



HORACE M. ALBRIGHT TRAINING CENTER

Center Celebrates 50 Years Of Learning

On December 13th, the staff of Horace M. Albright Training Center marked the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class. Appropriately, there was a class in session and graduating that very day to help celebrate, which included a short speech by the acting superintendent, a commemorative photo, and consumption of a delicious cake.

The idea of a National Park Service training center program evolved in the 1950s as the agency experienced rapid growth and unprecedented popularity. The first center was named in honor of the inspirational second director of the National Park Service, Horace M. Albright, and located at Yosemite. The first "Introduction to NPS Operations" course started there with 25 participants September 23, 1957 and successfully concluded on December 13, 1957. This graduation remains a symbol of the NPS providing space, time, and opportunity for employees to learn what they need to successfully accomplish the NPS mission.

Increased demand for classes and cramped conditions at Yosemite soon led to a new facility built at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Dedicated October 26, 1963, the center recently underwent a multimillion dollar renovation (completed in 2006) which improved the health and safety of the facilities, expanded teaching capability, and converted student residences to single-occupancy studios.

Coursework offered at Albright has also evolved with the times. Today, Albright is home to the NPS natural and cultural resources stewardship and visitor and resource protection training programs. The center is also a venue for NPS Fundamentals, training that provides all new and experienced NPS employees foundational learning of NPS universal competencies and includes web-based distance learning, on-campus study, and field exercises. In a recent memorandum, Director Bomar urged each supervisor "to make Fundamentals a priority for all of their new permanent employees."

It is worthy to note that, when not in use by the NPS, any federal agency is welcome to host a training event at Horace M. Albright Training Center. The center's inspirational setting, renovated classroom and lodging facilities, staff support, and low cost of use provide a great combination of quality, function, and value.

At the milestone of this anniversary, over 20,000 students have learned at Horace M. Albright Training Center. Perhaps you are one of them. If so, thank you for being part of the legacy of learning, camaraderie, and perpetuation of NPS excellence the center is known for. Should you want to share memories of your time at Albright, learn more about use of the center or the training programs offered, or even how to retrieve a copy of that class photo you were in years ago, contact Mark Harner at 928-638-7983 or at Mark_Harner@nps.gov.

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