

SENIOR PARK RANGER

Definition:

Under direction, performs duties necessary to protect park patrons, resources and properties administered by the Parks Division; serving as a lead to lower levels; training new employees.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This classification is a journey level peace officer position in the Park Ranger flexible series requiring previous law enforcement training and/or experience. Incumbents are expected to effectively and independently deal with a full range of law enforcement situations, including large crowds, and be able to enforce all laws and regulations within county parks. Incumbents must be able to relate with people in all aspects of public relations. Employees in this classification will be required to work evenings, nights, weekends and holidays. Vacations may be limited to low recreational usage months. This position shall require incumbents to carry a firearm.

Essential Functions:

- Serves as a lead, which may include assigning and monitoring work, training employees on work methods, and providing direction.
- Makes periodic patrols of assigned areas, by foot, bicycle or in a motorized vehicle or vessel.
- Meets the public and provides information in order to foster an understanding of state, federal, local laws, and park rules and regulations.
- Responds to situations, including emergencies, involving public safety and the protection of property; including the administration of first aid prior to arrival of other agencies.
- Communicates clearly with dispatcher to provide information regarding crimes and public safety concerns.
- Oversees daily activities of assigned personnel in the care of park or recreational facilities.
- Maintains proficiency and operates various law enforcement and safety-related equipment; and coordinates the maintenance, repair and replacement of assigned equipment.
- Attends advanced training courses.
- Maintains records and completes reports of actions taken.
- Issues citations for violations and makes arrests or detains subjects when necessary; transports of suspect(s) and completes required reports, and/or handles evidence.
- Conducts advanced investigations on crimes that occur within Kern County Parks and surrounding areas to promote public safety, utilizing state, federal and local laws; provides court testimony, as required.
- Assists law enforcement agencies and other public entities, as needed.
- Maintains a working knowledge of county policies and procedures, case law, and other law enforcement literature.
- Collects various park fees and makes deposits.

- Functions as a Field Training Officer (FTO) for new hires.
- May attend meetings and other public functions to provide an understanding of park resources and uses.
- May collect data and provide input for park improvement programs.
- Provide security to assigned county buildings, which may include training and operation of magnetometers and x-ray equipment.
- Performs other related duties as required.

Employment Standards:

High School Diploma, G.E.D. or equivalent, one (1) year of experience equivalent to a Park Ranger in the Kern County classification system.

OR

One (1) year full-time experience with another law enforcement agency in California as a certified Peace Officer, and must possess P.O.S.T. certified certificates for PC 832 ‘Arrest, Search and Seizure’ and ‘Arrest & Firearms’.

Experience must have been completed within three (3) years preceding appointment. Possession of a valid California Class C Drivers License, Standard First Aid and CPR Certificates.

Incumbents must complete a P.O.S.T. approved 40-hour Field Training Officer program within 12 months of hire or be subject to termination.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Physical Exam: Passing of a rigid medical exam by the County is required.

Vision: Correctable to 20/20. No color deficiency or permanent/progressive eye abnormalities.

Hearing: No deficiency.

Character: Applicants must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Felony law violations will be disqualifying, and except for a limited number of minor traffic offenses, misdemeanor offenses may also be disqualifying. Must be a U. S. Citizen or a permanent resident alien who is eligible for and has applied for citizenship. Appointees will be fingerprinted and required to pass an extensive background investigation.

Knowledge of: handling both water and land patrol vehicles; operation of law enforcement and safety equipment; safety and general law enforcement practices; courtroom procedures for testimony; general supervision techniques; collecting, receipting and accounting for money.

Ability to: establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, the public and other agencies; handle complex criminal investigations; think and react quickly and adapt an effective course of action; operate law enforcement and safety equipment; understand and follow oral and written directions; read, interpret and understand state and federal laws and County ordinances; keep precise records and write citations; write clear, grammatically correct and concise reports; and perform general mathematical calculations.

Previous Title: Park Ranger II
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