

International Volunteers in Parks Program



Sharing America's Best Idea with the World

Each year the International Volunteers-in-Parks (IVIP) Program coordinates volunteer training programs for 125 to 150 foreign students and park professionals at U.S. national parks. International volunteers, called "IVIPs," train with park rangers and other park professionals, and gain practical experience in a variety of natural or cultural resource fields. IVIP programs are unpaid and may be from 1 to 12 months in length. Most IVIPs live in park housing, experiencing America's wilderness and most treasured places first-hand. When international volunteers return home to share their new skills, they have the potential to multiply NPS's training and spread the Service's mission created nearly one hundred years ago.

Who can be an NPS IVIP ?

Students of: park management, environmental science, forestry, biology, ecology, history, archaeology, historic preservation & many other fields.
Professionals in a variety of fields: park rangers, wildlife managers, social scientists, museum managers, teachers, historians, architects, planners, visitor management specialists, & YOU!

*Attention: Foreign Park and Protected Area Staff:
For more information contact: Linda_Bennett@nps.gov*

Requirements for Participation:

- Speak English, and be at least 18 years old;
- Be enrolled in a university and majoring in a park management related subject or be a professional working for a national park or protected area organization;
- Have funds to pay for all travel and expenses incurred during program;
- Have medical insurance coverage in the U.S;
- Agree to return home, after program ends.

Examples of IVIP Training Programs

- Natural Resource Management; Invasive Species Management; Wildlife Management;
- GPS/GIS Mapping; Hydrology;
- Cultural Resource Management; Historic Preservation; Archeology;
- Environmental Education; Interpretation (Public Education)
- Concessions Management; Search and Rescue; Wilderness Management



Everglades NP
IVIP Naomi Kibe, an urban Japanese national park staffer, helped the park's Fire Management division with vegetation surveys, insect trapping, & identifying plant species. Ms. Kibe also trained with Everglades' Interpretation division, and learned how to create and present environmental education programs.



Petrified Forest & Mount Rushmore NPs
Korean Park Ranger Kim Tae Woo participated in two consecutive IVIP programs with the US National Park Service. He assisted Petrified Forest with planning its new visitors center and then helped Mount Rushmore National Parks to map new trails.



Colonial NHP
British IVIP Jamie Brocklehurst relished assembling an audience in the visitor center for interpretive programs, and then marching them along the British defense lines at the battlefield, where he explained the events leading up to the 1781 siege of Yorktown. Brocklehurst's presence lent a very authentic "voice" to the living history program.



Channel Islands NP
Kruger National Park ranger Andrew Lumbe, shown here during training with NPS Trainer Todd Swain, at Channel Islands National Park, completed an extensive 6-week NPS Law Enforcement Natural Resources training program, which took place in several other national parks.

For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/oiatopics/ivip/ivip.htm>