

Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program Backcountry Ranger Position Description

The purpose of this position is two-fold. First, it will supplement the Visitor and Resource Protection Division's summer backcountry operations by performing duties related to resource conservation, research, fire management, campground maintenance and visitor services. Second, it will allow the teacher to more fully explore the national parks to enrich their classrooms with a clearer understanding and appreciation of park resources.

The Teacher/Ranger will have the opportunity to work on various projects and activities at Saguaro National Park, including but not limited to: assisting researchers in the backcountry; working with Fire management staff; assisting campers coming to Manning Camp; performing routine maintenance duties; and developing hands-on activities for middle and high schools.

This position is different than other TRT positions at Saguaro National Park in that it requires that the teacher ranger works outdoors, spending up to a week at a time at a remote wilderness campground. Access to campground requires a hike of 9 miles over rough terrain, with an elevation gain of approximately 5000 feet. It is recommended that the teacher have a biology background or be very interested in science and natural history.

The Teacher/Ranger will:

- 1) Assist the summer wilderness ranger with daily campground operations, including routine campground maintenance and visitor services.
- 2) Assist park biologists, researchers, Trail Crews and Fire Management staff
With various summer backcountry projects
- 3) Develops science-based programs for middle and/or high school students based on Sonoran Desert/Sky Island natural history and/or wilderness values, involving hands-on activities.
- 4) Facilitate visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources. Work with interpretive park rangers to interpret Saguaro National Park to many audiences, whether visiting physically or intellectually via the web, publications, school programs, and other outreach programs to the community.
- 5) Encourage citizens, especially students, to develop a sense of stewardship for park resources and national park values.

Major Duties while at the National Park:

- Work with park staff on various natural history studies and resource monitoring in the Saguaro Wilderness Area.
- Assist park staff in maintenance of backcountry campgrounds; provide assistance to campers.
- Assist park Fire Management teams and Trail crews on a variety of projects.
- Work with park interpretive and resource management staff to develop hands-on science activities for students at the park and/or at the schools that relate to the National Park Service, Saguaro National Park, Sonoran Desert and Sky Island natural history, and/or wilderness values. Participate in the research, design and development of curriculum-based materials for specific grade levels and assists with the evaluation of all curriculum-based materials for appropriateness, effectiveness, and alignment with state curriculum standards.
- Learn about park resources by attending in-park training, reading park research materials and maps, and by interviewing other park rangers or staff, researchers, and other professionals.

Duties when back in the classroom:

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

Park Responsibilities

Parks will:

- Supply a park ranger uniform and name tag.
 - Provide park specific and ranger training at the park, including safety training.
 - Provide payment for the teachers for the eight week program.
 - Make available equipment and software needed to accomplish work.
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- Provide a weather-port style of tent for use by Teacher-Ranger during backcountry stays; will provide access to kitchen in Manning Cabin for preparation of personal meals.; will assist with transportation of personal supplies to backcountry camp.

Teacher Responsibilities

To qualify for the program, teachers must:

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

Training for Teachers

The park staff will provide foundational knowledge about the National Park Service and Saguaro National Park operations. The training will also cover supervisory expectations and will include a large field safety component. The park will provide specific training in biological monitoring.

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

I agree to the terms and conditions above:

Teacher

Date