



Rangers at Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve (top and bottom) and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (center).

How Do I Become a Park Ranger?

Thank you for your inquiry into employment as a ranger. The basic goal of a National Park or Forest ranger is to protect and preserve public resources while helping people enjoy them. This may be accomplished by fighting fires, enforcing land use regulations, or studying the natural world to learn how to better care for it. Education or interpretation is another field in which rangers work. Teaching people about parks, national monuments, and historic sites helps people understand and appreciate these national treasures and inspires their desire to protect them. These varied tasks can all be part of the job of a ranger.

Many rangers start as seasonal employees or volunteers. They work in urban and rural areas and often work in several different parks or positions to find the situation they enjoy the most. Some move into permanent positions and higher government service levels as their careers continue and they take on more administrative or legislative responsibilities.

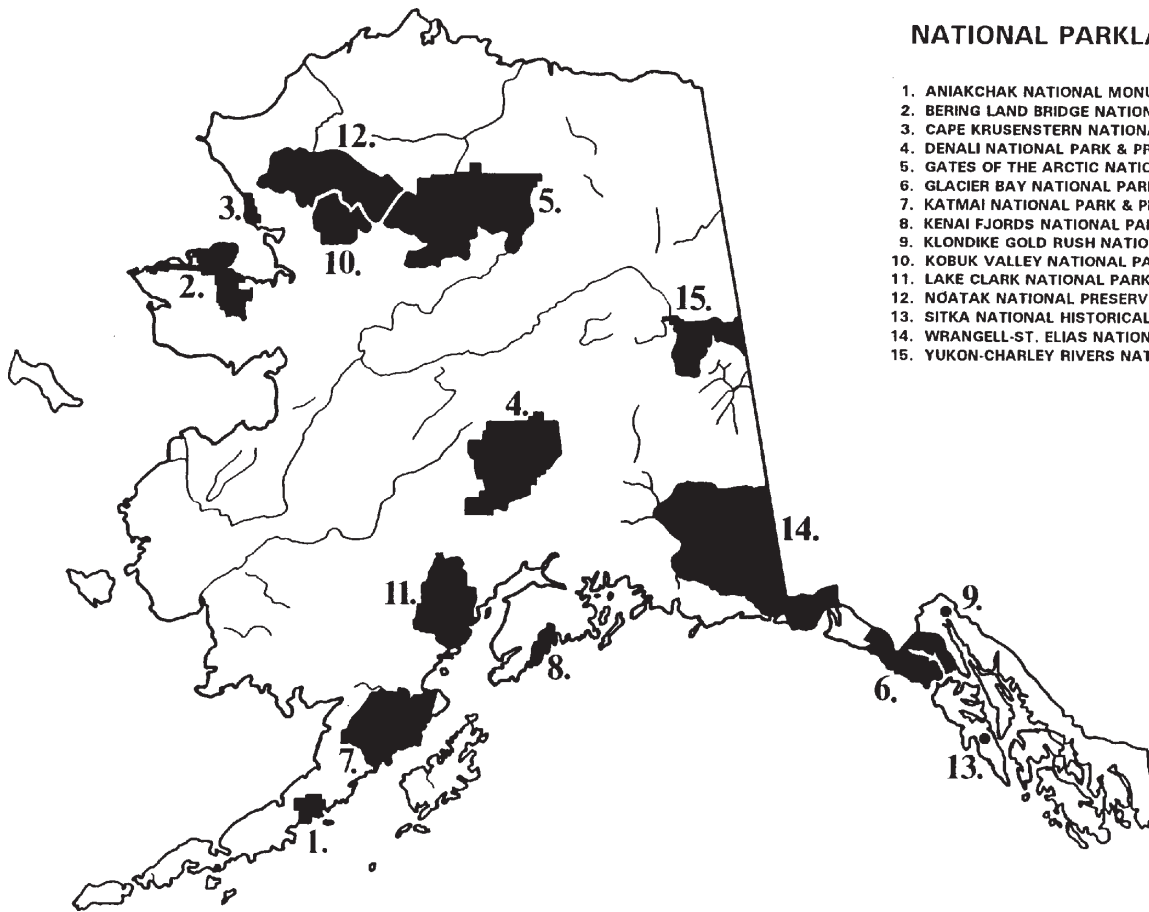
If you are interested in following this career path, there are several information sources and programs to help you get started. Look up Park Ranger Careers on the National Park Service's website at www.nps.gov. The Student Conservation Association cooperates with the National Parks with a volunteer program which provides valuable on-the-job training. Undergraduate and graduate studies focused on physical sciences, resource management, and business administration or pertinent work experience can also help a candidate qualify for a ranger position. Applications for seasonal ranger work can be found on the web at www.sep.nps.gov.

These are some of the ways you can begin a ranger career. For other seasonal and permanent jobs, check the web site at www.usajobs.opm.gov.

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows
into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness
into you, and the storms their energy, while cares
will drop off like autumn leaves.*

John Muir, Naturalist

NATIONAL PARKLANDS IN ALASKA



1. ANIAKCHAK NATIONAL MONUMENT & PRESERVE
2. BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE
3. CAPE KRUSENSTERN NATIONAL MONUMENT
4. DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
5. GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
6. GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
7. KATMAI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
8. KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK
9. KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
10. KOBUK VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
11. LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
12. NOATAK NATIONAL PRESERVE
13. SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
14. WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE
15. YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE



Alaska's fifteen national parks comprise 54 million acres and make up 65% of the entire park system. Alaska's national parks include some of the most scenic, wild, historic, and culturally diverse places in all of the nation. Contact the individual parks or visit their websites for more information.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve	Nome	443-2522	www.nps.gov/bela
Denali National Park and Preserve	Denali Park	683-2294	www.nps.gov/dena
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve	Fairbanks	692-5494	www.nps.gov/gaar
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve	Gustavus	697-2230	www.nps.gov/glba
Katmai National Park and Preserve	King Salmon	246-3305	www.nps.gov/katm
Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve			www.nps.gov/ania
Kenai Fjords National Park	Seward	224-7500	www.nps.gov/kefj
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park	Skagway	983-2921	www.nps.gov/klgo
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	Port Alsworth	781-2218	www.nps.gov/lacl
Northwest Areas:	Kotzebue	442-3890	www.nps.gov/wear
Kobuk Valley National Park			www.nps.gov/kova
Cape Krusenstern National Monument			www.nps.gov/cakr
Noatak National Preserve			www.nps.gov/noat
Sitka National Historical Park	Sitka	747-6281	www.nps.gov/sitk
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	Copper Center	822-5234	www.nps.gov/wrst
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve	Eagle	547-2233	www.nps.gov/yuch

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