



**Topic:** Careers - Interview a Professional Park Ranger

**Level:** Targeted to high school students.

**Site of Activity:**

The students will do this activity at the National Park.

**Designed by:**

Pamela James, Teacher to Ranger to Teacher,  
Sandalwood High School



**TIMUCUAN PRESERVE** **FILM** PROJECT '09

**Goal:** Students will understand careers opportunities in the National Park Service.

**Theme:** Careers in the National Park Service

**Objectives:** Students will be able to:

1. Gain in-depth knowledge of a career with the National Park Service.
2. Understand the responsibilities and skills needed to be a Park Ranger in our National Park.

**Standards**

Facilitates the need for career mentoring by describing the needs for career planning and changing careers, while broadening understanding of the concepts of lifelong learning and that relationship to personal fulfillment.

**Materials Needed:**

1. Paper and pencil
2. Previously developed interview questions.

**Mini Lesson (pre-activity):**

- **Step (1)** Teachers will group students; do not exceed (5) groups.
- **Step (2)** Inform students that they must do their research on the nps.gov website and develop their interview questions prior to visiting Kingsley Plantation.

- **Step (3)** Each group member will focus on developing (2) interview questions that they could ask a Park Ranger when they get to the site.
  - **Sample Questions** (*Students are not allowed to use the sample questions listed below.*)
    - What skills and/or abilities were really helpful to you in this job?
    - Did you have any specific training in wildlife in order to become a Park Ranger?
- **Step (4)** The questions developed must fall into one of these (4) categories: A) job description, B) work environment, C) educational background, D) personal characteristics needed and duties and responsibilities. Teachers please assign each group a category.
- **Step (5)** Once groups have been assigned with their specific category students are now read to do some research. Students must follow the following directions below before developing their interview questions.
  1. Type in [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
  2. Click on **getting involved**
  3. Click on **employment**
  4. Click on **permanent jobs** and scroll down
  5. Click on **usajobs**
  6. Under **search jobs** type in Park Ranger in the box
  7. Click on **search jobs** and scroll down until you get to the **Park Ranger (Interpretation)**
  8. Click on **Park Ranger (Interpretation)** now read the job summary information about being a Park Ranger. After the research you are now ready to write down 2 interview questions.

### Work Period:

- **Step (1)** Each group member should have developed 2 interview questions.
- **Step (2)** The groups will meet in class prior to the visit and discuss and select the best two questions from the group.

- **Step (3)** These are the two questions that you will ask the Park Ranger when you get to the park.
- **Step (4)** Group members should have designated roles.
  - The (1st) group member will be the interviewer for their group and will ask the Park Ranger the two questions from their group.
  - The (2nd) member will record the answers as stated by the Park Ranger.
  - The (3rd) member will write a summary of the results,
  - The (4th) member will proof read the summary for accuracy.

**Closing:** When the class returns back to the school, have each group to orally share their summary with the class.

**Special Note:** Teachers please make sure that you contact Kingsley Plantation and inform them of your arrival as well as complete the appropriate form prior to your visit. The teacher will be responsible for conducting a guided tour with his/her students. Teachers while you are conducting your guided tour rotate sending groups to see the Park Ranger for their interview.

### **Multimedia Extension:**

1. Use “Timucuan Adventures” DVD.
2. Locate segment on careers, which contains interviews of park staff at Jacksonville’s National Park – the Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve.
3. Adjust activities above to be done in the computer lab or classroom if a visit to the park is not feasible.

July 2009

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA** <sup>TM</sup>

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.