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FUN FOR KIDS

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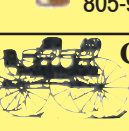
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This Month's Theme: FOREST RANGERS: THEN and NOW



Forest Service rangers have been taking care of your national forests since 1905. When you think of a forest ranger, what picture comes to your mind?

Someone riding a horse through the backcountry or....



Searching for the smoke of a wildfire from a tall fire look-out or....



Fighting a wildfire or....



Living and working deep in the woods and having to hunt and fish for food?

All of these images are correct. The early forest rangers were a hardy bunch who worked alone in the backcountry and had lots of different outdoor skills such as horseback riding, mule packing, trail building and firefighting. Early forest rangers were almost always men. Women were not allowed to be forest rangers in the old days.



Did you know that the United States Forest Service is 100 years old this year?

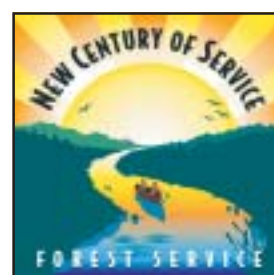


A lot has changed in 100 years! Lots of different kinds of people work for the Forest Service and many are women. Today's forest rangers have more and different responsibilities than the early rangers had, and they also have new skills that help them "care for the land and serve people." What skills do you think a modern forest ranger needs?

Maybe you will want to work for the Forest Service someday. You could do many different things. These are just a few of the jobs you could have:

1. Wildlife Biologist. This is someone who studies all the animals in the national forest and helps make sure their home (also called habitat) is healthy.
2. Archeologist. This person studies and protects the places and things that Native Americans and pioneers used a long time ago.
3. Geologist. A geologist studies rocks and minerals and interesting features of the forest landscape such as hot springs and landslides.
4. Herpetologist. This person studies all species of both reptiles and amphibians.
5. Fire Manager: This is someone who helps prevent and fight unwanted wildfires, and uses controlled fire as a tool to improve the forest.

Can you match these different Forest Service jobs with the photos below?



There are lots of interesting jobs to do in today's Forest Service, whether you enjoy the outdoors or prefer to work in a ranger station. Call your local ranger station if you would like to know more about the Forest Service or visit the Kids' Section of the Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/kids.

Quiz Answers: 1. D, 2. B, 3. E, 4. C, 5. A

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