



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

EARLY SUMMER GUIDE 2010



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Discover · Protect · Connect

These three verbs lie at the heart of a great visit to your national parks: *discover* the park for yourself, *connect* to it on a personal level, and choose to *protect* it!

A unique group helps to ensure that even more people can have this experience at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The non-profit Sequoia Parks Foundation raises funds for projects that make it easier to get to know these parks via trails, exhibits, and classroom programs, to name just a few.

Specifically, they've helped to revamp trails, making them more accessible. They want to support trail-crew jobs that provide young people with experience, adventure, and career development while the trails we all enjoy get improved. They've funded exhibits that offer insight into the wonders of these parks to visitors of all ages, both along trails and in Beetle Rock Education Center and other visitor centers.

The Foundation's work also takes the national-park experience beyond park boundaries. They bring artists here to create works and then share this park-based art with the public in several locations. They also reach out to schools. One of the most successful of their projects – *Rangers in the Classroom* – helps to introduce Sequoia and Kings Canyon to students in some



The "Rangers-in-the-Classroom" program helps kids to discover and connect to these parks. Examining skulls and pelts from wildlife help them to understand the park habitats in which these animals survive.

of the most underserved schools in the state.

Rangers in the Classroom touches thousands of children each year. These parks lie just beyond their back yards, yet most of the kids have never been here. Through curriculum-based programs, they discover a new world and start to see their role in protecting it. They get excited about coming here with their families and starting that personal connection that can last a lifetime.

The rangers travel as often as possible to as many classrooms as they can – doing so in vans that were donated with help from the Foundation and other partners.

Without assistance from the Foundation, many of these programs would be reduced or non-existent. In particular, *Rangers in the Classroom* relies on the Foundation, and more is needed.

The Sequoia Parks Foundation explores many avenues to raise funds. One possibility involves a

grant that asks for your opinion. Interested? Check out www.wordpress.sequoiaparksfoundation.org from time to time to see what's new. Find more ways that you can discover, protect, and connect with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks—and help others to do the same.