

PARK RANGER

Definition:

Under supervision, performs duties necessary to protect park patrons, resources and properties administered by the Parks Division.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This classification is the entry-level peace officer position in the Park Ranger flexible series and requires completion of a P.O.S.T certified PC 832 'Arrest, Search and Seizure' Course within 6 months of appointment. Incumbents are expected to effectively and independently deal with a range of law enforcement situations, including crowds, and be able to enforce 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. May be required to carry pepper spray or other controlling device with proper training (baton, taser, etc.) This position may allow incumbents to carry a firearm if the incumbent possesses P.O.S.T. PC832 'Arrest and Firearms' Certification. Carrying a firearm will come at the recommendation of the Park Ranger Manager, and with the approval of the Chief General Services Officer.

Promotion to Senior Park Ranger is based upon successful completion of the 12-month probationary period, merit, experience, and is subject to the recommendation of the Chief General Services Officer and the approval of Human Resources.

Essential Functions:

- 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 and 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 the 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.
- Attends training courses, as assigned.
- Maintains records and completes reports of actions taken.
- Directs traffic and enforces rules and regulations at county parks and lakes.
- Issues citations for violations and may make arrests or detain subjects, when necessary.
- Investigates 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.
- 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, and obtain a P.O.S.T certified PC 832 ‘Arrest, Search and Seizure’ course within 6 months of appointment.

Possession of a valid California Class C Driver’s License, Standard First Aid and CPR Certificates.

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 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.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec.3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.

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