



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Navajo Job Shadowing Project to Take Place at Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – The Navajo Department of Workforce Development (NDWD) office out of Tuba City, Ariz. and the National Park Service (NPS) have teamed up to host the Navajo Job Shadowing Project 2007 at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park from August 20-31, 2007.

The NDWD recognizes the high rate of unemployment on the reservation and the NPS would like to improve its workforce diversity, so the two offices have put together this job shadowing project to give young Navajo adults a chance to learn about potential NPS employment opportunities at Grand Canyon National Park and at other NPS sites across the country. Twenty Navajo participants will have the chance to shadow NPS employees from various career fields during their two weeks in the park.

“In our nearly 100 years of existence, Americans have cherished the National Park Service, the caretakers of our heritage and beloved resources,” said Demica Vigil, who is the lead on Grand Canyon National Park’s Diversity Recruitment Team. “It is only fitting that we strive to represent the diversity of Americans as we protect the diverse stories they tell.”

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Through this job shadowing project, the NDWD and the NPS hope to 1) introduce potential applicants to the NPS as a viable employer and the wide variety of NPS jobs available to them, 2) mentor potential applicants to the NPS work life and duties, 3) provide job experience in various NPS positions, 4) prepare potential applicants for the federal government application process, 5) identify and target competent applicants for possible NPS jobs, and 6) nurture a cooperative partnership with NDWD and GRCA to meet common goals.

“Through this type of collaborative project, young Navajo adults begin to realize the many job opportunities available to them off of the reservation,” said Ben Davis, an NDWD accounting technician who has been instrumental in developing this year’s job shadowing project.

Before arriving at the Grand Canyon, individuals will choose from one of six job tracks to follow based on their interests and the type of job experience they want. The job tracks that participants can sign up for are administration; facilities management; visitor and resource protection; interpretation and environmental education; resource management; and concessions management, planning and compliance, and project management.

After a couple of days of orientation to the Grand Canyon and the NPS, participants will devote seven days to their chosen job track. During these seven days, individuals will have the chance to spend time with NPS employees, who will discuss their jobs and what it is like to work for the NPS. Participants will get to see first-hand what various NPS jobs entail. For the last day, individuals will have the chance to discuss their experiences and take part in an application workshop, where participants will become more familiar with the federal government application process.

The Navajo Job Shadowing Project was also done at the Grand Canyon in 2003 and 2004. The Navajo Nation contacted the NPS this year to revive the program. The NPS would like to do this type of project with other tribes in the region. The Yavapai/Apache Nation, the Moapa Paiute Tribe and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians have all expressed interest in this type of collaborative program.

The NPS would also like to offer this job shadowing project more often, such as twice per year – once during the summer for unemployed individuals and once during the winter just before seasonal announcements are posted.

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To learn more about the Navajo Job Shadowing Project, contact Demica Vigil, the lead on Grand Canyon National Park's Diversity Recruitment Team, at (928) 638-7991.

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