

Albright Training Center

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Horace M. Albright
Training Center
Grand Canyon, Arizona

A Tradition of Training



"Introduction to 'NPS Operation' Class
Albright Training Center, 9/26/66"

America's National Parks have been called crown jewels, unsurpassed in beauty and even referred to as America's best idea. The National Park System spans twelve time zones, covers more than eighty-four million acres and attracts over 270 million visitors each year. Included in the National Park System are historic icons such as the Statue of Liberty and Alcatraz island, as well as natural treasures such as Yellowstone and the Everglades National Parks. Have you ever stopped to think about the men and women who work to protect these places?

Many Parks - One Mission



Perhaps you have visited the Statue of Liberty, Denali National Park or Grand Canyon National Park and seen park staff wearing identical uniforms in places separated by thousands of miles. Have you ever wondered what connects the more than 15,000 employees of the National Park Service together across this vast country? Every unit of the National Park System is connected through dedication to a shared mission to keep our parks available for the enjoyment of visitors and to protect these parks unimpaired for future generations.

Humble Beginnings



Historic Photo:
Park Rangers training in law enforcement

When the National Park Service was created in 1916, its mission of preservation and visitor enjoyment was established by Congress. By the 1950s, America's National Parks were experiencing unparalleled growth in visitation. It became apparent that to meet the needs of a growing public the National Park Service would need to develop a larger force of employees dedicated to the agency's mission and trained in its operations.

In 1957, a Park Ranger "training academy" began in Yosemite National Park in an attempt to meet the needs of the agency. By 1963, this "training academy" would move to the newly constructed Horace M. Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park, named in honor of the second director of the National Park Service.

Why Grand Canyon?



Historic Photo:
Park Rangers training in climbing rescue

The construction of the Albright Training Center dates to an era when National Park Rangers performed a wide variety of tasks in their work — law enforcement, maintenance, education, administration, and resource management - sometimes all in one day! Grand Canyon National Park offered an ideal laboratory for training and development in these areas.

Grand Canyon was specifically chosen as a large, western, remote, mostly natural resource park to host training. During the same time period the National Park Service's Stephen T. Mather Training Center, located in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, was established to highlight smaller, eastern, urban, mostly cultural resource parks.

"Ranger Skills" Class
Albright Training Center, 10/4/82 to 11/9/82

Continuing the Tradition



Today, the National Park Service (NPS) continues to grow. National Parks continue to see increased growth in visitation and increased specialization in job fields. Maintaining its relevance, the Albright Training Center carries on its tradition of training park employees to meet the needs of modern times while staying rooted in the mission of the National Park Service. Each year Albright Training Center serves over 700 students by hosting trainings in NPS operations, Natural and Cultural

Resource Stewardship, Visitor and Resource Protection, sustainability and a number of other topics. To support its programs the center offers training rooms with state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, on-site efficiency apartments and a student lounge for social gatherings.

As the National Park Service continues its work into the next century, the Albright Training Center will continue to support the men, women and mission of the NPS. Ours is a mission that touches every park.

Contact Information

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"NPS Fundamentals" Class
Albright Training Center, 7/28/09 to 8/6/09