

# PARK RANGER GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



Park rangers help protect our parks and share them with the public. They help visitors make the most of their visit, present educational programs on the park's natural or historical significance, maintain facilities, and keep the park safe for everyone. Most park ranger positions involve either (1) education and interpretation or (2) law enforcement and protection.

## THE BIG PICTURE

Park rangers are passionate about protecting the environment, wildlife, and park visitors. In the forest sector, their work helps to ensure the sustainability of forests by:

- Educating visitors about the forest.
- Explaining rules and regulations to visitors and enforcing them.
- Keeping visitors safe in the forest and keeping the forest safe from visitors.

## IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

Much of a ranger's time is spent outside, and the job can be physically demanding. Park rangers may also work indoors when welcoming visitors, preparing reports, or doing administrative tasks. To succeed in this job, you need to be a good leader who can take charge in emergencies, and you need interpersonal and communication skills to keep park visitors safe.

## MOVING FORWARD



Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a park ranger. You'll likely need a four-year college degree.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, earth science, and environmental science classes. If possible, participate in a student ranger or junior forest ranger program, and volunteer in your local parks to gain relevant work experience.

**COLLEGE:** Earn an undergraduate degree in a related field, such as conservation enforcement, natural resource management, outdoor education, or forestry. You should also get first-aid certification and public safety training.

For more about green jobs, visit [www.plt.org/workingforforests](http://www.plt.org/workingforforests)

Do you dream of working in the great **OUTDOORS**? Do you enjoy working with **PEOPLE** of all ages and backgrounds? If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

## SALARY

U.S. salaries range from about \$27,000 to \$61,000 per year and average about \$40,000.

## WHERE CAN YOU GROW?

A career as a park ranger can include a job as a conservation biologist, fisheries officer, or ecotourism operator. Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Private conservation sites or landmarks
- Municipal parks

