended that a band more in keeping with the identity of the National Park Service be adopted for the ranger hat. Chief Landscape Architect Thomas Vint had a sample hatband prepared. This consisted of Sequoia cones and foliage tooled onto a leather band secured at the left side by ring fasteners. The front had a blank space where the name of the park could be impressed, if desired.

This was forwarded to the chairman of the Uniform Committee, Superintendent Owen A. Tomlinson of Mount Rainier, who forwarded it to the director with the committee's recommendation that it be adopted. The committee thought, though, that USNPS should be stamped on the front instead of the park name, which would have to be done by hand and complicate matters at the various parks. The manufacturer of the sample had provided silver acoms as ornaments, but the committee thought that Sequoia cones would be more appropriate. Nickel silver ornaments could be had for fifty cents each in lots of two hundred, and sterling silver for sixty cents. The total cost of the hatband would be \$2.10 with the sterling ornaments. 53

The hatband was approved on January 16, 1930, with the proviso that the sterling ornaments be used. Associate Director Cammerer thought that the added cost of the silver ornaments was "well worth while" and that they should be mandatory. "The hat band is therefore approved with the ornament of the National Park insignia as an integral part of it," he wrote. 54

When estimates were obtained, it was found that the hatbands, with silver ornaments, could be purchased from a manufacturer in San Francisco in lots of 150 for approximately \$2.00 each.⁵⁵ The sample hatband was returned to Tom Vint, along with the changes required, so he could make a drawing. The drawing incorporated two styles, utilizing the same information. One style had USNPS on the front only, while the other had it on the front and the back. The advantage of the latter was that it would require a die half the size, at considerably less cost, than the former. The die would make two revolutions to imprint the band, instead of the single needed to make the former. The committee thought that, despite the extra cost, the larger die should be used. 56

In order to reduce the cost to the employees, the Service decided to purchase the die and lend it to the successful bidder whenever new hatbands were required.⁵⁷

Since the hatband was paid for by the individual, it could be retained after termination of employment. As Acting Director Cammerer stated it: "This hatband is not an emblem of authority such as the Police Badge worn by rangers and other field men, which must be returned in order such emblems of authority will not be scattered promiscuously throughout the country. On the other hand, it is realized that the desire for retention of some souvenir of employment is uppermost in the minds of many, if not most, of the temporary rangers, and by making them pay for the band it will enable them to retain it along with their hats and collar ornaments." 58

The hatbands were to be made out of four-to-five-ounce "Tooling Veal-skin," with a two-ounce cinch strap. The Sequoia cone ornaments and the rings were to be sterling silver.

Superintendent Tomlinson received the first consignment of hatbands on May 26, 1930. These were made by a Mr. Brown. It is not known if he made the hatbands personally or just represented the company that did. The finished product made such a striking appearance that the first thought was to restrict them to working employees. However, the director had already authorized that they be personal property, and prohibitions that could not be rigidly enforced would only weaken the regulations already in force. So this idea was dropped.

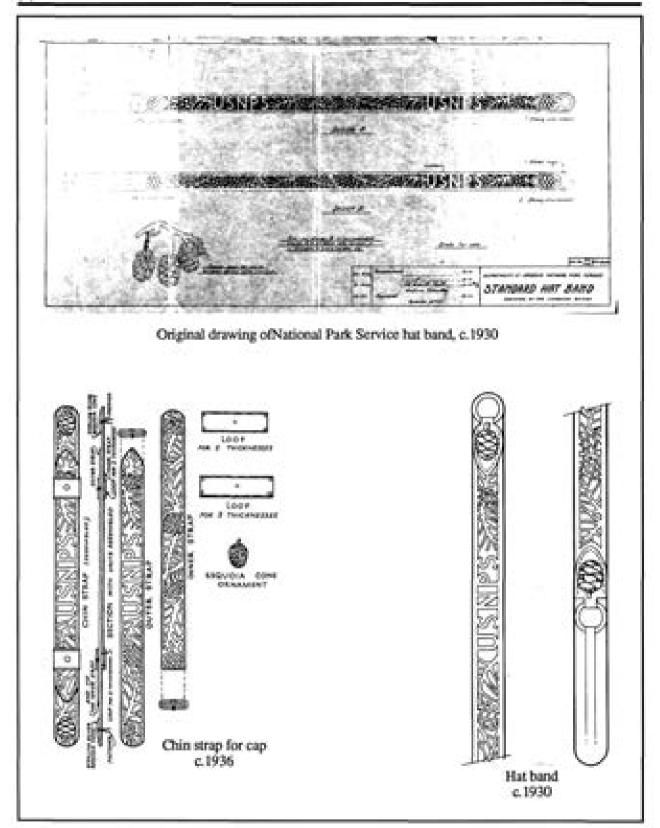
There was a slight variation in the design in the 1970s, when the manufacturer supplied its own die. These hatbands have a much deeper embossing and the cones have the appearance of pine cones instead of the approved Sequoia cones. With a change of suppliers in the late 1970s the hatband reverted to the original design. Unfortunately, the

new bands were of a very inferior quality. They were very thin, with shallow embossing. After a couple of years a new die was cut, and the hatbands once again became something employees could be proud of. With the change of uniform suppliers in the late 1970s or early 1980s the Sequoia cones were changed to gold plate. In 1984 they became solid brass. But because the hatbands did not wear out and were usually transferred to new hats, there are still many rangers sporting the original sterling cones on their hatbands.

Head and chin straps were authorized for the hat in Office Order No. 324 of April 13, 1936. The head strap was to be plain 1/2-inch leather, but the chin strap could be either plain calf-skin or "same design as the hat band," with silver Sequoia fasteners. The 1961 uniform regulations eliminated the chin strap but retained the head strap, although it was now only 1/4-inch wide and to be "worn only in sustained windy conditions." This regulation is still in effect.



U.S. Department of the Interior seal, 1968-1969. Seal was designed by Chermayeff & Geismar, Associates, New York, but proved to be very unpopular in the field.



National Park Service ranger hat bands

Name Tags

Name tags came into use in 1960.61 They were not mandatory, though. The 1961 uniform regulations stated, under Name Tags:

A plastic identification tag is authorized to be worn at the discretion of the superintendent. It shall be of plastic, with two pinthrough fasteners with spring keepers on the back. The tag itself shall be approximately 3/4" x 3", with dark green background, and white letters. The individual's name should be in letters 1/4" or 3/8" high, and the employee's title (optional) 3/16" high, below the name. The name tag when worn shall be centered over the left breast pocket flap of coat or shirt.

Although not included in the regulations, a version of this green laminate name tag was also issued to park maintenance personnel. This tag was 1-1/4 inches by 3 inches with an arrowhead on the left side. On the right were the words "National Park Service" and "Park Maintenance", with the employee's name in green embossing tape between them.

The above tags were worn until 1969, when the style of the ranger name tag was changed to "gold metal plate with cordovan colored block letters; corners rounded." This tag also had the two pin keepers, but now it was to be worn over the right pocket.

The 1974 uniform regulations introduced a new name tag for the uniformed maintenance personnel. Instead of being detachable, this new name tag was embroidered and sewn on the uniform centered above the right breast pocket with the bottom flush with the top of the pocket. It consisted of white block lettering on a green background with a brown border. The lettering was later changed to script but remained white.

In 1981 the name tag was changed to the larger rectangle style used today. It retained the gold finish. In keeping with the Service's goal of trying to assist all visitors, new name tags were issued to sign and foreign language interpreters. These were the same as the standard name tag, only expanded to accommodate the additional lettering. Language interpreter tags had been worn before this, but they were separate from the employee's name tag and usually purchased locally by the park. This was the first time that they were made part of the uniform regulations.

Included with these tags was one for non-uniformed personnel. This consisted of the same gold badge, but it had the NPS arrowhead emblem on the left side. Under the employee's name was NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. This name tag was not to be worn with any uniform, although in the mid-1980s it was worn by rangers in some parks.



The 1972 National Park Centennial emblem

1960-1960

NAME TAG

Green laminate plastic

1969-1981

NAME TAG

1981-present

NAME TAGS Ranger

Single language interpreter

Multiple language interpreter

Sign language interpretter 1

Sign language interpretter 2

Non-uniformed personnel Also issued to uniformed personnel in some parks in mid-1980s.





1960-1974

NAME TAG

Used by maintenance personnel. Green laminate plastic, name applied with tape.

1974-present

NAME TAG

Used by maintenance personnel. Embroidered white letters on dark green gabardine with brown border.

Service Insignia

A stripe was authorized on January 9, 1915, for each five years with the park service, 62 although there is no known photograph of an employee wearing them. With the 1920 uniform regulations, the single black stripe was regulated to one year of service, with a silver star taking its place for five years. The lowest device was to be 2-1/2 inches from the end of the sleeve. The stripes were to be "narrow black silk braid 3 inches long" and the stars were to be "embroidered white" (silver). Both were issued on long strips of unbound forest green serge.

Some employees had been around since long before the formation of the National Park Service, entitling them to an abundance of stars and stripes. "A man with fifteen or twenty years of service looks like a rear admiral," Frank Pinkley commented. 63 This situation was alleviated in 1930 by Office Order No. 204, which introduced gold stars to represent ten years of service. They lasted only until Office Order No. 350 of June 15, 1938, revamped the stripes and silver stars as follows:

For each year of completed service a black braid, 1/8" wide and 2" long.

For each five-year period of completed service, a silver embroidered star. After the first star is earned, bars shall be discontinued to indicate service of less than five-year periods.

The order also stated that "When more than one star is worn, they shall be arranged horizontally up to four and triangularly when more than four stars are worn."

The "triangularly" part caused some problems later until it was decided that the fifth star would be centered over the bottom four and subsequent stars would contribute to an expanding pyramid.

Before 1956 the service stars were made up on a continuous roll. When cut, these often unraveled and took on a ragged appearance. Charles C. Sharp suggested that they be made up on neat cloth panels, of from one to six stars each. This solved the problem. Also in 1956, with some personnel reaching very long service, it was decided that when seven stars were worn, the bottom row would contain five stars.

The 1961 uniform regulations eliminated all the stars and stripes, replacing them with Department of the Interior pins for service in ten-year increments from ten to fifty years. These pins, worn at the discretion of the employee, featured a buffalo with U.S. DEPART-MENT OF THE INTERIOR in an arc over the top and the year

designation across the bottom. They were all bronze, but each year had a different background color.

In 1972 the Service switched to pins supplied by the General Services Administration. These consisted of an eagle over a shield containing the years, with DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR on a ribbon underneath. They were bronze for ten years, silver for twenty years, and gold for thirty years and above, with different colored backgrounds.

The pins changed again in 1987. This time they came from the Office of Personnel Management and consisted of the national eagle emblem, complete with wreath of stars over the top. Again they came in bronze, silver, and gold, but there was no wording on them, only the years designation at the bottom. All of the designations had a blue background.

In 1990 the Service reverted to the Interior pin. Like the others, it is worn in the buttonhole on the left lapel. Also as in previous cases, the earlier pin continued to be issued until the stock of it was depleted.



First day cover commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Park Service. It was also the inauguration of PARKSCAPE U.S.A.

1915-1938

SERVICE STRIPE, 3-INCH

1915-1920 Each stripe = 5 years 1920-1938 Each stripe = 1 year Stripes black, 3 inches long, 1/8-inch wide

1938-1961

SERVICE STRIPE, 2-INCH

Each stripe = 1 year Stripes black, 2 inches long, 1/8-inch wide

1920-1961

SERVICE STAR

Each star = 5 years Stars white, 1/2-inch wide

MULTIPLE STARS

When more than four stars were worn, they were to be arranged in a pyramid as shown in this 1956 example.





1932-1938

SERVICE STAR

Each star = 10 years Gold thread, 1/2 inch wide

1961-1972 1990-present

USDI SERVICE PINS

Bronze with different accent colors

1972-1987 GSA SERVICE PINS

Bronze, silver, and gold with different accent colors

1987-1990 OPM SERVICE PINS

Brorue, silver, and gold with bluebackground behind numerals

Sleeve Brassards

The 1920 uniform regulations brought a plethora of insignia. In addition to the three USNPS collar ornaments, there were 14 patches for the sleeve. These sleeve insignia, or brassards, were to identify the rank and position of the various park employees. They were to be worn between the elbow and the shoulder on the right sleeve. These insignia were embroidered on the same material as their respective uniforms; forest green serge for officers and forestry green wool cloth for rangers. All were to be 2-1/4 inches in diameter with a 1/8-inch "light green" border.

There were three categories of brassards: for directors, officers, and rangers. The basic device for directors was four maple leaves. These were to be embroidered in "golden green," with a star in the center. The only difference between the director and assistant director was that the former had a gold star and the latter a silver one.

The basic device for officers was oak leaves, three for chiefs and two for assistants. The oak leaves were a "shaded golden yellow" with "dark brown" branches. Superintendents and assistant superintendents had "golden brown" acoms with "darker brown" cups and branches, three and two, respectively, as their identifying devices. Other officer identifiers were embroidered in white. These identifiers were:

Clerk: ink bottle and quill (only two oak leaves)

Electrician: lightning bolts Engineer: triangle and square

Forester: crossed axes (on three colored Sequoia cones)

Although foresters were considered to be officers, their brassard did not have the customary oak leaves. Instead, for some unexplained reason, the chief ranger patch was utilized with white crossed axes.

The basic device for the rangers was stated as being the Sequoia cone, while in actuality the common denominator was a wreath. Sequoia cones denoted the relative positions of the various permanent rangers. The chief ranger had three, the assistant chief ranger two, and the ranger one. All of these were within a "dark green" wreath. Temporary rangers had only the wreath. Acoms were "light brown"; cones, leaves, and branches were "dark brown."

Although the 1920 regulations listed supervisors and assistant supervisors as officers, no special sleeve device was assigned to them. The 1922 order for sleeve insignia corrected this oversight and added four more officers to the fold:

Park supervisor: wheel

Chief clerk: inkwell and quill (three oak leaves)

Park physician: PARK PHYSICIAN on bar beneath circle (two

oak leaves).

Park Naturalist: PARK NATURALIST on bar beneath circle

(two oak leaves)

Chief Buffalo Keeper: CHIEF BUFFALO KEEPER on bar be-

neath circle (brassard to be same as chief Ranger)

GAME WARDEN could also be added in white beneath the circle on any brassard.

When the contract for insignia was drawn up in 1924, a new sleeve brassard was added. This insignia, designated "unclassified," was to be used by all uniformed officer personnel not covered under the regulations. It consisted of two oak leaves on a branch.

Because of resistance to the park naturalist sleeve brassard, no new ones were ordered in 1924. The park naturalists preferred to wear the "unclassified" insignia instead. Since the park physicians also were the unclassified insignia, it can be assumed that they objected to their insignia as well.

A design for a new park naturalist sleeve insignia was submitted by Ansel F. Hall, chief naturalist of the Service, in March 1925. The initial design was based on an eagle, but this was too intricate to be embroidered on the small patch. A simpler design was worked up, following the standard practice of the other sleeve brassards. Two samples were sent to Hall. They both had the three oak leaves of supervision, but one had a bird on it and the other a bear's head. Because of a lack of brown thread, the supplier worked the bird and bear in white. Hall approved the bear. Thus, by 1926 the park naturalists had their own distinctive insignia. Temporary park ranger naturalists wore a bear's head, worked in shaded brown, surrounded by foliage.

As the Service diversified, holders of new positions clamored for their own sleeve identification. Because most of them were not in the ranger field, they considered themselves officers. The 1928 regulations resolved the matter, declaring that only those in a command situation were to be considered officers. All others, with the exception of the rangers, were classified as employees. At the same time it was decided to eliminate the sleeve insignia from all but the ranger force.

At the 1934 superintendents' conference, it was decided that the sleeve brassard on the ranger uniform was an unnecessary expense and served no useful purpose. It too was eliminated. Patches would not return to the National Park Service uniform for seventeen years.



This is the bird version of the park naturalist sleeve brassard submitted to Ansell Hall. Hall selected the bear's head instead. Attached is Hall's correction to the shape of the bear's head. - NAIRG 79 208.30

Basic Sleeve Brassard Devices

Directors. Maple leaves embroidered in golden green.

Officers Oak leaves embroidered in shaded golden yellow with dark brown branches. Identifying symbols were usually white. The superintendent's acoms and the naturalist's bear head were shaded brown. The forester used the same patch as the chief ranger, but with white axes superimposed.

Rangers. Wreath, dark green with brown stems. Acoms shaded brown.

1920





Silver star



SUPERINTENDENT



ASST. SUPERINTENDENT



ENGINEER



ASST. ENGINEER



ELECTRICIAN



ASST. ELECTRICIAN









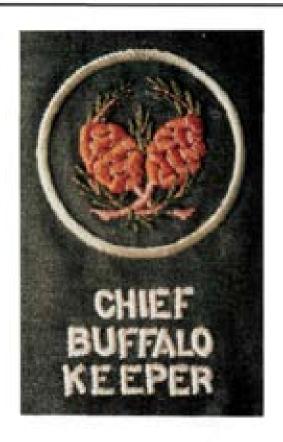
ASST. SUPERVISOR







CHIEF CLERK



1924



UNCLASSIFIED







Tie Ornaments and Pins

The first tie ornaments were authorized on February 13, 1956. Amendment No. 12 to the 1947 uniform regulations states, "If a tie clasp is used the National Park Service emblem tie clasp is suggested." This first Service tie clasp consisted of a hidden bar with a chain looped over the tie and a small arrowhead emblem, in gold or silver, suspended from the middle of the chain. This was only a suggestion, and photographs show that a lot of employees used plain chain ornaments as well as bars. As fashion changed, so did the ornaments. The arrowhead was next put on a bar, then a tie tack. One did not necessarily succeed the previous style. In 1965 all three were available from Balfour Supply Service, Inc.

The 1961 uniform regulations still listed tie ornaments as optional, although now it was specified that if one were worn, it would be the "official National Park Service silver (gold for superintendents) tie tack."

As stated previously under badges, in January 1962 a silver "tie tack style" substitute badge with a pin back was authorized as an option for women employees, in lieu of the regulation badge.

In late 1963, authorization was given for the wearing of enameled tie tacks, instead of the plain gold or silver. These were of gold or silver with a multi-colored enamel fill. Superintendents were to designate which was to be worn in their areas so the entire staff would be uniform. In 1964, V. H. Blackinton and Co. began making these tie tacks in "HiGlo" (enamel) and "Rhodium" (enamel) for \$2.25 and \$2.50, respectively.

As noted previously, when the attempt to replace the arrowhead with the Parkscape symbol was abandoned in 1969, the latter was retained for the official tie tack. In gold and green enamel, it remained in use until 1974.

In 1972 a new symbol was introduced for the National Park System Centennial. This stylized geyser emblem saw much wear in the form of a pin. There were also several environmental programs underway at the time with various symbols, not all of which were authorized for wear on the uniform. The American Revolution Bicentennial followed with more symbols adapted to tie tacks, pins, and other ornaments. Service uniforms were becoming very cluttered. After the Bicentennial fanfare was over, reaction set in and the uniform was stripped of extraneous paraphernalia. Only the basics were retained: collar orna-

ments, badge, arrowhead patch and tie tack. The uniform remains in this condition today, although pins for special occasions such as the Service's 75th anniversary in 1991 are still periodically authorized.

Optional

After World War II, returning uniformed Park Service employees were allowed to wear on their uniform "any ribbons to which they are entitled for service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard." Apparently this allowance was loosely interpreted, because photographs show rangers wearing military medals as well as ribbons. This practice continued until rescinded in the 1961 uniform regulations.

The 1964 uniform regulations authorized the wearing of temporary buttons: "At the discretion of the superintendent, temporary fund drive buttons for charities and public benefits recognized by the National Park Service may be worn on the uniform on the left lapel on jackets or on the flap of the left pocket on shirts."



1956 OPTIONAL TIE CLIP

Gold or silver

Late 1950s

OPTIONAL TIE BAR

Gold or silver

1961

FIRST OFFICIAL NPS TIE TACK

Superintendents tie tacks were gold, rangers silver

1962

WOMEN'S ARROWHEAD PIN

Issued to women "in lieu of badge" Nickel-plated, pin back

1963

ARROWHEAD TIE TACK

Authorized to be wom by all uniformed employees. Superintendent had the option of specifying gold or silver trim.

1966

PARKSCAPE USA TIE TACK, SILVER

1969

OFFICIAL NPS UNIFORM TIE TACK

Parkscape emblem, gold with green enamel

1973

U.S. FLAG COLLAR ORNAMENT

Authorized by Director Ron Walker for all NPS personnel Gold-colored, with enameled center

1976

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL LAPEL PIN

Gold-colored, with enameled center

1976

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL TIE TACK

Gold-plated, with enameled ribbon on top

1980s

OFFICIAL NPS UNIFORM TIE TACK

Gold-plated

1991

OFFICIAL NPS 75th ANNIVERSARY PIN

Gold-colored metal back with plastic face



Conclusion

As can be seen, the National Park Service, like any viable organization, has attempted to change with the times—not always for the better. The uniform today is basically the same as that envisioned in 1920. It now has shoes and trousers instead of boots and breeches, but there are far more similarities than differences.

Old hands like Walter Fry or Washington Lewis would still recognize a park ranger if they were to run into him today. The old saying "the more things change, the more they remain the same" is nowhere truer than in the Park Service.



U.S. Department of the Interior seal. 1925-Present

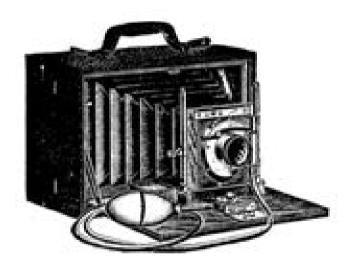


Photo File

The following images illustrate the various badges and insignia used by the National Park Service over the years. The photos are arranged in chronological order to coincide with the text.



Frank Liebig, Flathead Forest Reserve. Liebig remained with the Forest Service when it was removed from the Department of the Interior in 1905. He is wearing his "shiny silver badge" that stated "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, RANGER." There appears to be a small badge under the large one.

NPS Photo Coll. - GLAC - Neg# 6288



NPS Collection SEQU - Neg# 886

1903; 1904-1915.



c.1910

Karl Keller, ranger at Sequoia National Park, 1908-1917?. Note military U.S. on collar, Forest Service buttons, and sprig of sequoia on sleeve. Photograph given to Lawrence F. Cook by his daughter, Erma Tobin.

NPS Photo Coll. - Hammond Photo - Neg# WASO D726A



Nine rangers at Yosemite National Park. The coats appear to have "N.P.S." on their collars. Also note the small badges. The third man from the left appears to be wearing the 1905 "eagle" badge.

From the left: (?), Forrest Townsley, (?), Billy Nelson, Jack Gaylar, Ansel Hall, (?), Charlie Adair, (?).

Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



Henry Momyer, ranger at Crater Lake National Park, wearing 1905 "eagle" badge. Rangers were only required to wear uniforms when their duties brought them into contact with the public.

NPS Photo Coll. - CRLA - HFC Neg# 91-16



Motorcycle patrol at Yellowstone National Park. Scoyen (Associate Director 1956-1962) is wearing small badge, partially hidden under pocket flap.

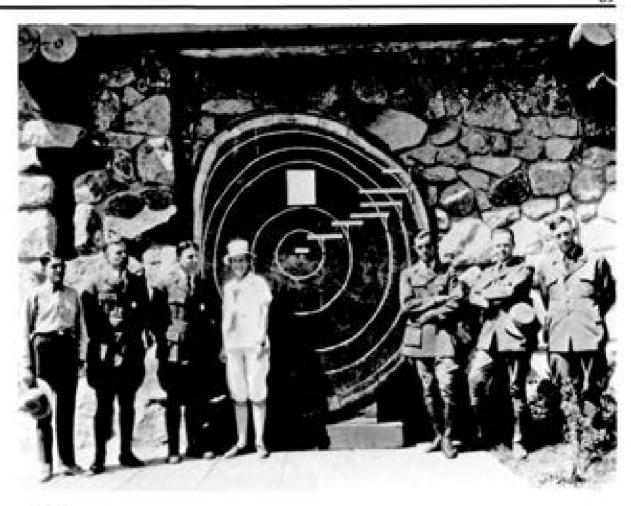
From the left: John Tyler, Eivid Scoyen, Clyde Roney, Emmett Mathews, Hollis Mathews.

NPS Photo Coll. - YELL Neg# 31



Ranger E. Burket, temporary ranger, Yellowstone National Park. He is wearing uniform with military collar. Due to cost, temporary rangers were not required to purchase uniforms until 1922. Because of a shortage of new badges, temporary rangers were often issued the old round style.

NPS Photo Coll. - YELL Neg# 130,011



The nature guides of 1926 and a section of Sequoia gigantea at the museum in Yosemite Valley. Mrs. Michael was employed for several years as a nature guide and as a ranger-naturalist. Note that the guides are still wearing the 1905 badges six years after being supplanted by the 1920 badge.

From the left: E. Rett, R.D. Harwood, G.C. Ruhle, Enid Michael, D.D. McLean, C.P. Russell, Dr. H.C. Bryant.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC 88-1



Director Stephen T. Mather at northern entrance arch, Yellowstone National Park. Note sleeve brassard.

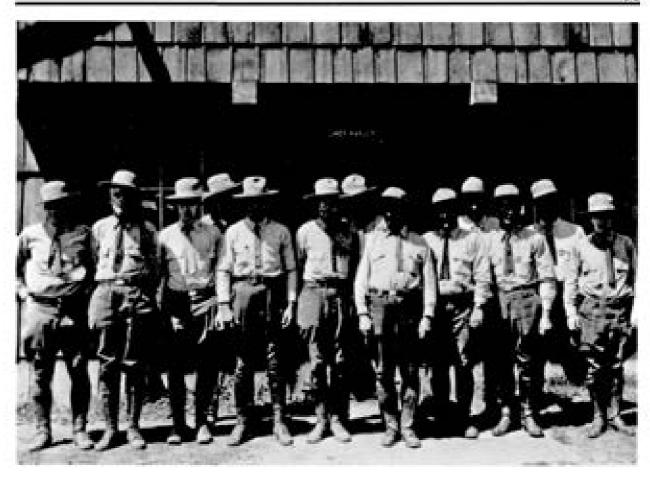
NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 91-11

c.1925

Only known photo of Mather in uniform wearing his director's badge.

NPS Photo Coll. - Edwin L. Wisherd Photo - HPC Neg# 91-10





c. late 1920s

Ranger force at Sequoia National Park prior to the 1936 regulation. Belts of all descriptions were worn by rangers. Also note the variety of ties. Davis & Brooks are wearing unauthorized footwear.

Left to right: Packard, L. Davis, Kerr, Williams, Brooks, Cook, Peck, Dorr, Fry, Alles, Smith, Spigelmyre, and Gibson.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 86-246



Ranger force at Mesa Verde National Park. Prior to the regulation hat band, rangers wore whatever struck their fancy. Also note the style of hat blocking.

Left to right, back row: Raymond Devlin, Paul Rice, Norris Bush, Stephen J. Springarn, Proctor L. Dougherty, David H. Canfield, James Armstrong, Virginia Jessip(secretary), (?).

Front row: Bert Hart, Paul R, Franke, James Dalton (U.S. Commissioner), Dwight W. Rife, Horace M. Albright, Jesse L. Nusbaum, C. Marshall Finman, Richard D. Hager, Lyle Bennett.

NPS Photo Coll. - Grant Photo Neg# 3/179



c.1932
Motorcycle messenger at south gate, Yellowstone National Park, wearing his badge on his cap.

NPS Photo Coll. - YELL - Neg# 130,141



c. early 1930s

Ranger force at Mount Rainier National Park sometime prior to 1934. Note sleeve brassards.

Left to right, back row: Oscar Sedergren, (?), Preston P.

Macy, Frank Greer, Davis.

Front row: Carl Tice Charles Brown, Harold Hall, Herm

Barnett.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 91-12



c.1930s

Rangers from Sequoia National Park. Man on left is wearing a sam browne belt and holding the motorcycle ranger cap. Note eagle ornament.

Left to right: Hines, Cook, (?), Spigelmyre, Parkes, (?), Hamilton

NPS Photo Call. HFC Neg# 86-243



c.1935

Louis Fowler in Anemone Cave, Acadia National Park. Fowler is dressed for motorcycle patrol duty. Sam browne belt, cap, etc.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 73-898



Guy D. Edwards, superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. He is wearing the small round badge. This is the year that the superintendent's badge changed from silver to gold. Also note service star and stripes on sleeve for 7 years.

NPS Photo Coll. - Grant Photo - HIFC Neg# 201-T



Ranger Wolfrum "Bill" Joffee, first Yosemite National Park ranger to come from war vets discharged from Naval Hospital in Yosemite. He's wearing the 1930 badge, plus his military decorations. Wearing of military decoration was rescinded in 1961 uniform regulations.

NPS Photo Coll. - Ralph H. Anderson Photo HPC Neg# 91-7



c.1951 Viola V. Shannon, park guide, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, wearing the 1947 women's uniform with USNPS on overseas cap.

NPS Photo Coll. - NA Neg# 79-SM-35



Ranger wearing Frank Kowski's proposed arrowhead badge. Note also his service indicators (20+years), arrowhead patch, and hat band. Boy scout is Kowski's son.

NPS Photo Coll. - Ralph H. Anderson Photo - HFC Neg# 91-6



Ranger trainees at Yosemite National Park learning how to rescue injured hiker from cliff edge. Instructor is wearing ski cap with embroidered "USNPS."

NPS Photo Coll. - HPC Neg# WASO-G.795



Olive M. Johnson, guide at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. She is wearing the "airline stewardess" hat with the embroidered "USNPS." She is also wearing the green laminate name tag and a badge.

NPS Photo Coll. - CACA Neg# 1830CAR



c.1963

Camille Elias wearing the "airline stewardess" hat with applied patch containing embroidered "USNPS."

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# WASO G.337A



Park naturalist explains a key to the birds of the Anhinga Trail, Everglades National Park. She's wearing the arrowhead pin "in lieu of a badge." Also note small arrowhead patch on hat and sleeve.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 522-5



Seasonal lifeguard Jean Newman at Whiskeytown National Recreation area.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# WPS-15-82

c.1965

Lifeguards at Cape Cod National Seashore showing lifeguard badge on different uniform options.

NPS Photo Coll. - HPC Neg# 91-8





c.1967

Roger Allen, Superintendent, Everglades National Park. He is wearing the 1960 superintendent's badge, standard ranger straw hat with hat band variation.

NPS Photo Coll. - HPC Neg# 91-5



Claude S. Fernandez. He is wearing a Spanish interpreter tag. Also note the parkscape tie tack.

NPS Photo Coll. - HPC Neg# 91-4



c.1970

Mary Reinhart and Marion Riggs displaying the old and new women's uniform. Marion is wearing the standard straw ranger hat. Notice change of name tag, lack of collar ornament, and new placement of small arrowhead.

NPS Photo Coll. - Cecil W. Stoughton Photo - HFC Neg# 70-256-1-1A



c.1970

James L. Riddle, Virgin Islands NP, wearing the 1968 badge, green laminate name tag, and cap with arrowhead patch.

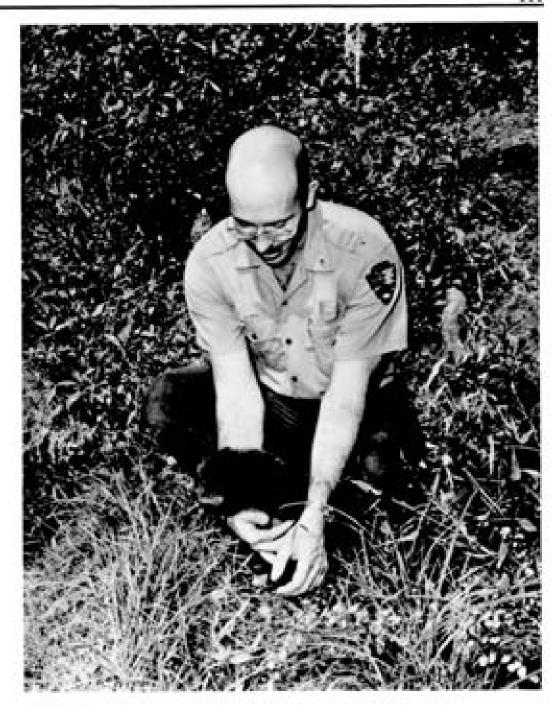
NPS Photo Coll. - Cool W. Stoughton Photo - HFC Neg# 70-142-3



c.1971

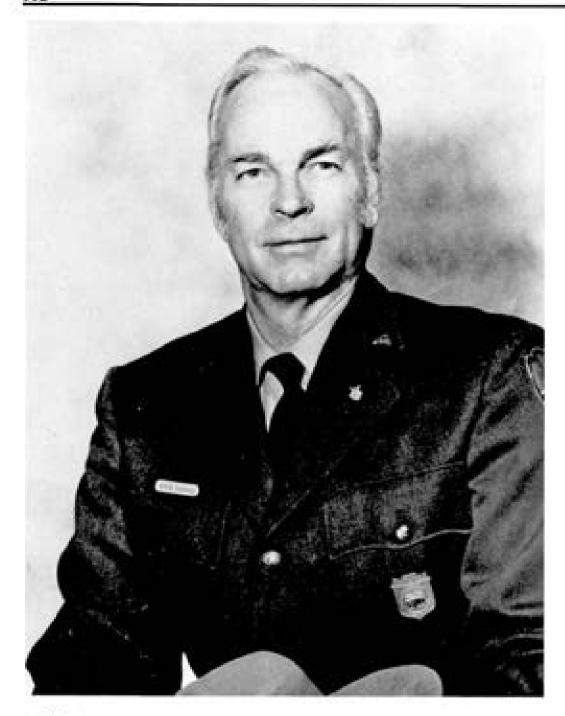
Jim Randall and guide with rescue equipment, Rocky Mountain National Park. Jim is wearing ski cap with "USNPS" patch.

NPS Photo Coll. - Ben Butterfield Photo - HPC Neg# 71-187-2



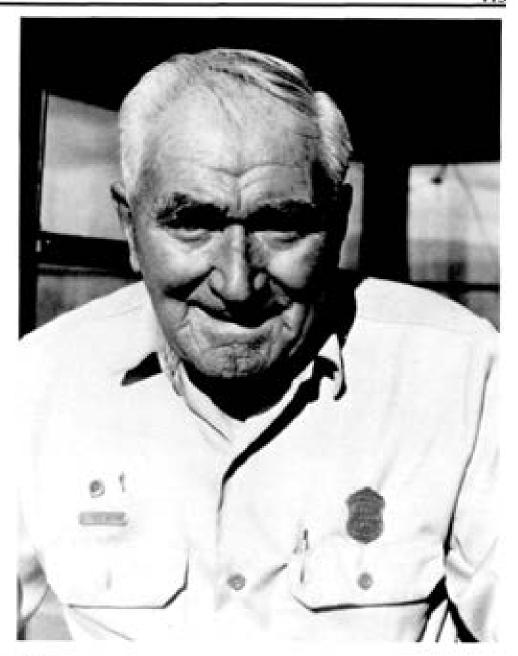
c.1973
Park technician Bill Rudolph and furry friend. Bill is wearing Ron Walker's flag pin.

NPS Photo Coll. - Jack Rottier Photo - HPC Neg.# 91-14



c.1974 James W. "Byrne" Packard, Curecanti National Recreation Area. Byrne is wearing the 1970 badge and a GSA service pin.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 91-3



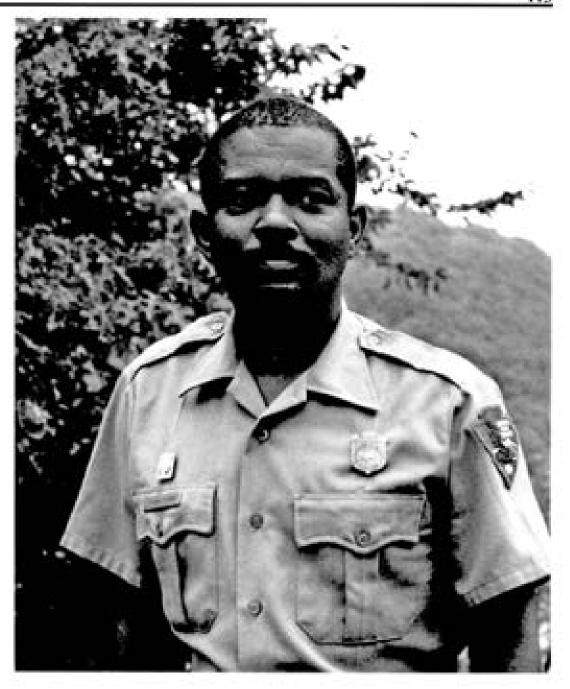
Alfred A. Heyne, Yosemite National Park fire control aid. Retired in 1976 at the age of 85. Al is wearing his badge, name tag, and 30-year pin. He also is wearing what appears to be a pin in the shape of a helicopter.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 91-2



Rochelle Perucea, park technician, Rocky Mountain National Park, enjoys conversation with a group member. She is wearing a language interpreter name tag.

NPS Photo Coll. - H. Robert Case (deaf photographer) - HFC Neg# 91-1



1991
Tom Curry, administrative support clerk, Harpers Ferry Center, wearing his National Park Service 75th Anniversary pin.

NPS Photo Coll. - HFC Neg# 91-98438-15

Notes

Abbreviations

The National Park Service uses synonyms to identify the various parks within its jurisdiction. For brevity, below are a list of these synonyms that are utilized in the notes.

CAGR - Casa Grande National Monument, AZ

GLAC - Glacier National Park, MT

LAFA - LaFayette National Park, ME (now Acadia National Park)

LAVO - Lassen Volcanic National Park, CA

MEVE - Mesa Verde National Park, CO MORA - Mount Rainier National Park, WA

NAVA - Navajo National Monument, AZ

NPS - National Park Service, Washington, DC NPSD - National Park Service, Denver, CO

SAFE - NPS Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe. NM

SAFR - Office of General Superintendent of National Parks, San Francisco, CA (now Western Regional Office)

SEQU - Sequoia National Park, CA

USDI - U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

WICA - Wind Cave National Park, SD YELL - Yellowstone National Park, WY YOSE - Yosemite National Park, CA

- Jack R. Williams, "History of the National Park Service Uniform", 1968, p.21
- Frank F. Liebig, "Early Days in the Forest Service",
 USDA FS Northern Region, Missoula, MT, vol.I, p.130
- National Archives, Record Group 79, "Uniforms of the Park Service 1907-1925" (hereafter referred to as NA/RG 79)
 Letter from Carmi A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, USDI, to Sigmund Eisner, Red Bank, NJ, 4 January, 1912
- National Park Service Archives, Record Group Y55, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV (hereafter referred to as NPS/RG Y55) Letter from John E. Kell, SAFE, to Jack R. Williams, 12 July, 1965, NAVA
- NA/RG 79, Letters from Stephen T. Mather, director, NPS, to Washington B. Lewis, superintendent, YOSE, 14 June, 1920; Horace M. Albright, superintendent, YELL, 15 June, 1920
- 6. NA/RG 79, Memorandum from Sam T. Woodring, chief ranger, YELL, to Horace M. Albright, Superintendent, YELL 27 December, 1922. It was customary for the uniform committee to request input from the field whenever a uniform change was contemplated. Often these requests were forwarded by the superintendents to the rangers for answers. In the question-

naire dated December 2, 1922, question 5 asked: "Are the various insignia specified in the present regulations in your opinion satisfactory as to:

- (a) Superintendent's Badges
- (b) Ranger's Badges
- (c) Collar Devices (d) Sleeve Insignia
- (e) Service Insignia"

7. Williams, p.22

- 8. NA/RG 79, Letter from Stephen T. Mather, Director, NPS to Horace M. Albright, Superintendent, YELL 15 June, 1920
- 9. NA/RG 79, Letter from George E. Goodwin, civil engineer, NPSD, to Director, NPS, 7 January, 1921

10. Ibid

- NA/RG 79. Specification sheet forwarded with contract to F.J. Heiberger, Washington, DC 5 April, 1922
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Jesse Nusbaum, Superintendent, MEVE, to Director, NPS 28 April, 1922
- 13. NA/RG 79, Letter from Stephen T. Mather, Director, NPS, to Washington B. Lewis, Superintendent, YOSE 13 April, 1921 Custodians were site managers at Southwestern parks that didn't warrant a Superintendent due to their size or visitation.
- 14. NA/RG 79, Directive from Stephen T. Mather, Director, NPS to all NPS personnel. 13 June, 1922.
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Arno B. Cammerer, Acting Director, NPS, to George B. Dorr, superintendent, LAFA. 16 June, 1922

16. Ibid

- 17. NPS/RG Y55, "Minutes of the twelfth National Park Conference", p.91. This conference was held at Hot Springs National Park, AK. 3-8 April, 1932
- 18. NPS/RG Y55, "National Park Service Uniform Committee Records, 1941-1942", Lon Garrison - File #A66. Memorandum from Hillary A. Tolson, Acting Director, NPS, to John C. Preston(uniform committee chairman), Superintendent, LAVO. 7 May, 1941
- 19. NPS/RG Y55, Memorandum from John C. Preston, Superintendent, LAVO, to Director, NPS 28 May, 1941
- 20. Williams, p.24.

- NPS/RG Y55, Letter from Lawrence F. Cook, Chief of Ranger Activities, NPS, to Director, NPS 12 October, 1960
- 22. Williams, p.30.
- NPS/RG Y55, Letter from Conrad L. Wirth, former director,
 NPS, to David Nathanson, Librarian, HFC 30 March, 1985
- 24. Williams, p.28.
- 25. <u>David Nathanson</u>, "The Arrowhead Symbol of the National Park Service", 1989.
- 26. Ibid
- 27. Ibid
- National Park Service Administrative Manual, Release No.41, 12 June, 1963, p.1.
- 29. Ibid
- National Park Service Uniform Regulations, 1969.
- 31. NA/RG 79, Letters from Carmi A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, USDI, to park superintendents. 20 April, 1911
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Clement S. Ucker, Chief Clerk, USDI, to Major William R. Logan, Superintendent, GLAC
 June, 1911
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI
 December, 1911
- 34. NA/RG 79, Letter from Carmi A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, USDI, to Signund Eisner 4 January, 1912.
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI 10 January, 1912
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Walter Fry, Ranger in Charge, SEQU, to Secretary, USDI 22 October, 1911
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Stephen T. Mather, Assistant to the Secretary, USDI, to Mark Daniels, General Superintendenat of Parks, SAFR 3 November, 1915
- 38. NA/RG 79, Letter from Bo Sweeny, Assistant Secretary, USDI, to Sigmund Eisner 12 June, 1915
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI 6 October, 1915

- 40. NA/RG 79 208.30, Memorandum from Horace M. Albright, Superintendent, YELL to Arno B. Cammerer, Acting Director, NPS 17 March, 1927
- 41. NPS/RG Y55, David Ebersole, Museum Curator, Waterbury Company, Waterbury, CT: telephone conversation with author. 11 January, 1991.
- 42. NA/RG 79, Letter from Washington B. Lewis, Superintendent, YOSE, to Director, NPS 5 September, 1919
- 43. NA/RG 79, Letter from Arno B. Cammerer, Acting Director, NPS to Washington B. Lewis, Superintendent, YOSE 20 September, 1919
- 44. NA/RG 79, Letter from Horace M. Albright, Acting Director, NPS, to Thomas W. Brazell, Superintendent, WICA 24 April, 1919
- 45. NA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from Arno B. Cammerer, Acting Director, NPS to D.R. Hull, Chief Landscape Engineer, NPS. 13 December, 1926. NA/RG 79 208.30.
- 46. NA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from Thomas C. Vint, Associate Landscape Engineer, NPS, to Director, NPS 12 January, 1927
- NA/RG 79 208,30, Telegram from Owen A. Tomlinson (uniform committee chairman), Superintendent, MORA, to Director, NPS 13 January, 1931
- 48. NPS/RG Y55, Letter from James E. Neal, Beach Supervisor, Atascadero State Beach, CA, to Jack R. Williams 26 January, 1966
- NA/RG 79, Letter from Carmi A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary, USDI, to Edward S. Hall, Superintendent, MORA 10 April, 1911
- 50. NA/RG 79, Clement S. Ucker, Chief Clerk, USDI, to Sigmund Eisner 16 January, 1912
- 51. Williams, p.1.
- 52. NPS/RG Y55, Memorandum from Hillary A. Tolson, Acting Associate Director, NPS, to all field officers, NPS 8 October, 1936
- NA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from Owen A. Tomlinson, Superintendent, MORA, to Director, NPS 23 December, 1929.
- 54. NA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from Arno B. Cammerer, Associate Director, NPS, to Tomlinson 16 January, 1930

- 55. NA/RG 79 208.30, Memorandum from Tomlinson, to all NPS superintendents. 23 January, 1930.
- 56. NA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from Tomlinson to Director 13 February, 1930.
- 57. NA/RG 79 208.30, Arno B. Cammerer, Assistant Director, NPS, to Tomlinson 25 February, 1930
- 58. Ibid
- MA/RG 79 208.30, Letter from J. Ross Eakin, Superintendent, GLAC, to Tomlinson 31 May, 1930
- 60. NPS\RG Y55, Memorandum from Stanley T. Albright, Associate Director Park Operations, NPS, to NPS regional directors 9 March, 1984
- 61. National Park Service Uniforms Handbook, 1959, Chapter 2, p.18. Although this handbook was written in 1959, its provisions were not to be fully implemented until January 1, 1961. Even so, a lot of the items were instituted in 1960. (name tags, badges, etc.)
- 62. NA/RG 79, Letter from Samuel F. Ralston, Supervisor, GLAC, to Secretary, USDI 15 September, 1915
- 63. NA/RG 79, Frank Pinkley, Custodian, CAGR 18 December, 1922. This was included in his answer to the annual uniform questionnaire sent out to the parks concerning uniform revisions.
- 64. Williams, p.30.
- 65. NA/RG 79, Contract with F.J. Heilberger & Sons, Inc. 5 April, 1922. These descriptions are from the instructions included with the April 5, 1922 contract with F.J. Heiberger and Sons, Inc. for sleeve brassards
- 66. Williams, p.31.
- Mational Park Service uniform regulations, 1947, chapter
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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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