



## 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:** Redwood National and State parks

**Mailing Address:** 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531

**Park Contact:** Maunda Hagen

**Park Contact Email Address:** [Maunda.Hagen@nps.gov](mailto:Maunda.Hagen@nps.gov)

**Park Phone Number:** Maunda Hagen: (707) 488-2064

General Park Information: (707) 465-7335

**Projected Dates of Detail:** Starting last week of June and ending after first week of August.

**Housing Availability:** Yes, if applicants are from outside the local community distance. Shared seasonal housing is available and may require shared bedroom space. Vacation rentals are also available in the area, but expensive during summer months.

**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:**

Most people know Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) as home to the tallest trees on Earth. The parks, which are a World Heritage site, also protect vast prairies, oak woodlands, wild rivers, and nearly forty miles of rugged coastline. For thousands of years people have lived in this verdant landscape—the human story is as rich and deep as the landscape. Together, the National Park Service and California State Parks manage these lands for the inspiration, enjoyment, and education of all.

We have two environmental education centers at RNSP—the Howland Hill Outdoor School in the north and the Wolf Creek Education Center in the south. We currently offer formal on-site and in-classroom curriculum-based education programs, self-guided Junior Ranger programs, as well as ranger-led Junior Ranger programs in summer months. We also offer web-based educational offerings and a growing program of distance-learning educational products. There are two Teacher-Ranger-Teacher positions open at RNSP. We may attempt to locate one position in the northern area of the park and one in the south, but that is flexible.



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At Redwood National and State Parks, the diversity of experiences available to Teacher Ranger Teachers reflects the rich diversity of resources protected here. One of the core goals of the program is to increase outreach to underserved students by providing professional development training opportunity to their teachers. Towards that goal, we provide teachers with place-based learning experiences and opportunities to enhance their curriculum in multiple content areas. TRTs will receive training in Redwood National and State Parks' natural and cultural history, current scientific and cultural research programs, and the National Park Service mission. The teachers' opportunities will include joining ranger-led walks and talks, beach and tide pool explorations, and a tour of the Smith River via inflatable kayaks. In addition, TRT's will have the opportunity to work side-by-side with frontline RNSP rangers.

Duties may include assisting with field research; evaluating our educational programs, teacher workshops, and curriculum materials; and contributing to the development of curriculum materials or lesson plans. We are developing a distance-learning program which includes series of web-based lessons, materials and videos which will eventually cover grades K-5. To review current offerings: <https://www.nps.gov/redw/learn/education/distance-learning.htm> The TRT duties may include helping develop and improve these on-line materials. Both positions will review our current park education programs and curriculum and evaluate/improve our connections to Common Core state standards, STEM and California's Science Framework. We welcome receiving a "teacher's eye" at the park and ideas for increasing educational connections with youth locally and beyond. Final educational projects will be identified based on the interests of selected teachers and the needs of the park. Projects are selected in consultation with park education staff.

Knowledge and skills in lesson plan development and common core state standards will be useful.

### Application

**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?



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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?**
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 provide a brief resume.**

**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:**

**Applications must be received no later than Monday, May 1, 2017.  
Early applications may receive first opportunities.**