

## State park

Like many state parks, this one includes lakes that are popular for fishing, as well as nature trails, a visitor center, a campground, and other visitor facilities. The park is managed by the state government.

### 1. Park Ranger

#### Description:

Park rangers are responsible for protecting natural resources, ensuring visitor safety, enforcing laws and park rules, staffing visitor centers, and leading visitor programs at state parks. Many park rangers and their families live within the parks they serve.

#### Duties:

- Develop and lead interpretive programs for the public and education programs for school groups.
- Greet and provide information to park visitors.
- Collect fees, issue permits, and perform office and clerical duties.
- Maintain campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails.
- Inspect and patrol park grounds and enforce park rules by issuing citations, making arrests, and conducting investigations.
- Participate in search and rescue, emergency response, fire suppression, and traffic patrol.

#### Skills and experience:

- Adaptability and willingness to perform a wide variety of tasks.
- Ability to maintain composure and professionalism in positions of authority.
- Ease with working with people of all ages as an educator and source of information.
- Skill in hand and power tool operation and general construction and maintenance techniques.
- Comfort with working in an office environment.

#### Education and training:

- At least a two-year degree, preferably related to parks management, outdoor recreation, or resource protection.
- During their first few years on the job, new park rangers may go through several months of training to be commissioned as law enforcement officers and to learn skills in emergency medicine, search and rescue, wildfire suppression, interpretation, and environmental education.

### 2. Budget Analyst

#### Description:

A budget analyst oversees the use of money to achieve the park's goals and accomplish its programs. Depending on the size of the park, the budget analyst may work for the government agency that oversees state parks, analyzing budgets for several parks or the whole state park system.

#### Duties:

- Work with other park staff to develop a budget that meets program priorities.
- Maintain the budget as new needs arise and revenues change.
- Monitor spending to make sure it meets the budget.
- Interact with state agencies responsible for finance, parks, and natural resources.
- Prepare budget reports.

#### Skills and experience:

- Interest in conservation, parks, and recreation.
- Ability to work with, organize, and analyze financial facts and figures.
- Aptitude for seeing relationships between the big picture (program goals) and details (budget allocations and spending).
- Knowledge of spreadsheet and word-processing computer programs.
- Ability to work at a computer for extended periods.

#### Education and training:

- Bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, accounting, insurance, mathematics, statistics, or a variety of fields related to natural resource management.
- Specific training or work experience in budgeting and analyzing quantitative data.