

When I grow up, I want to be a...Park Ranger Interpreter!

<https://careers.doi.gov/occupational-series/park-ranger>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nps-careers-interpretation.htm>

What Do Park Ranger Interpreters Do?

Interpretation can be a confusing term because it has multiple meanings. No, we don't all speak another language! In this context, interpretation refers to the work of rangers and other staff who *interpret* the park to visitors. *Interpreters* aim to help visitors make their own connections to the park and its stories. They want the people who visit to see themselves in park stories and make intellectual and emotional connections to park resources.



To help people make these connections, interpreters try to learn a lot about the park where they work. They should have a good understanding of the things people ask about: the history of the park, the plants and animals that call it home, and lots of other related topics. Interpreters need to do their homework!

Bureaus that employ Park Ranger Interpreters:



This is a job for you, if you enjoy:

- Working with different people
- Learning about and protecting historical buildings, archeological treasures, natural resources and animals.
- Customer service
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Learning and educating
- Being outside

Age-Appropriate Activities

Activities for 4 and under:

- [A Mark Trail Coloring Book](#)
- [Migratory Bird Coloring Book](#)
- [Natural Sounds with NPS](#)
- [NPS Kids in Parks](#)

Activities for Ages 5+:

- [Every Kid Outdoors](#)
- [NPS Parks With Junior Ranger Programs](#)
- [National Junior Ranger Booklets](#)
- [Junior Ranger Online](#)

- [Be A Junior Ranger - New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park](#)
- [Be A Junior Ranger - Grand Teton National Park](#)
- [Be A Junior Ranger - Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail +](#)
- [Become a Virtual Junior Ranger - Craters of The Moon National Monument & Preserve](#)

Activities for Ages 9 – 12 Years:

- [Island of the Blue Dolphins](#)
- [Junior Ranger Let's Go Fishing! - Fish & Fishing](#)