

Best Things about Working for the NPS - ANPR Seasonal Survey, 2010

1	Learning experience with leading biologists and experiencing new locations in depth
2	I enjoyed learning about the National Park Service, the people I worked with, and the ability to talk about one of America's Treasures.
3	Protecting our Natural Wonders, Working outdoors, inspiring others to appreciate nature, and help children get out into nature more!
4	Working on the land/living in the country Creative freedom and research possibilities
5	Experience different parks.
6	variety
7	1. experience within the National Park Service - learning the ropes 2. flexibility to work at different parks to help discover what area is the best fit for me
8	The professionalism in the agency and the pride in the uniform. Also the pay is good.
9	I wish we could accumulate some seniority, like in grade step increases. I'm also frustrated that I don't get as much training, even though I've been working with the NPS for a while.
10	The ability to move around season to season.
11	nothing
12	I enjoy seeing the kids play, learn and actually use their imaginations outdoors - where it is ok to be a kid. Connecting with the great outdoors seems to energize kids in a way that technology cannot.
13	Not happy about NPS's treatment of seasonal employees; seems we are being used as a stop gap to save the agency money rather than making an effort to hire and retain permanent employees.
14	Incredible experience and an unbeatable location
15	travel. meeting people.
16	Being able to be outdoors and commune with nature, as part of my job, it's awesome! I enjoy the freedom to take a season off and spend time with friends and family. It's pretty flexible, so that's nice. I like that I can move to other parks, if I'm hired.
17	Getting to help visitors enjoy this national park and perhaps make a closer connection with it is satisfying to me. I enjoy the people I work with and find most to be dedicated and creative people.
18	Helping people make a real connection to the natural world. The privilege of living in a national park.
19	being in the back country and my fellow employees
20	I've been encouraged to use my initiative and can contribute as much as I want.
21	Acquiring different methods from working with various groups.
22	The ability to work in a different yet beautiful area every year and the ability to do something different in the off-season.
23	Working with new, inspiring co-workers. Having the opportunity to learn new "things" about new places while living in them. The opportunity to get a broad range of experiences and influences from coworkers, bosses, etc.

	(In reference to #2 below, the final item referring to getting training relevant to my goals would be great, if it happened beyond standard operational and information training. Something as simple as more advanced first aid training, or scholarships for wilderness first aid classes for seasonals, or flexibility in a season for an employee to take Annual Leave to go take a one-or-two-day course relevant to work, ie. a naturalist course, would be incredibly beneficial to the parks and the employees but are rarely "able" to be accommodated by supervisor. And I even work at a park where we do have a little flexibility in terms of annual leave! (but of course very little money). Wouldn't an Albright-Wirth Grant for Seasonals be spectacular!?)
24	The physical setting, interaction with the public, and the strong sense of workforce community.
25	I like the pace of work and I feel satisfied doing work in the national park to help take care of the resources that everyone can enjoy.
26	1-Providing opportunities that will let others enjoy and appreciate our national parks, offering them insights and suggestions that will make their experiences better and more rewarding, and being part of the process that makes their lives a little more meaningful and fulfilling.
	2-Being part of a process that helps bring families together, encourages personal connections with historical events and people, and/or natural resources.
27	Visitors and feeling that my work matters
28	Being in the national parks.
29	working with and in nature and learning from nature.
30	Chance to develop interpretive skills.
	Working in a non-traditional environment (i.e. not being stuck in an office having my soul leeched away)
31	working with and learning from perms
32	I like giving tours and interacting with the public.
33	-working outdoors in a beautiful setting
	-seeing the interest and passion of the park visitor
34.	Educationally, by working for different parks you are exposed to new ecosystems, environmental issues, and people. That is one of the benefits of working as a seasonal NPS employee.
	Its rewarding to live and work in an environment where most come to vacation or escape work and city life.
35.	The people and community involed with the NPS
36.	Beautiful location, great co-workers
37.	1. Travel/Working where I want to work
	2. Broadening my network
38.	1. Educating myself about and exploring park resources and issues.
	2. Sharing my knowledge with the public.
39.	contact with the pubic working out side keeping the park in good shape
40.	Having the opportunity to spend quality time with park visitors, helping them better enjoy their national park system.
41.	Connecting with the public on a wide range of topics that I have a particular interest in.
	A chance to be a part of the connection that the youth have with the National Parks by providing to them different ways of seeing our public lands.
42.	The opportunity to see various parks while working seasonally. This gives you the chance if you want to maybe pursue that park in a permanent career. It also allows you to see various other opportunities the areas around these parks have to offer.
43.	Training opportunities/certifications (professional growth)
44.	Seeing the country and meeting lots of people

45.	--working at different parks and seeing how each functions differently, which can be rewarding and also discouraging.
	--as seasonal you are a true field employee and it is rewarding being out there everyday
46.	Being able to see different parks and management types before settling down at a park for a few years.
	Meeting many different people and increasing net-workability.
47.	Ability to make a difference in how people view our parks and the ability to succeed personally.
48.	Helping visitors and creating a safe environment for them to visit their parks.
49.	The job is highly supported. I get access to most supplies that I feel make me a more effective employee, and I get my questions answered in a timely manner. I also get paid well, and get opportunities to increase my professional profile.
50.	Being involved where the "rubber meets the road"
51.	The opportunity to teach science and conservation to an appreciative audience. Public admiration for being a ranger.
52.	Traveling
	Meeting New People
53.	I love helping people with little previous experience in nature see and appreciate all that is around them-- helping total strangers connect to nature.
54.	Coworkers who love the parks and are excited about protecting and enjoying them together.
	Managers who work to give their employees the full park experience and give them opportunities to learn all the skills of a ranger.
55.	Giving interpretative programs and discussing the Civil War with visitors
56.	The Parks themselves and the opportunity to work outdoors.
57.	Being part of the solution in the interface between visitors and parks. Having the opportunity to live and work in the most beautiful areas in the country.
58.	The greatest reward comes from being among the segment of employees who the vast majority of the public interacts with. As summer seasonals, we represent the National Park Service - and in a sense the United States - to millions of visitors each summer. With little training, support, or recognition, we ARE the face of the NPS.
59.	educating the public and living in the best places in the world.
60.	working at a park where a gs-5 fee collector also has interpretative duties and is allowed and encouraged to work quite a bit above the gs-5 level in interpretative tasks.
61.	--Learning all about the park I am working in.
	--Interacting with visitors.
	--Relations with co-workers.
62.	People I work with
	The place I work
63.	Helping others in need
64.	New people to work with every year.
65.	Opportunity to be a part of our environment and to teach our resources to the public.
66.	I like working/living in the parks, and it's rewarding thinking I may help preserve them for others.

67.	I'm lucky and have both summer and winter seasonal jobs. I love being able to migrate between parks and having the opportunity to work in different places.
68.	I like having a reason and the means to move to and work in the most beautiful places in the country. I also like getting pulled from my daily duties to go on fire assignments.
69.	Interacting with visitors.
70.	Independence Outdoor work
71.	Working with people during interpretive programs is the most rewarding part of the job.
72.	The ability to work in a variety of natural park settings and having the chance to do a variety of work between departments within a particular park organization.
73.	The two things that bring the biggest reward to seasonal work is the limited time you have to spend in a natural setting of the park and the knowledge you'll have to time do the things you want in the off season.
74.	working in some of the most beautiful places in the country, helping people in their time of need (LE, SARs, EMS, fire, etc)
75.	Helping the park service in its mission to protect park resources for future generations. Also preparing visitors to enjoy their parks within the laws and rules that protect them.
76.	I continue to learn and share while meeting people from around the world.
77.	The remarkable settings and the relationships.
78.	Having winters off to travel
79.	Working with the public Living in beautiful places And, working with good people
80.	Being able to work in a great Park and coming back year afer year.
81.	Protecting our national parks. Being around dedicated rangers & visitors who love our parks.
82.	Goal-orientation. It's good to be working towards a permanant job through training and experience.
83.	I love that I can work for only part of the year. I am 57, so when I was laid off from a job I had worked for 20 years, time off was important to me. I also love being able to live at length in a national park and explore it fully during my time off.
84.	opprotunities to be outside, protect beautiful places, and try and teach visitors some respect.
85.	Living in a Nat. Park. Being away from TV, Internet, Phones, Cities and the rat race.
86.	The ability to work in a beautiful, natural setting and educating the visitors about our park. I also enjoy the flexibility working seasonally provides.
87.	Getting to learn about so many different natural and historical gems in this country.
88.	I like being able to be a seasonal employee because it allows me to have a fun worthwhile job in college. It gives me great job experience for the future and I enjoy being able to work with the varying amounts of people.

89.	Learning from permanent employees & having the opportunity to have meaningful, well-paying summer employment as a college student
90.	beatiful workplace great people
91.	Having the outdoors as my office, getting paid (although not very much) to do what I love, and getting to live where other people only get to go on vacation.
92.	1) Fun and rewarding work. 2) Flexible to try other work during the rest of the year.
93.	Working with the other park rangers. Customers contact from visitors all over the world. Working in a gorgeous environment.
94.	Meeting a variety of people at different parks. Learning about different areas of the United States.
95.	Protecting the environment and national treasures.
96.	Working on time-in-grade to apply towards a perminent position and developing experience in my department.
97.	providing customer service, the level of employees I work with is extraordinary
98.	Working outside. Great people to work with for the most part.
99.	The places I've been/resources I've worked with and the people I've met (both NPS and visitors).
100.	The ability to work in an amazing landscape and learn a diversity of skills from other co-workers, supervisors, and other departments. Working as a seasonal has greatly improved my personal skill sets and overall experience.
101.	neat experiences
102.	Experience.
103.	Meeting so many new people and traveling to new places.
104.	1. The smiles of relief on visitor's faces after giving them a sense of 'being part of the family' here. Folks who are comforted knowing that we really care for them is amazing! 2. The amazing people with whom I have the pleasure to serve. 99.9% of the folks I've met have been the best of the best.
105.	I have been very fortunate to have had several excellent supervisors who treat employees well, are organized and spend money wisely.
106.	working in my chosen field
107.	Working for the environment. Working with people outdoors.