

## Why Harry Yount?

By tradition, Harry Yount is considered the first Park Ranger. A wrangler and packer for the Hayden Survey in the 1870s, he was hired by Yellowstone Superintendent Norris in 1880 as the park's first gamekeeper. Like many later-day Rangers, Yount found his job not only challenging and rewarding, but sometimes frustrating and occasionally almost impossible. In 1881 he established a bond with all Rangers when he wrote in his letter of resignation, a small and reliable...force...is...really the most practicable way of seeing that the game is protected from wanton slaughter, the forests from careless use of fire, and the enforcement of all the other laws, rules and regulations for the protection and improvement of the park...

Yount virtually defined the role of the Ranger as that of resources protection and management and visitor service.



Harry Yount



## What Makes this Possible?

The servicewide Harry Yount Award, modeled after a program begun in the Midwest Region, was initiated in 1994. The first Ranger to receive the award was Judith Knuth Folts, who was the recipient of the Midwest Region's 1992 Harry Yount Award.

Nationally, Rick Gale (*above*) was the first honoree. In the inaugural year of the servicewide award, he and Jack Davis received special Harry Yount Awards for Lifetime Achievement. Gale was honored by President Clinton during a National Park Week reception at the White House and Davis was presented his award by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Grand Canyon. Also honored in 1994 was Joe Fowler, who received the first servicewide Harry Yount Award for excellence in "rangering."

The Harry Yount Award is the hallmark of recognition for Park Rangers. Presentation of the award in a White House ceremony is a credit not only to the exemplary day-to-day service of Rangers like Jim Hannah, the 1995 servicewide recipient, or the lifetime achievements of Rick Gale, but to all National Park Rangers. It is the kind of recognition that rewards both those who receive it and the profession as a whole. It honors us all.

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# The Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award



“A park would not be a park...”  
“...rangers are the cornerstone of every park organization...Every superintendent has used the phrase ‘*Have the rangers do it,*’ thousands of times. A park would not be a park without a ranger.”

BATTLING FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS  
Director George B. Hartzog, Jr.

The Harry Yount Award for excellence in “rangering” recognizes Park Rangers who are skilled in traditional, generalist ranger duties and who have formed the “cornerstone of every park organization.”

Established in 1992, the award honors those Rangers whose overall impact, record of accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties have promoted the highest degree of awareness and appreciation for the ranger profession and the National Park Service.

### Excellence in “Rangering”

The Harry Yount Award is a peer recognition that is given regionally and servicewide on an annual basis. It honors rangers whose records show both tangible and intangible benefits to the park ranger profession, whose total impact exceeds normal expectations, and who reflect initiative, imagination, perseverance, competence, creativity, resourcefulness, dedication, and integrity.

Harry Yount Award honorees demonstrate:

- outstanding leadership
- exemplary contributions
- notably high standards of performance
- excellence in traditional ranger duties and skills
- dedication to the park ranger profession
- overall excellence of service

The Harry Yount Award seeks to:

- encourage high standards of performance
- foster an especially responsive attitude towards public service
- enhance public appreciation of the ranger profession
- build *esprit de corps* and further the spirit of the art and science of “rangering”

### A Call for Nominations

The call for nominations is made by the Washington Office in early December. They are due to the field area directors by February 6th.

Those eligible include any National Park Service employee whose position requires a variety of traditional ranger duties, including resources management, interpretation, and visitor protection and service. Direct supervisors of employees performing those duties are also eligible. Because it is a peer recognition, any employee who is eligible for the award can make a nomination.

Nominations must not exceed two single-spaced, type-written pages and must clearly and completely state the reasons why the nominee merits the award. They should address the nominee’s skill in traditional ranger duties and include specific examples of leadership and contributions to the park ranger profession.

Field area recipients of the Harry Yount Award receive a cash honorarium and a plaque with a picture of Yount. Selected from the field area honorees, the servicewide recipient is recognized as that individual who, out of a group of outstanding individuals, has best furthered the spirit of the art and science of “rangering.”

The servicewide honoree receives an original sculpture of Yount, a cash honorarium, and is recognized during National Park Week in Washington, D.C.