



Teacher Ranger Teacher- Professional Development Opportunity Interpretation and Education

Professional Development Opportunity

The Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program is a professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers to spend the summer acquiring new skills in experiential learning through a program provided by a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the University of Colorado Denver (CUD). The participants spend between four and six weeks in a NPS unit developing a major educational project and participating in an online graduate course from CU Denver. The goal of the program is to train teachers in the resources and themes of the NPS so that they can return to their schools in the fall and incorporate their new skills into their classroom activities. NPS aims to especially reach students from underserved schools and districts by recruiting teachers from Title 1, urban or rural schools and from tribal schools to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher program.

Park Name: Stones River National Battlefield

Mailing Address: 3501 Old Nashville Hwy. 37129

Park Contact: Jim Lewis or John McKay

Park Contact Email Address: jim_b_lewis@nps.gov / john_b_mckay@nps.gov

Park Phone Number: 615-893-9501

Projected Dates of Detail:

Housing Availability: Yes

Stipend: \$3000.00 upon completion of program and graduate course requirements

Graduate Credit: 3 graduate credit hours through University of Colorado Denver

Program Hourly Requirements: Total of 230 hours of effort; 160 hours of major educational project, 45 hours of online coursework, discussion, course readings, 25 hours of NPS operational experiences.

Additional Information: The Stones River National Battlefield education program reaches connects thousands of students to the park and its resources every year through an array of curriculum based programming. The park's education programs include field trip opportunities, outreach services, web based lesson plans and support materials, and professional development workshops.

Field trips serve as the primary education service offered by park staff. Due to continuing rapid growth in school populations, the park's ability to meet the demand for field trip services while continuing to provide a high quality, curriculum based experience has grown increasingly difficult. Schools that brought 60-70 students on a field trip fifteen years ago now request services for up to three times that number. Limited staffing requires us to limit the number of students that visit on a particular day forcing schools to split their classes and schedule multiple visits or skip the field trip experience altogether.

Ranger led outreach programs are also in high demand. Limited staffing combined with a busy field trip schedule currently limits the park's ability to meet the demand for such services. Fifteen years ago, a ranger would visit a school and present outreach programming designed to enhance the on-site experience prior to a field trip. Many educators take advantage of the



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parks traveling trunks which supplement personal outreach programs by providing teachers with the tools they need to present curriculum based lessons tied to park resources. curriculum based programs. Our current trunks contain the same materials and lack detailed lesson planning guidance.

The TRT will work with the park's Education Program Coordinator and interpretive staff providing a wide range of interpretive services in order to gain knowledge and experience in park resources and interpretive techniques. The TRT will then apply that knowledge to the following projects:

1. Develop curriculum based lesson plan guides and professional development curriculum for existing traveling trunks that will allow educators to provide classroom experiences similar to those offered by park staff.
2. Develop traveling trunks and/or web based programming focused on the curriculum standards for middle and high school students including lesson plan guides and professional development training curriculum.
3. Develop self-guiding field trip activities that can be performed by students on their own or guided by a teacher that meet curriculum standards including classroom lesson plan guidance and professional development training curriculum.



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Interpretation and Education

Application

Please submit your completed application to Jim Lewis, Chief of Interpretation. You may submit your application materials via email or mail at:

jim_b_lewis@nps.gov

*3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129*

Applicant Name:

Home Address:

Home/Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Applicant's School Name:

School District/State:

School Address:

School Phone: 615-893-7605

Grade level and subject(s) taught:

1. **Do you teach at a Title I school?** (please circle) Yes No If yes, what percentage of your students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunches?
2. **Can you commit to approximately 4-6 weeks of time (230-240 hours) during the summer season (May-August, depending on park needs)?** (please circle) Yes No
3. **Describe your most effective unit or lesson plan that actively engaged students in learning. Why was it successful?**
4. **Why do you want to participate in Teacher Ranger Teacher?**
5. **How will you use your TRT experience to enrich your classroom teaching and create opportunities for your students to connect to the National Park system?**
6. **How will you share information and skills acquired through this experience with your school and district colleagues?**



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7. Describe your familiarity and experiences with local, state or national parks.

Please provide information for two professional references:

Reference 1:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to applicant:

Reference 2:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Relationship to applicant: