



## Teacher Ranger Teacher- Professional Development Opportunity Interpretation and Education

### Professional Development Opportunity

The Teacher Ranger Teacher 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:** Vicksburg National Military Park

**Mailing Address:** 3201 Clay Street

**Park Contact:** Scott Babinowich

**Park Contact Email Address:** [scott\\_babinowich@nps.gov](mailto:scott_babinowich@nps.gov)

**Park Phone Number:** 601-619-2905

**Projected Dates of Detail:** June-August. Flexible. 32 hours per week for 7 weeks.

**Housing Availability:** None

**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:**

Vicksburg National Military Park tells the story of the 1863 campaign and siege for the City Vicksburg during the Civil War. This was not a traditional battle, and both commanders were forced to try new tactics in an attempt to control the most vital part of the Mississippi River. Vicksburg National Military Park as a great opportunity to tell the stories of battlefield tactics, leadership lessons, civilian life during the siege, and the role of African Americans in the Civil War. Additionally, Vicksburg has a unique opportunity to explore Reconstruction after the Civil War and the ongoing quest for Civil Rights.

The major education project assigned to the Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) will be to review the current materials and lesson plans at Vicksburg, and to identify which lesson plans are current and reflect current Mississippi education standards. As part of this inventory, the TRT will identify gaps in our education program, and create a plan that future employees and TRTs can follow to help create a strong and long-lasting education program at Vicksburg National Military Park. As part of their coursework, the TRT will create one new lesson plan for an educational program at Vicksburg.



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The TRT will get hands on experience with educational programming through aiding Vicksburg's annual Junior Ranger Camps, where school children are invited to engage in hands-on learning and resource immersion at the military park. The TRT will help facilitate the visits of student groups through the summer, as well as gain skills and experience in resource interpretation by occasionally helping to staff the visitor center desk and assist large scale events like July 4<sup>th</sup> and living history events.

We are looking for a highly motivated, independent worker who has a strong grasp on education standards, as well as the ability to provide friendly and effective customer service.

### Application

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

[Scott\\_babinowich@nps.gov](mailto:Scott_babinowich@nps.gov)

3201 Clay Street

Vicksburg, MS 39183

Applicant Name:

Home Address:

Home/Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Applicant's School Name:

School District/State:

School Address:

School Phone:

Grade level and subject(s) taught:

1. **Do you teach at a Title I school?** (please circle) No Yes 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) No Yes
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?**



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- 6. How will you share information and skills acquired through this experience with your school and district colleagues?**
- 7. Describe your familiarity and experiences with local, state or national parks.**

Please be sure to include the following with your application:

- Letter of support from your principal or assistant principal.
- Contact information for two professional references.

**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:**