

Jackson the Park Ranger: Park Discoveries

Who is Jackson?



Hi! I am Jackson, and I am a park ranger. Park Rangers work in state and national parks around the country.

State vs. National Parks

State Parks



A state park is taken care of by a state government. An example of a state park is Sonoma Coast State Park, located in California!.

National Parks



A national park is taken care of the United States government. An example of a national state park is Yellowstone National Park.

Being a Park Ranger

Here are some of the jobs park rangers do!

Park rangers protect the park from people who may harm wildlife. For example, some people break park rules and hunt animals they are not supposed to.



Park rangers provide information to park visitors on what they can find in the park, such as what kind of animals live there.



What I am Working On

Right now, I work in a national park in California. Today, I am giving a tour to a group of students who are visiting the park. They are here to see fossils!





A fossil is bones and other matter that belonged to a living thing many, many years ago. The fossil is held in rock for thousands or millions of years. My park has a lot of animal fossils in it!

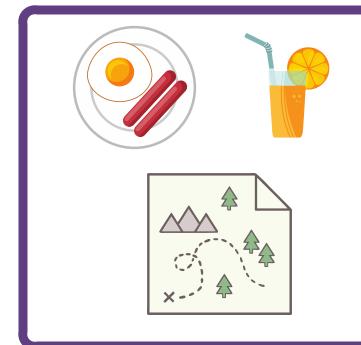




Day in the Life

Curious about what I do as a park ranger? Check out a day in my life!

8:00 A.M.



I make sure I have a big breakfast! I need a lot of energy for my job! This morning, I have eggs, sausage, and juice. While I eat, I look at a map. I am deciding where I want to take students on a tour today!

10:30 A.M.



My group of students arrives for the tour! Before we start the tour, I review the park rules with them. I tell them they must stay together in our group. I also tell them that if they see an animal, do not go near it! I explain that it is important to respect the animals that live in the park.

Day in the Life

10:30 A.M.

We explore an area full of fossils! The fossils are from a fish, bird, and beaver! We discuss how each fossil provides clues about what animals and the park were like a long time ago.



Fossilized fish: The fossils show there were fish that once lived in the park! This means there must have been a lake or river here a long time ago! There isn't one now!



Fossilized bird: The fossils show this animal was much larger than birds we see today. It was about 2 feet tall! Most birds in the park now are much smaller than this and live in trees!



Fossilized beaver: The fossil shows that this animal did not have a big flat tail or webbed feet like beavers have today.

Day in the Life

2:30 P.M.



The students leave the park. It stars to rain. Sometimes the rain makes the hiking trails muddy. I make sure that other visitors who are still walking around the park are safe.

5:30 P.M.



I have dinner at a restaurant near the park with other rangers. We love to share our stories of the day together! I tell them about how smart the students were on my tour today!