BADGES
and
ORNAMENTATION
of the
NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE
BADGES
and
UNIFORM
ORNAMENTATION
of the
NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

UNIFORM

COAT

Front:
Top of upper pockets to be level with shoulder, bottom of lower pocket to be 2 to 2 1/2 inches above bottom of coat. Bottom of coat to extend 1 to 2 inches below crotch. Top button to be in line with tops of upper pockets.

Breeches

Front:
Half-belt, convertable, made of same material as coat. Bottom of breeches to be 1 to 2 1/2 inches below bottom of coat.

Overcoat

Front:
Half-belt, convertible, made of same material as coat. Bottom of overcoat to extend 1 to 3 inches below bottom of coat.

Back:
Back of coat to be 2 pieces, 2 shaping seams in each piece; to have 7/8 to 1 1/2 inch vent.

Breeches

Back:
Back of breeches to be 2 pieces, with 1 shaping seam in each piece.

Complete uniform showing proper position of collar ornaments, sleeve insignia, budge and service stripes.
Washington Bartlett Lewis, 1926

Lewis, better known as "Dusty", spent his whole career at Yosemite National Park, becoming superintendent 1917-1929. One of the prime movers in the uniforming the Service, he epitomized the well dress ranger. Even in the field, he always appeared as if someone had just ran an iron over his uniform.

NPSHPC/YOSE#RL-9429
BADGES
and
UNIFORM ORNAMENTATION
of the
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By
R. Bryce Workman

This digital edition (2021) contains altered photos/images to improve readability;
it should not be viewed as an accurate scan of the original copy.
Dedication

To all those men and women of the National Park Service, past and present, whose sacrifices and travails have engendered a system of national parks respected throughout the world, and of which the American people can be justly proud.
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Uniforms and symbols designating units have been part of the military scene for well over two thousand years. They were first introduced to distinguish friend from foe, but later became a source of esprit de corps as uniformed organizations throughout the world vied with one another by wearing distinctive uniforms and unique symbols to set themselves apart and display their status to others of the same culture.

In the American military distinctive uniforms and emblems have, and still are, used to differentiate between the ranks of the personnel within the different Services. A series of metal insignia identify officers, while chevrons set the non-commissioned officers apart from the lowly private. In addition, special emblems were devised to identify those individuals with unique talents and positions.

Each branch of the Army (Infantry, Armor, Artillery, etc.) has its own special emblem and to further identify, as well as contribute to the elan of the organization, the various units within each branch (Divisions, Regiments, etc.) also have their own special identification in the form of a patch.

The uniform, badges and ornamentation of the National Park Service is an outgrowth of the military’s presence in the Nation’s parks during the early years of their existence, as Bryce Workman so ably illustrates in this volume. The Department of the Interior utilized the military example even in the early parks that had no martial presence and the National Park Service, when it was formed in 1916, attempted to follow this same military tradition of setting the officers apart from the men. The early insignia assigned to each group amply reflected this desire.

In addition, following the example of the Army, the Service instituted a system of unique symbols to reward specialists, who incidently were all officers and just like the Army, even though the Park Service is a much smaller organization, it carried the specialists badges to far. What at first looked like a good idea went from sub-group to sub-
group to sub-group, ad nauseam. This ebb and flow from general to the specific is a frequent theme in the subject of badges and devices. The present Army uniform is a perfect example. Everyone wears the same coat and then we hang special badges and devices all over it, so that one begins to look like an Edsel.

To alleviate the rapidly growing confusion, it became necessary for the Service to completely revamp their mode of operation and thinking. It would seem that we Americans must always have some sort of unique and special identity and wish everyone else to have it as well.

This volume should be very beneficial to those National Park Service employees interested in the history of the badges and ornamentation that have adorned the uniform of the National Park Ranger over the years, as well as collectors of Park Service and military memorabilia. This is the first serious study dealing with this subject and will certainly clear up a lot of myths within the National Park Service concerning this material.

It is truly amazing how quickly people forget where some of these devices came from and when they were introduced. There is many a ranger who believes that the arrow device must go back to the dawn of time or at least to the very beginnings of the Park Service. They will be stunned to discover the date that the arrowhead device was introduced to the Park Service uniform was 1952. This is but one of the many discoveries and surprises to be found in the pages of this interesting volume.

William L. Brown III
Linwood, Maryland
1997
INTRODUCTION

From the early days of Yellowstone National Park, there was a need to distinguish the men who would protect the national parks from those who would damage them. The early rangers, such as Harry Yount, did not wear uniforms and may or may not have carried a badge. The first clear reference to badges for rangers relates to their use by Yellowstone park scouts. The 1898 U.S. Department of the Interior badge was evidently the first universal badge to be used by the "forest rangers," as the rangers in Interior's parks as well as forest reserves were then called. From then until the first uniform came into being a decade later, badges were all that identified rangers. The uniform enabled the greater public recognition that was desired.

In the beginning, the National Park Service had the trappings of a military unit similar to the U.S. Army, which it replaced in some of the western parks. Materials and ornamentation for the officers (those who were not rangers) were of higher quality than those for the rangers. Officers wore serge instead of heavy wool and gold fill instead of nickel plate or German silver. Patches, or brassards as they were called, were worn on the sleeve to distinguish the various positions. These distinctions came to an end, for the most part, in 1928 when it was decided to raise the ranger in the field to the same level as those in administration. Rangers of the National Park Service have guarded the Nation's parks well over the years, making their mark in the history of this country in the process and as such, deserve recognition.

The following history of the various articles of adornment that have been used over the years to identify the National Park Service ranger was first published in 1991 as Number 1, "Badges and Insignia", in a series of books covering the uniforms of the
National Park Service. This information was gleamed from public records as well as the National Parks Service History Collection (NPSHC) of badges and insignia that have been donated over the years by people interested in perpetuating the history of what the "man in the field" wore. So much information has come to light since that original publication, making this revision necessary in order to properly illustrate the various adornments of the ranger uniform. Past and present National Park Service employees plus a small but elite band of private collectors have helped immensely in this endeavor by opening their minds and boxes of treasured memorabilia. I would like to especially thank Tom DuRant, photo curator of the National Park Service History Photograph Collection (NPSHPC), for his invaluable assistance in illustrating this work with its many historical images and Deryl Stone and Rick Howard for allowing me access to their collections. As with any treatise, such as this, many others, often unsung, have contributed greatly to it's success. I wish to thank David Nathanson, librarian at Harpers Ferry Center, for his assistance and inspiration, Barry Mackintosh for his superb editing of my original work, and the myriad others throughout the National Park Service, and other institutions, for their unstinting help in pulling the imagery and documentation together.

R. Bryce Workman
New Windsor Maryland
1996
Metal Badges

Although Congress authorized the use of Army troops to protect Yellowstone National Park in 1883, when they started patrolling in 1886 they were only empowered to escort the offenders out of the park, not arrest them. Here and in the California national parks that came into being after 1890, the troops sometimes employed ingenious methods of coping with those that would defile the parks, such as expelling offenders from one side, while driving their flocks or casting their weapons out the opposite side. But a more regular form of law enforcement was needed. For this duty civilian rangers, or scouts as they were known in Yellowstone, were hired. These early forest rangers, as they would later be called, displayed their authority in the form of a badge, usually from some local jurisdiction, or in the case of Yellowstone, the park.

The earliest known badge attributed to a national park is that of the "Yellowstone Park Scout." It probably came in after the 1894 Lacey Act, when scouts were hired to enforce the hunting prohibition in the national parks. It was silver, round, two inches in diameter,
with YELLOWSTONE PARK SCOUT stamped around the perimeter. The middle was cut out in the shape of a star with a number stamped in the center. It was made by the J. P. Cook Company of Omaha, Nebraska. The chief scout’s badge was sterling and cost $1.25. The other scouts wore badges of German silver and were charged 75 cents if they lost them, probably the replacement cost. These badges were worn by rangers at Yellowstone National Park until after the separation of the Services in 1905, and new badges issued in 1906. (The Forest Service was transferred to the Department of Agriculture) Up until this time the men in both Services were considered "Forest Rangers".

It is not known exactly what the badges issued to rangers in the other parks looked like. But from correspondence and photographs we know that they were being worn. There are three extant photographs of rangers in Sequoia National Park wearing two different badges, a round badge over one with a shield configuration. Two of these photographs are circa 1902; the other one, while undatable, shows one of the rangers from the other photographs, Lew Davis, wearing the same clothes. So it can be assumed that it was taken about the same time as the others. The two 1902 photographs are of the same four rangers, taken on the same day. The images are not very clear, but from the reflections on the round badges it can be determined that they are solid, without piercing.

There is a forest reserve ranger badge in a private collection that is

Yellowstone Park Scout Badge, c.1894-1906. This badge was issued to civilian scouts hired by the military to help protect the park. Scouts were issued German-silver, or plated badges, while chief scouts received sterling silver.

NPSHC

Rangers of Sequoia National Park near old Britten store and post office, c.1902. Rangers are wearing the 1898 USDI badge with a "patrol" (?) Badge under it.

Left to right: Lew Davis, 1901-1909, 1924-1929; Ernest Britten, 1900-1905 (transferred to Forest Service in 1905); Charlie Blossom, 1901-1916; Harry Britten (nephew of Ernest), 1902-1903, 1904-1915.

NPSHPC/SEQU#886
William Watts Hooper, c.1900. Hooper was appointed forester in the Kenosha Range country sometime after 1887 and remained with the Forest Service in the 1905 separation. He is shown wearing the 1898 Forest Reserve Ranger badge.

Forest Reserve Ranger Badge, 1898-1906. This badge was probably issued to the rangers working in the national parks as well as those in the national forests, since both were known as Forest Rangers.

Courtesy of Rick Howard

stamped "Department of the Interior." This indicates its use before the 1905 separation, for Gifford Pinchot, chief of Agriculture's new Bureau of Forestry, immediately ordered new badges for his rangers when he obtained the forest reserves. A photograph in the Forest Service photo collection depicts William Watts Hooper wearing what appears to be this badge.

The badge in the private collection was made by the John Robbins Manufacturing Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts. It is 2-inches in diameter, convex in shape and made of German, or nickel-silver. It has US in inch-high letters in the center with FOREST RESERVE RANGER around it in 3/16-inch letters. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR is superimposed over the US in 1/8-inch letters. As was common practice with badges at the time, all the letters are stamped into the metal instead of being raised. The park rangers may have worn this badge or one stamped "park ranger" rather than "forest reserve ranger." If this was the case, though, it seems logical that they would have been known as park rangers instead of forest rangers.

This is probably the badge alluded to by Frank F. Liebig in an article he wrote in 1944 for the Forest Service, concerning his recollections as a ranger on the Flathead Forest Reserve in 1902. "The Supervisor gave me a notebook or two and a nice shiny silver badge," he recalled. "It said on it, 'Department of the Interior, Ranger.'" No example of a "Department of the Interior/Ranger" badge from this era is known, so Liebig's recollection may have been faulty. The US and FOREST RESERVE are much larger than the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR and it seems likely that he would have remembered them if indeed, this was the style of badge issued to him. Yet such a badge may have been used before 1905 by the national parks while they and the forest reserves were both under Interior. "National park service" then denoted Interior's park function, not the future bureau. It's interesting to note that in an image of him taken around this time he also has what appears to be a second small badge under his ranger badge.

The origin of the bottom shield badge in the Sequoia photographs is unknown. These are most likely Deputy Marshal badges issued by some local jurisdiction to give the ranger added authority when arresting malefactors. To complicate matters further, the shield badge on Charlie Blossom is different from that of the other three rangers, but it has the most contrast of the group.
There is another interesting badge with a "C" scroll strap border, in a private collection. It contains the words SEQUOIA NAT'L PARK in two lines in the center, FOREST RANGER in a curved bar at the top and CALIFORNIA at the bottom. Since men working in the parks were considered "Park Rangers" after 1905, this badge most likely predates that period. But without documentary or pictorial evidence to substantiate its use in the park, it has been relegated to the park associated badges section.

To clarify the narrative from here on, the badges have been arbitrarily assigned numbers based on their dates of introduction. Supplementary letters are used when more than one badge was introduced in a given year.

The next badge to be worn by rangers in the parks was introduced in 1906. A contract was let with Lamb & Tilden, Washington, DC, in June of that year for 25 badges to be delivered the following month. A memo in the Sequoia National Park Archives states that these badges are to be for "Park Rangers, Scouts and others in National Park service of the Department, the die to be completed in 3 weeks, and 25 badges, in German silver, one week later."\(^3\)

Lamb & Tilden wasn't the only company to offer these badges. An old, undated product sheet shows that C.H. Hanson of Chicago, Illinois was also marketing them. It's possible there were others, but this is unlikely due to the small number of badges required. So far these are the only companies that have come to light.

There is no stipulation in the original contract that the die become the property of the Department, as in later contacts, so, it's possible that Lamb & Tilden furnished all the park ranger badge requirements until the company's demise in 1916, at which time Hanson may have taken over. But this is pure speculation. It's possible they both were supplying badges at the same time.

Frank Liebig, Flathead Forest Reserve, c.1902. Liebig remained with the Forest Service when it was removed from the Department of the Interior in 1905. He is wearing his "shiny silver badge" that stated "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/RANGER. There also appears to be a small badge under the large one.

Tilden
There were several sterling and at least one gold example made at Tiffany & Company, New York. It is not known how many sterling badges were produced, but Horace M. Albright and Jesse Nusbaum are known to have received them. The gold one belonged to Stephen T. Mather. These were undoubtedly made after Mather became director of the fledgling National Park Service in 1917. Albright's was stolen from his coat, but Jesse Nusbaum carried his around in his pocket for many years afterward.

An example in the National Park Service History Collection is nickel-silver, two inches in diameter, with a variation of the Interior Department's eagle seal used until 1913 (actually a cross between Interior's eagle and the Army breastplate eagle of Civil War vintage). There is a rope edge around the badge, with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE around the top inside the rope edge, and DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR around the bottom. On the back is a pin, without safety catch, for fastening the badge. Yellowstone has another example of this badge in its collection. The first "National Park Service" buttons, obtained in 1912, were made utilizing this design.

Apparently there was another badge issued in some of the parks around 1917 or 1918. There is evidence that Yosemite and Yellowstone received them, but whether or not any of the other parks did is not known. There are photographs showing rangers in these two parks wearing a small badge approximately 1-1/4 inches in diameter, about the size of the 1921B superintendent's badge. Replying to the uniform committee's questionnaire of December 2, 1922, Chief Ranger Sam T. Woodring, at Yellowstone, answered question 5b by saying: "The present badge is a great deal larger than necessary. I believe that the small round badge issued prior to the one now used should be re-adopted."

It has been suggested that this badge was applied to a shield to make the 1920 park ranger badge. This is highly speculative, and it is inconceivable that there would not be some reference in the official correspondence to the fact that the new director's and superintendent's badges, when they were inaugurated in 1921, were the same as the old ranger badges. Even more unimaginable would be the issuance of superintendents badges to temporary rangers as attested by several photographs from Yellowstone taken in 1922.
One possible answer may lie in a badge that was issued by the Interior Department in 1919. That year the department adopted a design for a new field service badge that was available for the use of all its bureaus. This design consisted of an adaptation of the departmental seal, with US over the buffalo and a blank space under the feet of the animal in which the name of the particular field service could be inserted. If this is the case, then the 1917 date on the photograph is wrong. There are a number of photographs from Yellowstone that fit this time frame. One, taken in 1919, shows a group of rangers on motorcycles. While not uniformed, Eivid Scoyen's small badge can be seen protruding below his pocket flap.

Another photograph is of E. Burket, taken in 1922. At first glance this image would appear to have been taken prior to 1918. He is wearing a uniform with a military cut which was not to be purchased after 1918. Ranger Burket is also wearing a small round badge. The answer is quite simple. Burket was hired as a temporary ranger in 1921. Rangers had to pay their own expenses and due to their low salary, temporary rangers, for the most part, did not want to spend money for a uniform that they would probably only be wearing for one summer. Consequently, they were allowed to wear whatever they wished. Many, like Burket, purchased surplus Army uniforms to wear. Superintendent Albright changed this in the summer of 1922 by requiring the purchase of a regulation uniform as a condition of employment.

However, the best image showing a ranger wearing this badge is of Forrest Townsley, taken at Grand Canyon National Park in 1919. Townsley was chief ranger at Yosemite National Park, but was on detached duty to the Canyon. This image is the only one to show any contrast on the surface of the badge, but unfortunately, not enough to determine what it displayed. There are no known examples of a badge fitting this description.

There must not have been enough of the small round badges for all park personnel because photographs show that some retained the larger 1906 badge, notably temporary rangers like Claire Hodges, one of the first women to be hired by the Service.

Apparently, with the issuance of the 1920 badges, the 1906 badges were not redistributed to the parks to cover the shortage. Instead, the parks retained the badges previously used. In the case of
Clare Marie Hodges, temporary ranger, Yosemite National Park, 1918. Hodges was one of the first two women to be hired by the national Park Service. Since uniforms were not specified for women, she is wearing what were termed “camping clothes” at that time, with only her 1906 badge to identify her as a ranger.

National Park Service Ranger Badge, 1920. The center emblem was soldered to the shield and the whole nickel plated. There was only one style and was to be used by anyone requiring a badge in the performance of their duty.

Yellowstone and Yosemite, this was the small round badge.

Although, for some unknown reason, badges were omitted from the 1920 uniform regulations, there was a new badge designed and passed for the use of the National Park Service. This badge was first issued in June 1920. It is a flat, two-piece badge, with a coined center the size of a fifty cent piece featuring an eagle facing forward, with outswepit wings, its head looking to the left, mounted on a shield with U.S. PARK RANGER across the top. The coined center is an exact copy of a drawing that appears on the back of the cover paper of the National Park Portfolio published in 1916. This drawing may have been a proposed seal for the infant bureau since it doesn’t appear elsewhere. All subsequent editions of the portfolio used the Department of the Interior seal.

There was only one style of badge and it was intended that all qualified employees, officers and rangers, were to wear it. The base metal is unknown, but the whole was nickel plated. Apparently the nickel plating was of an inferior quality, because on January 7, 1921, Engineer George E. Goodwin complained that “the present badges are not satisfactorily plated, in that they are beginning to turn yellow and do not retain their original silver color.”

The 1906 badges were to be turned in to Park Service headquarters upon receipt of the new 1920 badges, but because the demand for the new badges was greater than the quantity initially produced, the parks were authorized to retain some of the old badges for their temporary rangers.

There was also much dissatisfaction over the fact that the officers (all permanent employees other than rangers) were required to wear the same badge as the rangers. It was suggested that the 1906 badge be retained for the officers, and that to differentiate between the chief and assistant chief rangers and the park and temporary rangers, the former two have gold-plated badges.

Service headquarters agreed that the badges of the officers should be different from those of the rangers. So when the 1921 regulations were drawn up, they specified that the officers would have a round badge (1921B), actually the coined center portion of the standard ranger badge. The ranger badge design remained the same as the 1920. The regulations authorized the following:
This drawing of the the 1920 U.S. Park Ranger badge, although undated, is probably the original rendering of the first badge. It's possible it was made after the original order since it states the the badges were to be made of "best quality German silver" and there is no mention of nickel-plating. There were complaints that the nickel plating on the initial order was inferior and "yellowed" soon after issue. None of the examined Model 1920 badges examined are plated.

National Archives RG 75

This emblem appears on the back of the cover paper for the first National Park Portfolio, printed in 1916. All subsequent issues carry the Department of the Interior seal. It may have been a proposed seal for the infant bureau. This design was used as a model for the center of the Model 1920 ranger badge.

Courtesy of Deryl Stone

the former two have gold-plated badges.11

Service headquarters agreed that the badges of the officers should be different from those of the rangers. So when the 1921 regulations were drawn up, they specified that the officers would have a round badge (1921B), actually the coined center portion of the standard ranger badge. The ranger badge design remained the same as the 1920. The regulations authorized the following:
Assistant Director Cammerer, Mesa Verde, 1925. Arno Bertholt Cammerer was assistant director in the Mather and Albright Directorates before becoming director 1933-1940. His Assistant Director brassard is very clear in this image.

Director and assistant director—gold-plated round badge (1921A)
All other officers—nickel-plated round badge (1921B)
Chief and assistant chief rangers—gold-plated shield badge (1921C)
Park and temporary rangers—nickel-plated shield badge (1920)

There is also evidence that although the regulations called for the superintendent's badge to be nickel plated, at least some of them were sterling.13

The 1921 badges were furnished by F.J. Heiberger & Son, Inc., of Washington, D.C., but since they are unmarked the manufacturer is unknown.

In early April 1921, exception was taken to all of the officers wearing the same badge. Acting Director Arno Bertholt Cammerer considered the badge to be an emblem of authority and felt that only those in positions of command should wear them. About this time a request came in from a superintendent for badges for his clerks, per the regulations. This prompted Director Mather, on April 13, 1921, to amend the new regulations to read that the only officers authorized to wear badges were superintendents, assistant superintendents, and custodians.14

The 1921 uniform regulations were amended on June 13, 1922, to specify that "the service badge, that had previously been issued to employees without charge, would now require a $5 deposit." When the badge was lost previously, the replacement cost of eighty cents was levied. Cammerer explained the rationale for the higher deposit: "Without questioning the honesty of any individual or group of employees we have best reasons to believe that a number of badges are kept or given to friends by employees for souvenirs after paying the small amount to cover cost. These badges are issued to indicate Federal authority and every precaution must be taken to prevent
them from falling into the hands of unauthorized persons.\textsuperscript{16}

If a ranger "lost" his badge, the deposit was forfeit, and another five dollars was required before he could be issued a new one. No charge was made for replacing broken badges. If the ranger could prove to his superintendent that the badge had been lost through no negligence on his part, the superintendent had the authority to issue another without additional charge.\textsuperscript{17}

This arrangement remained in effect until June 15, 1938, when Office Order No. 350 rescinded the five-dollar deposit requirement. It declared instead that "Each temporary ranger and/or fire guard . . . must be informed that unless the badge and collar ornaments are returned in good condition, a deduction of $5.00 will be made for each badge which may be lost."

When the regulations were being revised in 1928, it was questioned whether badges were necessary for the director and assistant director. It was decided that since these officials did not have direct command responsibility in the field, they weren't necessary, and subsequently were eliminated from the new regulations. The other badges, though, remained the same.

At the 1929 superintendents' conference, it was decided to design a new ranger badge. This task was assigned to Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint of the Landscape Division. A number of designs were submitted, but none of them met the approval of the Washington office. It was thought that it would be advantageous to have a number on the face of the badge, but with all the information that was required by the department, this did not lend itself to a pleasing image. Horace Albright suggested that the committee consider using the departmental buffalo. Even though a drawing was made to this effect, it apparently died from lack of interest.

Because a new badge design could not be agreed upon when new badges were purchased in June 1930, the current design was retained. They remained flat with a clasp on the back, but since a change was being considered, the badges were now stamped in one piece instead of two, probably as a cost-cutting measure. Regulations called for them to be numbered, but the wording is somewhat ambiguous. Unlike the later fire guard badges, which were to be consecutively numbered, it is not clear whether they were to be numbered at the factory, at Service headquarters before issue to the field, or in the parks. There are several specimens in the NPS collection, two of which have numbers crudely
Proposed(?) 1936 Superintendent's Badge.
The origin of this sketch is not known, but since it is dated 1936, the year the superintendent's badge was changed, it was probably submitted for consideration as a possible candidate for the new badge.

NPSA/HFC RG Y55

National Park Service
Fire Guard Badge, 1932.
Up until this date fire guards were issued a standard park ranger badge whenever the need arose.

NPSHC/HFC

They were to be consecutively numbered for controllability. Until that time, fire guards were issued standard park ranger badges whenever the need arose.

At some point it was decided to nickel-plate the German-silver badges, undoubtedly to keep them bright and shiny since the base metal had a tendency to become dull.

Sometime in 1935 or early 1936, the subject of the superintendent's badge arose. There is a dearth of correspondence from this period, which makes it difficult to substantiate, but there was probably the usual request for input from the field. There is at least one drawing of a proposed superintendent's badge from this period.

On April 13, 1936, Office Order No. 324 reinstated the small round gold-plated badge for use by superintendents and custodians. This badge had formerly been used by the directors but had been idle since 1928. The assistant superintendents still retained the nickel-plated round badge.

In addition, a new badge was authorized for the park guards. It was the same as the one assigned to rangers but the word "GUARD" was at the top in place of "RANGER". Park Naturalists could be issued ranger badges now when they were required to enforce Park regulations.

Also that year it appears that the ranger badges began to be curved, or dapped to use the period vernacular. It is not known if this was at the instigation of the Service or the badge manufacturer. There is no reference to this feature in either the official correspondence or the uniform regulations (as in the 1946 uniform regulations) but it is amply demonstrated by extant examples.
documented to have been worn by rangers during that period. The curving of the badge caused it to lay closer to the uniform, thus making a more pleasing appearance. The design and nickel plating of these badges remained the same as the Model 1930.

For the first time the location of the badge was stipulated. The regulation specified that "Superintendents, Custodians, rangers, and fire guards shall wear their badges on their uniforms at all times. The badge shall be worn over the left pleat of the left breast pocket. Immediately below the button on coats and fatigue jackets. It shall be worn displayed on approximately the same position on field shirts and overcoats."

The 1940 uniform regulations called for another badge to be added to the cadre. This one was to be used by the junior park wardens. This badge was to be the same curved design as those of the rangers with the substitution of "WARDEN" for "RANGER". The plating on the example of the "warden" badge examined is starting to peel off revealing the base metal to be nickel-silver.

With the establishment of guide positions at Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth Cave National Parks in the middle of 1941, the need for a guide badge arose. Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson wrote to the Uniform Committee chairman, Superintendent John C. Preston of Lassen Volcanic National Park: "The Uniform Regulations do not now provide for a badge for guides, although they do cover badges of similar design for "park ranger", "park warden" and "park guard". It is believed that we should have a badge with the words "Park Guide" included in the Uniform Regulations."\(^{19}\)

The Uniform Committee took this suggestion under advisement and recommended "that a badge of similar design with the words "Park Guide" be included in the Uniform Regulations."\(^{20}\)

There are no known examples of the Model 1941 Park guide badge, so it is not known whether these badges were ever made and issued, or whether the events of World War II simply overtook them.

By 1941, the National Park Service had grown to the point that it was no longer feasible to have the usual two or three-man Uniform Committee. Consequently, the Uniform Committee was expanded to include two representatives from each of the four NPS regions. Lemuel A. Garrison, superintendent of Hopewell Village National Historic Site, and Benjamin L. Hadley, assistant superintendent of Acadia National Park, were selected from Region One. In reply to the customary uniform change suggestion request, several suggestions related

\(^{19}\) Forrest Sanford Townsley, chief ranger, Yosemite National Park, 1934. The 1940 Uniform Regulations only formalized where the badge had been worn for many years, as this photograph attests.

\(^{20}\) NPSHPC-Ralph Anderson photo-Yose #RL-7865

U.S. Park Guard Badge, 1936.

NPSHC/HFC

U.S. Park Warden Badge, 1940. The plating is starting to peel off this badge showing the base metal to be German silver.

Courtesy of Deryl Stone
Alfred A. Heyne,
Yosemite National Park
Fire Control Aid, 1976.
Heyne retired in 1976 at
the age of 85. He is
wearing his Fire Control
Aid badge, 1970 name
tag, and a 30 year
Department of the
Interior Length-of-Service
pin. He is also wearing
what appears to be a pin
in the shape of a
helicopter.

NPSHPCHFC#91-2

Also at this time, new
badges were authorized for the fire guards, now
called Fire Control Aids. The initial
order for these badges spelled "AIDE"
with an "E", but all subsequent orders
changed the spelling on the badge to
"Fire Control Aid." While not covered
in the uniform regulations, there are a
number of silver-plated fire control aid
badges extant that are purported to have
been issued to supervisors.

In 1955 the Service considered
changing the badge and memos were
sent out soliciting suggestions from the
men in the field. The NPSHC has two,
possibly three, of these "proposed"
badges. The first two, developed by
Frank F. Kowski, had the Service's new
arrowhead emblem supplanting the eagle
in the center. A number of these were
struck, including at least one gold-plated
example, but the idea did not catch on
and it was dropped. It was also sug-
gested that an enameled badge of the
arrowhead be used, but this brought
forth vigorous protestations from the
field. 21

The other possible 1955 candi-
date has a more obscure history. It was
purchased on the outside and donated to
the National Park Service History Col-
lection. It is assembled from parts of a
park ranger badge and an assistant superintendent badge. The badge parts are stamped in unplated brass, using what appears to be the "National Park Ranger" badge die. A piece of brass was cut to match the shape of the shield of the badge, only 1/8-inch larger all around. The center was then cut out to accommodate the ranger badge. Two parallel lines are engraved around the 1/8-inch border. The top of the shield, with the "U.S. PARK RANGER," along with a short section of the two center stripes, was then separated from the badge. This was soldered inside the top of the brass border. A short section of the bottom of the two center stripes was also cut out and soldered to the bottom of the border. A 1-1/4-inch brass circle was then soldered as a bridge between the top and bottom sections of the center stripes. On top of this brass circle is mounted a silver-plated assistant superintendent's badge. The rest of the badge is unplated brass.

When new uniform regulations were issued in October, 1956, the current badge design remained in effect, but the gold plated ranger badge was now authorized to be worn by the chief park naturalist, chief park historian and chief park archaeologists as well as the chief park ranger. At the same time the permanent and seasonal assistant chief park rangers were relegated to wearing the silver badge of the rangers.

In addition to the above, the "park guide" badge was discontinued. It is not known at this time what badge, if any, the guides wore in performing their duties.

Apparently none of the designs submitted for the new badge were satisfactory because on March 8, 1957, Assistant Director Hillory A. Tolson stated in an amendment to the uniform regulations that "As the result of a survey conducted by this Office, it has been determined that there shall be no change made at this time in the design of the badges worn by Service uniformed personnel..."

In December 1959, new uniform regulations were released, to become effective on January 1, 1961. These regulations called for the number of different badges worn by uniformed personnel to be reduced to three. The small round gold and silver badges of the superintendents and assistant superintendents were discontinued. In their place they both were to wear a "gold rolled fill" badge with NATIONAL PARK RANGER on the top. All park rangers were to wear the same badge, but made of sterling silver and oxidized. This change in material was no doubt to eliminate the unsightly appearance created when the plating wore off the previous badges. All other uniformed personnel (tour leaders, guards, etc.) requiring a badge would wear one like the ranger badge but with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE at the top. These new badges were supplied by V.H. Blackinton &

Proposed new badge for National Park Ranger, 1955. Frank F. Kowski submitted this design for consideration when designs were solicited from the field for a new badge in 1955. And even though several were made, including at least one gold plated example, it didn’t command too many followers and the badge remained the same until 1960.

Ranger wearing Frank Kowski’s submission for the 1955 National Park service badge contest. Not also his length-of-service devices (20+ years). Boy Scout is Kowski’s son, Wyatt.

NPSHPC-Ralph H. Anderson
Photo-HFC#91-6
Howard J. Chapman, Park Ranger in uniform, 1963. Chapman is wearing the 1960 ranger badge. He also has a USDI Length-of-Service pin in his lapel.

This was the first of the sterling silver badges. While at first glance the badges appear to be of the same design as the previous ones, there are a couple of differences. The eagle now faces to the right, and the circle surrounding the eagle contains UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR instead of NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. These badges are dapped like the earlier ones.

Although the regulations were not to take effect until 1961, the new badges were probably purchased and issued, if a new badge was required, in 1960.

The 1961 regulations are somewhat ambiguous concerning the use of badges by women. As originally written in 1959, they specifically excluded women from wearing the badge. Under the general heading of "Badge" they state: "The "National Park Service" Badge. All uniformed employees except women [italics added], boat officers and boat crews, lifeguards, nurses, and fire control aids will wear the shield badge." Yet under the heading of "Women's Uniform" they state: "Badge to be worn on coat and optional on shirt." However, this was amended in June 1960 prior to the regulations becoming effective on January 1, 1961, to allow women to wear the "National Park Service" badge. The amendment further states that this badge was to be worn by "tour leaders, guards, and other positions designated by the superintendent". This could be interpreted to mean that women came under "other positions" since there were then no female park rangers. It was suggested at the time that women wear a smaller badge, but this did not happen.22 Lifeguards and fire control aids had their own badges.

Even though the smaller badge idea was dropped, in January 1962 the wearing of a small silver arrowhead pin was authorized for women "in lieu of a badge".23 This was unpopular among the women, and justifiably so, for the absence of a badge suggested a lack of authority. Some women were so incensed at this that they refused to wear the arrowhead. In some parks, superintendents issued them standard badges.

Mary Bradford relates the experience of when she received her pin, which was very unhappy about it. Visitors did not consider her having any authority and would by-pass her to talk to the "ranger with the badge". So she refused to wear it and requested a badge from her supervisor. He agreed with her and issued her a regular ranger badge. Unfortunately, when she pinned it on her uniform it proved to be too heavy for the
material. But, exercising that "old ranger know-how", she stuck the pin through her jacket and fastened it to her bra strap.

The arrowhead "badge" issued to Betty Otto when she joined the Service in 1963 resembled the standard ranger tie tack except for having a raised edge, as if it had been made to be enamelled in the center, and a pin fastening device. It was also nickel plated rather than sterling, like men's badges. The pins were poorly fashioned and were constantly in need of repair.

An Interior Department graphic change came in 1968, during Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's last year in office. The buffalo seal was replaced by one containing a small circle, symbolizing the sun, over two triangles, symbolizing mountains, over nine small triangles, symbolizing water, all framed by a stylized pair of hands and encircled by "U.S. Department of the Interior." The National Park Service, being a bureau of Interior, followed suit and changed the badge design to reflect the new departmental seal. Chermayeff & Geismar Associates, the designers of the new Department seal, had also designed a set of insignia for Director Hartzog's new agenda titled PARKSCAPE U.S.A. (See Arrowhead Patch section for more details) One of the items was a new round badge, but it
Office and reception personnel now wore the badge.

Fran Naylor, c.1968.
NPSHPC/HFC# 96-1333

NPSHPC/HFC# 96-1333

1968 “Good Hands” badge
NPSHC/HFC

James L. Riddle, Virgin Islands National Park, 1970. Apparently, the new 1970 badges had not been issued yet, since he is still wearing the 1968 version.
Note the green laminate nametag and small arrowhead on his cap.
NPSHPC/Cedl W. Stoughton Photo-HFC#70-142-3

The shield remained the same, with only the departmental seal replacing the eagle. These badges were furnished by V.H. Blackinton & Company.

The “good hands”, or “Allstate”24 emblem as it was derisively known, met with a great deal of opposition in the Park Service and the Department as a whole—so much so that the seal, and the badge, were changed again in less than two years. Secretary Walter J. Hickel, Udall’s successor, restored the buffalo to the Interior seal in 1969. The National Park Service again followed suit, using the buffalo this time instead of the eagle previously used. There was only one badge, and all uniformed personnel were to wear it. It was gold and consisted of the standard shield, with the Department of the Interior seal in the center. This comprises a buffalo, facing to the left, standing on grass in front of mountains with a rising sun background, encircled by a band with the words U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/MARCH 3, 1849.

The first order, numbered 1 to 4000, was delivered by the V.H. Blackinton & Company, on 18 September, 1970. They cost $7.75 each and were made out of Karat-Clad (heavy gold electroplate) brass. Subsequent orders for the 1970 badge have been shared with the G.R. Davis Company of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, depending on which company had been awarded that year’s contract, with the majority being furnished by Blackinton. With the exception of the size being increased approximately 1/16" in the early part of 1990, this is the same badge worn by Park Rangers today.25

In the early 1970’s the problem of the standard badge being too heavy for the cotton blouses worn by women

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surfaced again. Some of the parks, notably Mesa Verde and Nez Perce, took matters into their own hands and ordered a small version of the standard National Park Ranger badge from Blackinton. The badges came without numbers, but those at Mesa Verde were engraved for accountability. This practice was not followed at Nez Perce.

The experiment was short lived. The small badge looked more like a trinket, or child's toy, than a symbol of authority. Visitors were prone to making comments like, "Isn't it cute," etc., which didn't endear it to those women wearing it. Apparently, Washington did not like the idea of a miniature badge either, and requested their use be discontinued. Consequently, they were recalled and removed from the park's property lists. The disposition of the badges is unknown, although some of them no doubt became souvenirs.

There was a movement afoot in 1994 to change the badge worn by law enforcement rangers from the buffalo to the more common Federal design with an eagle on top, but this was rejected. It was felt the eagle design would give the bearer more authority in the eyes of the public. It was implemented, however, as a concealed badge in their credential case.

There are seven (7) shields, as these are called, in this series. These new "shields" are for park ranger, special agent, criminal investigator, chief park ranger, regional chief ranger, chief ranger, and assistant chief ranger.

The shield is the standard federal variety featuring an eagle on top with down swept wings. In a bar under the eagle, are the enamel-filled letters "US". The Department of the Interior seal is in the center of the shield encircled by an enamel ring containing the text "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE". Under the seal is anenameled bar with the shield holder's designation. Shield is gold plated throughout with all enamel being blue.

All of these shields were made by V.H. Blackinton and although of the same basic design, there are four styles. The only shield in the first style is the "Park Ranger". It was intended as a replacement for the current "buffalo badge and consequently was designed to be worn on the coat or shirt. This shield is a curved one-piece stamping with a pin clasp on the back. Under the designation bar at the bottom is another bar on which the shield number is located, also in blue enamel.

The second style covers the "Special Agent" and "Criminal Investigator" shields. Unlike the first, these are flat with the seal and bottom bar attached as separate pieces. These are also sequentially numbered in blue enamel under the designation bar same as the ranger. There is a half-inch wide...
1995 Park Ranger shield. This was to have been the new ranger badge, but it was opted to retain the buffalo. Instead it was issued to law enforcement rangers.

The third style is for the "Chief Park Ranger" and the "Regional Chief Ranger". These are the same as the second style except the bottom bar is larger. It was intended that the park or regional name be inserted in this location. Unfortunately, some of the park names were too long to fit the space allotted, so in order to be uniform throughout the Service, this space was left blank. This was also the period when the National Park Service was going through the pangs of "streamlining" with the resulting elimination of the "Regional Chief Ranger" position. With the elimination of these positions, these shields were recalled and are now dormant. They are being held, however, to be reissued, if and when in the ebb and flow of the Service restructuring process, this position is ever reconstituted.

Chief Ranger and Assistant Chief Ranger make up the fourth style. Since these positions are Service-wide, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE is included in blue enamel under their respective designations. And since these positions are unique, there is only one of each.

Portfolio of Badges Used by the National Park Service

The following badges are from the National Park Service History Collection (NPSHC), located at the Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, unless otherwise noted. The only exceptions are the chief and assistant chief ranger badges, which, since they are one of a kind, are carried by the respective holders of those positions.

Findings (pins) are often a method of identifying the age of a badge, but not always. Usually, though, the simple pin and hook are pre-20th century, with the sprung pin coming into general use after the turn of the century. Safety catches came in use in the 1930's. Safety catches come in a variety of designs, from the simple ring, as drawn, to a ball with a rotating ring. Most modern badges use a combination of the safety catch with a spring loading as in detail B.
1894 - 1906
YELLOWSTONE PARK SCOUTS

Chief scouts - sterling silver
Scouts - German silver

description: round; convex; pierced star; B style pin on back
size: 2" diameter

Made by: J.P. Cook Company, Omaha, Nebraska

1898 - 1906
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

All forest rangers (park & reserve), except Yellowstone National Park

description: round; convex; nickel-silver; A style pin on back
size: 2" diameter

Made by: John Robbins Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts

1906 - 1920
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

All National Park Service Personnel

description: round; convex; sterling silver or German-silver (Director Mather had gold badge); A style pin on back
size: 2" diameter

Made by: Lamb & Tilden, Washington, DC
C.H. Hanson, Chicago, Illinois
Tiffany & Company, New York, New York

1917? - 1920
YELLOWSTONE & YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

documentation incomplete

description: round
size: approximately 1-1/4"-1-1/2" diameter

made by: Unknown
1920 - 1930

UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

1920-1930 Permanent and temporary rangers
1920-1921 All other personnel

description: Flat, two-piece, nickel-plated (German silver after 1920); D style pin on back
Size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high
Made by: Unknown, possibly F.J. Heilberger & Sons, Washington, DC

1921 - 1928 and 1936 - 1960

DIRECTORS and SUPERINTENDENTS

1921-1928 Director and assistant directors
1936-1960 Superintendents

description: Flat; gold filled; D style pin on back
Size: 1-1/4" diameter
Made by: Unknown

1921-1960

SUPERINTENDENTS and OFFICERS

1921-1936 Superintendents
1921-1960 Assistant superintendents
1921 (Jan-Apr) All other officers

description: Flat, nickel plated (a few sterling silver badges were also made); D style pin on back
Size: 1-1/4" diameter
Made by: Unknown

1921 - 1930

CHIEF and ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

description: Flat; two-piece; gold plated German silver; D style pin on back
Size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high
Made by: Unknown
1930 - 1936
CHIEF and ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

description: Flat; one-piece; gold plated German silver; D style pin on back (regulations specified badges be numbered; however, most surviving examples lack serial numbers)
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown

1930 - 1936
PERMANENT and TEMPORARY RANGERS

description: Flat; one-piece; nickel plated German silver; D style pin on back (regulations specify badges be numbered, however, most surviving examples lack serial numbers)
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown

1936 - 1946
CHIEF and ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS

description: Dapped; one-piece; gold plated German silver; D style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown

1936 - 1946
PERMANENT and TEMPORARY RANGERS

description: Dapped; one-piece; nickel plated German silver; D style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown
1936 - 1946
PARK GUARDS

description: dapped; one-piece; nickel plated German silver; D style pin back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown

1940 - 1946
PARK WARDENS

description: dapped; one-piece; nickel plated German silver; D style pin back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: Unknown

1946 - 1960
CHIEF and ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS
CHIEF PARK ARCHAEOLOGISTS
CHIEF PARK NATURALISTS
CHIEF PARK HISTORIANS

Assistant Chief Rangers 1946-1956
Chief Park Archaeologists 1956-1960
Chief Park Naturalists 1956-1960
Chief Park Historians 1956-1960

description: dapped; one-piece; gold plated brass; D style pin back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

General Embroidery & Military Supply Company, New York, New York (GEM Co. or GEMSCO)

1946 - 1960
ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGERS, PERMANENT and TEMPORARY PARK RANGERS

Assistant Chief Rangers 1956-1960

description: dapped; one-piece; silver plated brass, oxidized; C style pin back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

General Embroidery & Military Supply Company, New York, New York (GEM Co. or GEMSCO)
1946-1960
PARK GUARDS

description: dapped; one-piece; silver plated brass, oxidized; D style pin on back

size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

General Embroidery & Military Supply Company, New York, New York (GEM Co. or GEMSCO)

1946 - 1960
PARK WARDENS

description: dapped; one-piece; silver plated brass, oxidized; D style pin on back

size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

General Embroidery & Military Supply Company, New York, New York (GEM Co. or GEMSCO)

1946 - 1956
PARK GUIDES

description: dapped; one-piece; silver plated brass, oxidized; D style pin on back

size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

General Embroidery & Military Supply Company, New York, New York (GEM Co. or GEMSCO)

1960 - 1968
SUPERINTENDENTS

description: dapped; one-piece; gold filled sterling silver; D style pin on back

size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts (Blackinton)(1/2010KGF)
1960 - 1968
PARK RANGERS

description: dapped; one-piece; sterling silver, oxidized;
numbered on back; D style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)

1960 - 1968
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL
other than SUPERINTENDENTS and RANGERS

description: dapped; one-piece; sterling silver, oxidized; num­
bered on back; ___ pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(ster)

1968 - 1970
SUPERINTENDENTS

description: dapped; one-piece; gold filled sterling silver; num­
bered on back; BD style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(1/1010K.G.F.)

1968 - 1970
ALL OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL
REQUIRED TO WEAR A BADGE

description: dapped; one-piece; sterling silver, oxidized; num­
bered on back; BD style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(ster)
1970 - PRESENT
ALL AUTHORIZED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

description: dapped; one-piece; gold plated brass; numbered on back; D style pin on back
size: 1970-1990 - 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high
1990-present - 1-11/16" wide x 2' high
made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
G.R. Davis Company, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

1972 - 1973
WOMEN RANGERS
Mesa Verde National Park and Nez Perce National Historical Park

description: flat; one-piece; gold plated brass; D style pin on back
size: 15/16" wide x 1" high
made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)

1994 - PRESENT
PARK RANGERS
(Law Enforcement)

shield made to be worn on coat or shirt, but carried in credential case

description: dapped; one-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; BD style pin on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high
made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton) (24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])
1994 - PRESENT
SPECIAL AGENT
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; three-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])

1994 - PRESENT
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; 3-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" wide clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])

1994 - PRESENT
CHIEF PARK RANGER
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; 3-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])
1994 - PRESENT
REGIONAL PARK RANGER
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; 3-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])

1994 - PRESENT
CHIEF RANGER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; 3-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])

1994 - PRESENT
ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
(Law Enforcement)

made to be carried in credential case

description: flat; 3-piece; gold plated brass with dark blue enamel highlights; numbered on front; flat 1/2" clip on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-3/4" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)(24 KT/KARATCLAD/HGE[3 lines in diamond])
**FIRE CONTROL BADGES**

**1932 - 1946**  
**FIRE GUARD**

Before this badge was issued, fire guards used a standard ranger badge when one was needed.

- **Description**: flat; bronze, oxidized; numbered on front; D style pin on back  
- **Size**: 1-1/2" wide x 1-13/16" high  
- **Made By**: Unknown

**1946**  
**FIRE CONTROL AIDE**

This badge was only issued this year. AIDE was changed to AID in 1947.

- **Description**: dapped; bronze, oxidized; numbered on back; D style pin on back  
- **Size**: 1-1/2" wide x 1-13/16" high  
- **Made By**: Unknown

**1947 - 1978**  
**FIRE CONTROL SUPERVISOR**

Regulations do not mention this badge, but there are numerous extant examples.

- **Description**: dapped; silver plated bronze; numbered on back; D style pin on back  
- **Size**: 1-1/2" wide x 1-13/16" high  
- **Made By**: Unknown

**1947-1978**  
**FIRE CONTROL AID**

- **Description**: dapped; bronze, oxidized; numbered on back; D style pin on back  
- **Size**: 1-1/2" wide x 1-13/16" high  
- **Made By**: Unknown
EXPERIMENTAL BADGES

1955
PROPOSED CHIEF RANGER BADGE

Design submitted by Frank F. Kowski.

description: dapped; gold plated brass; D style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-15/16" high

Made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)

1955
PROPOSED RANGER BADGE

Design submitted by Frank F. Kowsaki.

description: dapped; silver plate brass, oxidized; D style pin on back
size: 1-5/8" wide x 1-13/16" high

Made by: V.H.Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts
(Blackinton)

UNKNOWN
POSSIBLY PROPOSED RANGER BADGE

Donated to NPS History Collection by Michael Mastrangelo.

description: flat; unplated brass with silver plated center; D style pin on back
size: 1-7/8" wide x 2-1/4" high

Made by: Unknown
Cloth Badges

In addition to the metal badges, the National Park Service has authorized several cloth badges over the years. Some people think of these as patches, but because they were designed to denote the authority of the wearer they are properly considered badges.

Two of these were issued to lifeguards. The first cloth badge (1937) was made out of olive green gabardine, with U.S. PARK LIFE GUARD and an eagle and other symbols embroidered in yellow. Under the eagle is a yellow bar with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/DEPT OF THE INTERIOR embroidered in white. This badge was

1937 - 1953
LIFE GUARD

description:
olive-green shield with lettering and symbols in white and gold
size: 4-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high
In 1953, in keeping with the Service's attempt to associate all its activities and locations with its new emblem, the 1937 badge was replaced with one incorporating a variation of the arrowhead. The new badge consisted of a light brown arrowhead with a dark brown border. At the top was NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, and below was DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, both embroidered in black. In the center was embroidered LIFE GUARD in white letters. With slight variations in size and style, this badge was worn until the swim suits were changed from orange to red in 1983.
Lifeguards at Cape Cod National Seashore, c.1965.
Their clothing was white at this time. Note arrowhead on pith helmets.

*NPSHPC/HFC#91-8*

"Park Service Life Guards," 1971. These lifeguards are wearing the orange swim suits.

*NPSHPC-Fred E. Mang, Jr. photo-HFC#71-279-9-12*

After 1983, the badge was silk-screened in a golden yellow onto the wind breaker and walking shorts. Later this was expanded to include the swim suits. This practice continues today, although there is some discussion about revamping this custom in the near future.

All of the other cloth badges are based on the 1970 ranger badge and, with the exception of the one issued in 1991, were unofficial and made primarily for the use of law enforcement rangers. Initially these were designed and issued by some parks and regions "to provide a non reflective badge to be worn, for officer survival reasons, on the SET camouflage uniform during high risk tactical operations". These were worn for identification on the flight suits and tactical vests used by rangers in performing their duties when apprehending drug (primarily marijuana) and poaching violators.

The first one of these cloth badges was issued in the Western Region for its Park Ranger Special Events. Apparently it was only used for one season and just in the Western Region. It consists of a medium gray gabardine shield measuring 2-1/2" x 3-0" with the design of the present gold badge outlined in yellow. The background of the buffalo seal is worked in an iridescent copper color.

The next cloth badge was supplied in 1984 by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco, Georgia. It was distributed throughout the Service to the law enforcement elements in the regions for their vests. It was issued in conjunction with a large patch for the back of the vest which stated "U.S. RANGER, FEDERAL OFFICER". This combination was in use until supplanted by the official 1991 cloth badge. This badge also measures 2-1/2" x 3-0". However the shield is a golden yellow with the design of the 1970 badge outlined in black. In addition, the circle of the buffalo seal is white with the seal itself embroidered in a variety of colors (turquoise, brown, green, red and yellow) This badge was the out-growth of a program started the year before when the graduating class was given green jackets with this combination of emblems silk-screened on them.

The next two cloth badges were utilized at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 1990. The two are identical except one says "PARK
RANGER" and the other "INVESTIGATOR". They were worn on the camouflage clothing utilized by the law enforcement rangers while conducting various types of woodland surveillance or posing as hunters while performing wildlife protection assignments. Their purpose was to make the ranger as inconspicuous as possible. Unfortunately, the rangers were too inconspicuous resulting in some of the perpetrators pleading they didn't recognize the rangers as being officials and being released by the courts. Consequently the badges were discontinued.

The shield is forest green with the design of the 1970 badge stitched in black. They measure 2-1/2" x 2-7/8".

The latest cloth badge, or "BADGE PATCH", as it is called, was authorized in 1991. The general statement, prepared by John Townsend, in the 1990 uniform committee recommendations regarding situations in which this badge patch should be worn best defines its use: "The badge patch is to be worn on special purpose outerwear not normally part of the uniform where identification of the wearer as an NPS employee is essential to the performance of the employee's mission and where the employee would wear a regular gold badge if dressed in a standard uniform." This badge patch has the design of the current badge outlined in forest green thread on a 2-5/8" x 3-1/8" shield of golden yellow. Specific applications for this badge are "raid" vests, snow machine suits, flight suits, survival suits, and tactical vests.

This is the official Badge Patch, but as with most patches, small variations often appear between manufacturers and parks add to the mix by occasionally making minor alterations of their own, creating mutations too numerous to treat in detail here. Colors range from lemon yellow to a rich gold; borders are different shades and even colors; and shield details stitched in black instead of green contribute to the potpourri, along with some, no doubt, contrived to feed the collector market.

1983
WESTERN REGION

Made for park ranger Special Events Teams (SETS). Only used for one season.

description: gray gabardine shield with design of badge outlined in yellow; background of buffalo seal, iridescent copper
size: 2-1/2" wide x 3-0" high
1984 - 1991
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (FLETC)

This cloth badge was worn on a vest, in conjunction with a large patch on the back which stated "U.S. RANGER/FEDERAL OFFICER"

description: golden yellow gabardine shield with design of badge outlined in black; USD! seal embroidered in variety of colors
size: 2-1/2" wide x 3-0" high

1990
U.S. PARK RANGER
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Worn on camouflage clothing while conducting woodland surveillance or wildlife protection duties

description: forest green gabardine shield with outline of badge in black
size: 2-1/2" wide x 2-7/8" high
1990

NPS INVESTIGATOR
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Worn on camouflage clothing while conducting woodland surveillance or wildlife protection duties

description: forest green gabardine shield with outline of badge in black
size: 2-1/2" wide x 2-7/8" high

1991 - PRESENT

NATIONAL PARK RANGER BADGE-PATCH

First Bureau sanctioned cloth badge to be worn by Law Enforcement rangers

description: golden yellow shield with badge outlined in dark green
size: 1-5/8" wide x 3-1/8" high
National Park Service Associated Badges

There is a final group of badges known as "National Park Service Associated Badges". These are usually a dual purpose badge, incorporating "Deputy Marshal", or some other law enforcement agency, along with a variation of "National Park Service" or "National Park Ranger", and occasionally the park name. Though not officially authorized by the National Park Service, badges of this nature were often purchased by the individual park, or the ranger himself for added authority.

**Sequoia National Park Forest Ranger**
- This badge is the exception to the rule. It was probably worn by a ranger in Sequoia National Park prior to the separation of the Services in 1905, since after that date all rangers working within parks were known as Park Rangers. It is made of nickel-silver and has an ornate scroll-strap border in the shape of a stylized shield. In the center are three bars with a stippled background, of which the top and bottom bars are arched. The top bar contains the words FOREST RANGER, the middle bar, in two lines, SEQUOIA/NATIONAL PARK and across the bottom, CALIFORNIA. The pin on the back is of the safety pin variety, without safety latch. Size: 1-3/4" wide x 1-15/16" high.

**Grand Canyon Constable** - This is the only badge in this group with provenance. It was worn by Hubert Reginald "Bert" Lauson when he patrolled Bright Angel Trail for Coconino County, Arizona, prior its transfer to the Federal Government in 1928. While not actually worn after the Trail became part of Grand Canyon National Park, it is
included here because of the man that wore it.

Bert was born on 25 January, 1886. He first arrived at Grand Canyon in 1910 and fell in love with the area. After working in the mines and trying his hand at farming, he went to work for Coconino County in 1919 as caretaker and toll collector for the Trail. With the transfer in 1928, it looked like Bert was out of a job, and the Canyon. But he quickly corrected the matter by becoming a member of the ranger force on 1 January, 1929. After almost 24 years of exemplary service, in which time he refused offers of promotion that might take him away from his beloved Canyon, he died on 3 November, 1951, and is buried in the Grand Canyon Cemetery.²⁷

The badge is made of nickel-silver and slightly convex, with CONSTABLE/GRAND CANYON/ARIZ. in three lines. Constable and Ariz. are curved. There is also a small decoration between Constable and Grand Canyon. Size: 1-3/8" wide x 1-5/8" high.

Gettysburg National Military Park/- Assistant U.S. Marshal - At first glance, this badge appears to have been used in Glacier National Park (G.N.P.), but in fact was issued at Gettysburg prior to the park being transferred from the Army to the National Park Service. The badge is made of heavy gauge nickel-silver and slightly convex with nine unprotected points, the odd point down. Across the face in four lines are the words ASSISTANT/U.S./MARSHALL/G.N.P. in light blue enamel. The words are alternately 3/16" and 1/4". Size: 2-1/2" wide x 2-1/2" high.
National Park Ranger/Deputy Marshal - This badge is an Art-Deco version of the standard Federal style, but without a park affiliation. It is unplated brass with a stylized eagle on the top. Under the eagle is a ribbon bar with U.S. stamped in it. The badge consists of concentric circles with a horizontal Art-Deco bar containing seven bands about 3/5ths of the way down. The bands are alternately raised and depressed with the depressed portion stippled. In the center is a 6-pointed star with protected points like some of the older marshal badges. In the middle of the star are the words DEPUTY/U.S./MARSHAL in three lines. Next comes a quarter inch ring with narrow borders. The top band of the horizontal bar dissects this ring. Around the top, above the band is NATIONAL PARK and below it is RANGER. Around this is another narrower band with a raised outside border and stippled center. Five horizontal bands dissect this ring. At the bottom of the badge is a bar with the number 101. All lettering is black. Size 2-1/4" wide x 2-7/8" high.

National Park Ranger/Indian Reserve - This badge was undoubtedly made to be used by a National Park Ranger on some Indian Reservation, but there is no way of telling where. It is made of German (nickel) silver with a thin circle incised around the inside, creating a 1/4 inch band on the outside. In this band, in 1/8 inch letters, are stamped the words U.S. PARK across the top and RANGER on the bottom with a star on either side just below the center line of the badge. In the center of the badge, in 3/4 inch numerals, is the number 79. Also in the center are the words DEPARTMENT/OF/THE/INTERIOR/INDIAN RESERVE in 3/32 inch letters. DEPARTMENT is at the top, curved to conform to the circle, while INTERIOR and INDIAN RESERVE are at the bottom. OF THE are in straight lines above INTERIOR at the bottom. Letters and numbers have a black fill. Size: 2" diameter, slightly convex.
National Park Service/Geological Survey - It’s difficult to pen down exactly when this badge was issued since national park service appeared on badges prior to it becoming a bureau, but it shows evidence of being used. It may have been issued when the USGS was surveying some of the western parks. The USGS was never part of the National Park Service, so it may have been worn to give the wearer added authority while he performed his job. It is German silver. Size: 2" wide x 2-1/2" high.

National Park Service/Geological Survey - This badge is much later than the above example. While conforming to the mid-century style, the fact that it is numbered 1 makes it suspicious as to its authenticity. It may have been a pilot project that never developed since it is the only one found, but that is true of the others as well, although, except for the Indian Reserve, they appear to have been made for an individual. It is nickel-plated with an eagle with downswept wings resting on top of a shield. In the center of the shield is the Department of the Interior seal with two curved ribbons over top with NATIONAL PARK SERVICE on the top and GEOLOGICAL SURVEY beneath. Under the seal is another curved ribbon with DEPT. OF INTERIOR and the number 1 in a cartouche below. This bottom ribbon is also suspicious since the correct title for the Department is DEPARTMENT (or DEPT.) OF THE INTERIOR and is always written that way. Size: 2-1/4" wide x 2-15/16" high.
Yellowstone Chief Park Ranger
/Deputy Marshal - This badge is made of unplated brass and consists of a series of concentric circles with the outside circle having a scroll-strap border. On top is an eagle with down-swept wings, very similar to that used on today’s Federal badges. In the center of the badge is a buffalo, probably meant to represent the Interior Department, but more reminiscent of that used on the 1913-1938 buffalo nickel. Around the buffalo is a narrow white ring. The next ring contains a U on the left side and a S on the right, with DEPUTY on top and MARSHAL on the bottom. The following ring contains [star] RANGER [star] on top and YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK around the bottom, filling the ring. At the top of the outer ring is a bar containing CHIEF. The number bar at bottom is blank. The U and S are red, while all other letters are blue. Size: 1-27/32" wide x 2-17/32" high.
Ornamentation and Insignia

From the first, the men guarding our parks looked for an identity. They wanted a uniform and all of the trappings that would let the world know who they were. When the National Park Service was inaugurated as a bureau in 1917, an "officer and men" mentality prevailed, with the basic rangers being the "men" and everyone else "officers." This was reflected in the first insignia allocated to each. In succeeding years many different things were tried, polished, and in some cases abandoned before the great "leveling" of the 1928 uniform regulations. The following is a breakdown of the various insignia that have been used, or proposed for use in some cases, by Service personnel.

Arrowhead Patch

For years there had been agitation within the Park Service for some emblem that would identify the Service as the shield did the Forest Service. A contest was held in 1949 because it was thought at that time that the only emblem used by the Service, the Sequoia cone, did not adequately symbolize the bureau. The winner of the contest, Dudley Bayliss, collected the fifty dollar prize, but his "road badge" design was never used. Conrad L. Wirth, then in the Newton B. Drury directorate, served on the review committee that made the winning selection. He thought that Bayliss' design was "good and well presented, but it was, as were most of the submissions, a formal modern type." They had expected something that would have symbolized what the parks were all about.  

Emblem used by the National Park Service prior to the Arrowhead being adopted in 1952.

NPSA/HFC RG Y55
Dudley Bayless’ “open road” design, winner of the 1949 National Park Service Emblem Design Contest.

Dr. Aubrey Neasham’s suggestion for the National Park Service emblem.

Official 1952 National Park Service Arrowhead emblem. This design was also used to make the shoulder patch for the uniform.

1954 revision of Arrowhead emblem.

Shortly after the contest was over, Aubrey V. Neasham, a historian in the Region IV (now Western Region) Engineering Division in San Francisco, in a letter to Director Drury, suggested that the Service should have an emblem depicting its primary function “like an arrowhead, or a tree or a buffalo.” With the letter Neasham submitted a rough sketch of a design incorporating an elongated arrowhead and a pine tree. Drury thought the design had “the important merit of simplicity” and was “adequate so far as the symbolism is concerned.”

When Wirth became director in 1951, he turned Neasham’s design over to Herbert Maier, then assistant director of Region IV. Maier’s staff, including Sanford “Red” Hill, Cecil J. Doty, and Walter Rivers, were all involved in the design process and ultimately came up with the arrowhead design in use today.

The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. While not spelled out in official documents, the elements of the emblem symbolized the major facets of the national park system, or as Wirth put it, “what the parks were all about.” The Sequoia tree and bison represented vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represented scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represented historical and archeological values.

Starting in 1952, the arrowhead began to be used on the cover of park information folders with the first probably the one published in April of that year for Oregon Caves National Monument. It soon gained public recognition.
as the Service symbol and became widely used on signs and publications. Instructions for its use on signs were first sent to the field on September 25, 1952. Amendment No. 7, July 29, 1952, to the 1947 uniform regulations prescribed the use of the arrowhead as a patch for the uniform. Enough of these patches were sent to each area so that each permanent uniformed employee received three and each seasonal uniformed employee received one. The patch was to be "sewn in the center of the sleeve, with the top of the insignia 2 inches below the shoulder seam, so that the arrowhead will appear perpendicular when the arm is held in a relaxed position at the side."

The patches were extremely unpopular with uniformed employees when first issued, but quickly "grew" on those wearing them.

At first there was only one size of patch, 3-3/4" high by 3" wide, but it was soon realized that a reduced version was needed for women. These smaller patches, 2-1/2" x 2", subsequently also made their appearance on hats and the fronts of jackets for both men and women.

To forestall unseemly commercial uses of the arrowhead design, an official notice, approved March 7, 1962, was published in the Federal Register of March 15, 1962 (27 F.R. 2486), designating it as the official symbol of the National Park Service.

Arrowhead was probably first used on this information folder for Oregon Caves national Monument published in April 1952.
Prior to World War II, the majority of visitors to national parks, especially those out West, came by train. But during the war, visitation dropped off drastically and a number of the parks were used by the military as training grounds or rest areas. During the War, park appropriations had been cut to the bone and ten years after the cessation of hostilities were still a million dollars under that of 1940, even though a number of new parks had been established. The automobile had come into its own and visitation was up threefold. Time and traffic were turning the Nation’s parks into a shambles and because of the lack of funding, sanitation
was deplorable and the other utilities were taxed to the utmost.

This was the park system confronting Wirth when he became director. In 1956 Wirth initiated a ten year program, entitled MISSION 66, to revitalize the parks. This was to be completed for the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service.

In 1966, to celebrate the Service’s birthday, an exhibit entitled PARKSCAPE was erected. This exhibit featured a conservation logo designed by the New York firm of Chermayeff and Geismar Associates consisting of 3 triangles enclosing three balls. The triangles represented the outdoors (trees and Mountains) with the 3 balls being the standard symbol for preservation.

In addition, the same firm designed a new seal for the Department of the Interior. Secretary Stewart L. Udall had attempted to change Interior’s name to either Department of Natural Resources or Department of Conservation, but this met with great opposition. He did, however, manage to have the seal changed from the buffalo to a stylized pair of hands holding a circle (sun) over two large triangles (mountains) which in turn were over nine small inverted triangles symbolizing water. The hands motif had been suggested by Vince Gleason as an abstract symbolizing that the Nation’s natural resources were in good hands.

Following closely on the heels of MISSION 66, Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. (1964-1972) came forth with a new agenda titled PARKSCAPE U.S.A. Among it’s facets was one that dealt with the upgrading and modernization of the image of the Service itself. Hartzog had become enamored with the logo of the PARKSCAPE exhibit and adopted it for his new program.

Hartzog used the occasion of an article in the July, 1966, issue of the National Geographic Society Magazine concerning the National Park System to launch his new program. He assured employees that the triangle symbol would supplement rather than supplant the arrowhead.

In 1968, however, when Secretary Udall adopted the new Interior seal (designed by Chermayeff and Geismar Associates), Hartzog seized the opportunity to replace the arrowhead with the Parkscape symbol. With the buffalo gone from the Interior seal, he rationalized, the arrowhead with its buffalo was no longer relevant. Field reaction to this move was nevertheless unenthusiastic, for the representational arrowhead was far better liked than the abstract Parkscape symbol.

Nevertheless, boards were made up by Chermayeff & Geismar showing how the new symbols would look on the various pieces of clothing, as well as on vehicles and signs.

On March 3, 1969, Acting Director Edward Hummel sent a memorandum to all regional directors ordering the removal of the arrowhead.
shoulder patch. "In keeping with the Director's desire to act positively on field suggestions, it has been decided that effective June 1, 1969, Service emblem shoulder and cap patches will not be worn on any National Park Service garments," he wrote. Before this unpopular directive could be implemented, Secretary Hickel reinstated the buffalo seal. Hartzog thereupon reinstated the arrowhead as the official NPS emblem and continued its use as a patch in a memorandum dated May 15, 1969. Perhaps as a gesture to the few supporters of the Parkscape symbol, he simultaneously ordered its retention as the official NPS tie tack.

Since then the arrowhead has continued to be worn on the uniform and to enjoy strong acceptance among Service employees.35

The first patches were fully stitched, creating a 2-dimensional appearance. They were embroidered on a non-sanforized material and consequently could only be used on coats. Subsequent orders corrected this problem. As new orders were placed over the years, the patch slowly evolved into a solid stitched, self edged patch with heavy top stitching, where the various elements were layered onto the field, giving an almost 3-dimensional effect. This, in turn, has given way to the various elements being layered directly onto the base material, thus substantially reducing the cost. This is the arrowhead most often seen today. Lion Brothers, Baltimore, Maryland, have been involved with the development and manufacture of most, if not all of the arrowhead patches made for the Service.

It is beyond the scope of this study to show an example of every Arrowhead patch ever made. The following sampling is only meant as a representational illustration of the developmental progression of today's Arrowhead patch.
This is only a sampling of the many variations of arrowhead patch made over the years. The only 2 with provenance are the top left on this page, (first patch issued, 1952) and the bottom right on page 49 (currently being issued). No effort has been made to place the other patches in order of production, though, the large patches on this page predate those on page 49 and are probably from the 1950s.
Belt

Possibly because the coat was usually worn buttoned up with the uniform, belts do not appear as an article covered by the regulations until 1936. Earlier photographs confirm the prior absence of any standard belt or buckle. Probably the only thing covering belts was the stipulation that all leather would be cordovan color.

In Office Order No 324, National Park Service Uniform Regulations, April 13, 1936, a web belt was stipulated. In 1938, Office Order No. 350 added a leather belt. The order states:

A-1 BELT

Forestry green, web-waist belt, 1-1/8 inches wide, with buckle approved by the Director, is prescribed for wear when breeches are worn with or without coat.

A-2 LEATHER BELT

Forestry green, 1-1/4 inches wide, with nickel-plated buckle approved by the Director, is prescribed for wear only when coat is worn.

Apparently the original order did not contain the above description of the leather belt, because on November 10, 1938, Office Order 350 was amended to include a description and a sketch of the leather belt. The drawing shows a plain belt with a line tooled all around, approximately 1/8-inch from the edge. It has two retaining loops, or cinches, for the end of the belt. The buckle was a simple open-frame, single-loop style. The web belt probably utilized the standard military type of slip-lock buckle.

Office Order 350 was again revised on April 19, 1939. This time the web waist belt was eliminated and the color of the leather belt changed to the Ranger force at Sequoia National Park, c. late 1920s. Prior to the 1936 regulations, belts of all descriptions were worn by rangers. Also note the variety of ties. Davis & Brooks are wearing unauthorized footwear.

Left to Right: Packard, Lew Davis, Kerr, Williams, brooks, Cook, Peck, Dorr, Fry, Alles, Smith, Sprigelmyre, Gibson

NPSHPC/HFC#86-246
Plain leather belt, 1938.
Belt was 1-1/4" wide, forestry green in color. Belt width was increased to 1-1/2" in 1939 and the color changed to cordovan.

NPSA/HFC RG Y55-Office Order 350 (1938) & Office Order 350 revised (1939)

Embossed leather belt, 1940. 1-1/2" wide, cordovan color.

NPSA/HFC RG Y55-1940 Uniform Regulations


NPSA/HFC RG Y55-1961 Uniform Regulations

The standard cordovan color of Park Service leather goods. The width was also increased to 1-1/2 inches.

The 1940 uniform regulations brought with them two additional optional belts. Besides the standard belt, ranger could now wear a 1/8-inch-thick by 1-1/2-inch-wide belt embossed with a design similar to the hat band. This belt was of the "billeted" or "western gun holster" style, which has a secondary narrow belt sewn on top of the wider main belt. The narrow belt was used to secure the larger one. In addition, Service employees required to wear side arms could wear a belt with a strap over the shoulder to support the weight of the weapon if they desired. This style belt, known as a Sam Browne, was copied from the British military and used by the U.S. Army as well as law enforcement agencies. Both of these belts were to be cordovan.

The 1961 uniform regulations changed the embossed belt. It remained 1-1/2 inchews wide, but now the buckle was the full width of the belt and the "USNPS" was eliminated. This became the standard belt for the National Park Service and continues to this day.

A number of NPS buckles have been suggested or made over the years, but they are all unofficial and usually not allowed to be worn with the uniform.
Buttons

U.S. Army buttons were doubtless used occasionally by rangers prior to the introduction of civilian uniforms. The first button known to have been used by a ranger on a uniform in the Interior Department's "park service" is the 1907 Forest Service button. This button shows up in a photograph of Karl Keller, a ranger in Sequoia National Park, taken in 1910. It has a pine tree in the center, with the words Forest on top and Service underneath.

In 1911 the first uniforms were officially authorized, sanctioned would be a better word, for use by rangers in the park service. These uniforms were purchased from Parker, Bridget & Company of Washington, D.C. The matter of special park service buttons was broached, but the department concluded that: "inasmuch as we would have to have a die made for the special buttons for the park service which would cost about $28, we had best drop the matter of the special buttons until the future of the national park service is definitely determined. If the Bureau of National Parks is created, another design of button might be necessary. The uniforms are now equipped with United States Army buttons." At a subsequent meeting with Chief Clerk Clement Ucker in Washington in December or early January 1912, Eisner was apparently shown one of the park service

Karl Keller, c.1910.
Keller was a ranger at Sequoia National Park (1908-1917?). His uniform has 1907 Forest Service buttons on it. Also note the Army officer's U.S. on his collar and the sprig of Sequoia on his sleeve. Photograph given to Lawrence F. Cook (NPS) by his daughter, Erma Tobin.

NPSHPC-Hammond
Photo-HFC#WASO D726A

First authorized National Park Service uniform, Glacier National Park, c.1911. This uniform, made by Parker, Bridget & Co., Washington, DC, was delivered with 1910 U.S. Army buttons on it. Man on left is wearing a Model 1910 US Army uniform, minus military insignia.

NPSHPC-1915 Anderson photo album-GLAC/HPF#9638
badges as a possible pattern for the new
buttons.\textsuperscript{39}

Soon after the interview, Assistant Secretary Arno Thompson wrote Eisner requesting drawings of the proposed uniforms, together with "advice as to whether bronze buttons bearing the eagle design surrounded by the words "National Park Service, Department of the Interior," as used upon the park ranger service badge shown you, will be purchased and placed upon the uniforms." Eisner agreed to this and stated that he would "have die made for these buttons in all sizes."\textsuperscript{40}

Subsequently, not only were these buttons used on the uniforms made by Eisner, but the department also purchased them for uniforms the rangers had made by other manufacturers and to replace those lost through attrition.

Even though the rangers had to furnish their own uniforms, the buttons were given without charge.

These buttons were stocked and sold to the department by Eisner. The early buttons were made by the Waterbury Button Company of Waterbury, Connecticut, but were back-stamped SIGMUND EISNER/RED BANK, N.J. Later buttons carry the Waterbury back stamp. As stated above, they were modeled after the 1906 badge and were finished in what was classified as a "bronze" finish. This appears to be a sort of heavy coating. This coating was the subject of much controversy in later years because of its chipping and flaking.

Walter Fry, the ranger in charge at Sequoia National Park, has long been credited with suggesting that the "National Park Service" badge be used as the model for this button. This may or may not be partially correct. In a letter he wrote to the Secretary of the Interior requesting authority to purchase "Forestry green winter uniforms," he also requested that they be "equipped with the bronze Army buttons, bearing design of eagle, same as our badges now worn, instead of the Forest Service button."\textsuperscript{41}

The rangers at Sequoia National Park had worn the forest green uniform with Forest Service buttons since 1909, and Fry probably only wanted the new uniforms to have "bronze Army buttons" like the new uniforms then being made. It is possible that his statement "bearing design of eagle, same as our badges now worn" may have influenced the department when they considered a design for the new buttons, but there is no documentation to substantiate this.

In a letter dated May 14, 1915, Mark Daniels, general superintendent of national parks (a position roughly equivalent to the later director), pro-
posed that a "bright" button replace the "bronze" buttons then being used on the service uniforms. He included a sample button with his request, which the department forwarded to Sigmund Eisner, requesting prices. Eisner responded with prices of $5.00 and $2.50 per gross for large and small buttons respectively, whereupon the department ordered a gross of each.

Delivery lagged for months, with the department requesting the buttons, and Eisner promising them any day, until finally in October he wrote the secretary that he was unable to make the manufacturer (Waterbury) understand what was requested and needed another sample. This request was forwarded to Daniels, but the records are mute as to the disposition of the matter. There is no evidence that these buttons were ever made.

Almost all 2-piece buttons of this type are made of brass and "bright" was a trade term meaning polished brass with a lacquer finish. There is a brass button in the NPS History Collection that was never plated, but it is without provenance.

The 1926 Uniform Committee (to report at the 1927 meeting) voted four to two to change the uniform coat buttons from bronze to gilt. They believed that gilt buttons would set off the forestry-colored cloth to a greater advantage and added "distinctiveness and snappiness" to the uniform. This recommendation was included in the proposed changes for the new uniform regulations. Upon reviewing the committee's suggested regulation changes, Horace Albright, then Yellowstone superintendent and assistant director (field), found several of the proposed revisions "particularly objectionable." Among them was the change to gilt buttons. He recommended that the current regulations be continued in force for 1927 and that the revisions be submitted to the superintendents for their comments.

Complaints were still being heard about the lacquered finish on the buttons flaking and coming off. In the mid-1930s Waterbury started using an "acid treated" process. This insured that the button was clean and the resulting chemical coloring was bonded securely to the metal, obviating the use of heavy lacquers. This process is still used on the National Park Service buttons today.

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Mark Roy Daniels, general superintendent of parks, 1914-1915.
Daniels designed a new NPS uniform in 1915 and wanted to replace the bronze, Army style buttons with "bright" (unplated) ones, but a series of mishaps and the formation of the new bureau cancelled this out.

Portland Journal, 15 April, 1915
1909-1911
FOREST SERVICE BUTTON, 1907
First documented button to be used on a park ranger uniform. Used by rangers at Sequoia National Park.

description: brass, with bronze finish
size: large - 29/32" diameter
small - 9/16" diameter
made by: maker of buttons used on park ranger uniforms unknown

1911
U.S.ARMY BUTTON, 1903
Used on uniforms supplied by Parker, Bridget & Company, Washington, D.C.

description: brass, with bronze finish
size: large - 15/16" diameter
small - 5/8" diameter
made by: maker of buttons used on park ranger uniforms unknown

1912
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUTTON
Used on uniforms supplied by Sigmund Eisner, Red Bank, New Jersey.

description: brass, with bronze finish;
backstamp - 1912-early 1920s - SIGMUND EISNER, RED BANK;
1920s - WATERBURY BUTTON CO.
size: large - 7/8" diameter
small - 5/8" diameter
made by: Waterbury Button Company, Waterbury, Connecticut

1930s-PRESENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUTTON
This is the standard NPS button used today

description: brass, chemical oxidized finish;
backstamp - WATERBURY CO'S, WATERBURY, CONN.
size: large - 15/16" diameter
small - 5/8" diameter
made by: Waterbury Button Company, Waterbury, Connecticut
Cap Insignia

Wearing the standard hat was inconvenient for those rangers assigned to motorcycle duty. So the soft, or "English" army officer, cap was authorized in 1928 for rangers assigned to that function. This was expanded to include "hot summer" parks in the east. The initial authorization did not include any decoration on the cap, but this was changed by Office Order No. 204, revised, in 1932. This order specified that a "modified form of the National Park Service band" was to be worn with the cap. This consisted of a chin strap, with some of the same elements found on the hat band impressed on it. It also had USNPS tooled on the front center. It was held at the sides by two sterling silver Sequoia cones, like those used on the hatband. Although subsequent uniform regulations still specified the cap to be the "English Army Officer" style, the design was changed sometime soon after its introduction to that used by police officers. (faceted rim)

Even though no ornament was specified for the front of the cap, photographs show several rangers sporting what looks like a large eagle on the front of their caps. There had been some discussion concerning this back in the late 1920s, when the cap was initially proposed, but the matter of the ornament had been dropped at that time. There are photographs showing Tex Worley, of Yellowstone, wearing his ranger badge on the front of his cap.

The 1938 superintendents' conference had recommended an aluminum-colored pith helmet, with a large sterling silver Sequoia cone ornament. But when Office Order No. 350, revised, was issued on April 19, 1939, the color of the helmet was changed to forestry green and there was no mention of an ornament. This was cleared up in a memorandum from Acting Director Demaray on July 27, 1939. "It was found that

Rangers from Sequoia National Park, 1930s.
Hines is dressed for motorcycle duty and is wearing a large eagle on his cap, along with his Sam Browne belt.

Left to right:
Hines, Cook, (?), Spigelmyre, Parkes, (?), Hamilton

NPSHPC/HFC#86-243
Motorcycle messenger at South gate, Yellowstone National Park, 1932. He is wearing his badge on his cap.

National Park Service pith helmet, 1940. This drawing shows the large Sequoia cone originally authorized for the helmet.

National Park Service Boatman’s hat, 1940. These were designed after the U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer’s hat.

aluminum colored helmets could not be purchased and no satisfactory sequoia cone has been devised for use on the helmet,” he stated. “Consequently the color of the helmet was changed to forestry green and the cone ornament eliminated.”

The 1940 uniform regulations changed the color of the helmet again. This time it was to be of a “sand tan color.” And apparently, because of availability, the sterling silver Sequoia cone was reinstated, but this time it was to be the same size as those worn on the hatband. On September 18, 1953, the sun helmet was eliminated from the uniform regulations and the Sequoia cone reverted to being used solely on the standard hat and cap.

The 1940 regulations also introduced a new uniform for those rangers, or boatmen, that worked on boats of the National Park Service. The wording is somewhat odd. It states, “...the following articles of uniform are prescribed for wear by the boat captain, engineer, purser or other employees [italics added] of the boats.” This could be construed to mean everyone working the boat, unless of course the hands were simply assigned from the ranger force by the parks.

The uniform was to be Navy blue, including the cap, which was modeled after those worn by Chief Petty Officers in the U.S. Navy. The regulations do not address the issue, but this uniform was probably intended strictly for the Service’s deep water “Navy”, like the boatmen that crewed RANGER’s II and III on Lake Superior for Isle Royale National Park, since this is the only location that apparently received them. The 1947 uniform regulations authorized a summer uniform of white duck. The style and decoration were to be the same.
The cap was to have a distinctive ornament on the front. It consisted of an 1-1/2" circle with crossed anchors in the center. All embroidery was to be gold thread on navy-blue cloth.

Although the uniform remained in the regulations until 1961, it apparently wasn’t too popular since few photographs exist showing it being worn. There are no extant examples known.

The 1961 Uniform Regulations changed the Boatmen’s dress back to the standard ranger uniform, less badge, including standard hat when ashore. However, when on board the boat, officers were to wear the Chief Petty Officers style cap, only now it was to be forest green, same as the uniform, with the emblem being gold thread. The hands were to wear the standard service cap.

A photograph of Charles R. Greenleaf, captain of the Ranger, shows the emblem on his hat to be larger and more ornate than that previously used. It is still the crossed anchors, but now they are “fouled.” Even though the regulations now specify that only the crews out of Isle Royale were to wear the Petty Officer cap, there is a photograph of Gene F. Gatzke from Lake Mead Recreation Area wearing one with this emblem. In addition to the patch, he has what appears to be a small round metal disc with NPS on it fastened at the top between the anchors.

Regulations must not have been too strict, later photographs show Greenleaf wearing caps with various emblems on them. Even occasionally the service cap.

A ski cap was introduced in 1936. This was the first of a series of caps bearing an embroidered USNPS. The letters were to be gold and 3/4-inch high. The 1961 regulations specified that women’s "airline stewardess" hats were to have USNPS embroidered on them in 1/2-inch gold letters. The letters were either embroidered directly on the hat or on a piece of material matching.
Bias is wearing the 1961 pattern uniform. Her pillbox hat has a patch with the USNPS embroidered on it.

Irwin Wente, maintenance, Everglades National Park, 1969. Wente is wearing the service cap with the white 1960 USNPS cap patch.

Prior to the adoption of the "stewardess" hat, uniformed women employees had been wearing a uniform copied from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), complete the hat. However, prior to these regulations becoming effective, the color was changed to silver to be consistent with the collar insignia and badge.

The National Park Service History Collection has an example of the USNPS embroidered on a piece of uniform material for the women's hat. But since it is gold instead of silver, it can be assumed to be a sample made before the color change. Since most of the photographs from this period are black and white, the color cannot be identified. There is, however, a color photograph from Everglades National Park showing 3 women wearing hats with white USNPS on the front which confirms that, at least in their case, white was used in place of gold. The embroidered USNPS on the women's hat was replaced in 1962 by the "reduced" size (2-1/2-inch) arrowhead patch.

As in the case of the women's hat, when the new style ski cap, now called a service cap, was adopted in the 1961 regulations, it was specified to have USNPS embroidered on the front, like the previous cap, but this was also changed to silver in 1960. Now, though, the USNPS was embroidered on a piece of the cap material, all on one line, and sewn to the front of the cap. Sometime prior to 1969, at which time it was eliminated in favor of the arrowhead, the USNPS began to be embroidered in 2 lines on a two inch square forestry green patch with a silver (white) border and sewn to the cap. No evidence has uncovered as to when these patches were authorized.
with overseas cap. Although not covered in the regulations, a USNPS collar ornament was usually attached to the front of this cap. There is photographic evidence that this hat began to be worn during World War II.

The small arrowhead patch was officially removed from the women’s hat in 1969 but continued to be worn until the uniform change of 1970. At that time, it replaced the USNPS patch on the men’s service caps. Since 1974, the arrowhead has seen service on many different types of hats, either as a patch or a decal. It was used on baseball caps, "Black Watch style" (ski) caps, and mouton-trimmed caps, to name a few. When the soft cap worn by the motorcyclists gave way to the safer hard helmets, arrowhead decals were affixed to them to denote the wearer’s status.
Drawing proposed by Superintendent William M. Robinson, Colonial National Monument, for the park's summer ranger uniform cap, 1932. Robinson had suggested that Colonial's rangers wear a white uniform in the summer, but this was turned down.
1930-present
STANDARD HAT BAND ORNAMENT

size: 1" wide x 5/8" high


1936-1964
MEN'S SKI CAP

description: 3/4" high gold letters embroidered directly onto cap front.

1940-1960
BOATMAN'S HAT

Worn on Navy blue Boatman's hat

description: gold bullion on Navy blue fabric
size: 1-5/8" diameter

early 1940s-1960
WOMEN'S "OVERSEAS" CAP

description: gold plated ornament, same as used on collars and coat lapels
size: 3/4" wide x 1/2" high
1960-1970
MEN'S SERVICE CAP

description: 5/8" letters embroidered in white on strip of cap material and sewn to front of cap

1960-1962
WOMEN'S "AIRLINE STEWARDESS" HAT

description: 1/2" white letters embroidered on hat material and sewn to front of hat. This is a sample made before the color was changed from gold to white

late 1960s-1970
MEN'S SKI CAP

description: 5/8" white letters embroidered on bordered patch and sewn to front of cap

1962-present
ARROWHEAD CAP PATCH

1962-1970 Women's hats
1970-present Standard field caps

description: small multicolored arrowhead
size: 2" wide x 2-1/2" high
Collar Ornaments

The first documented collar ornament to be worn on the uniform of a park ranger was the US from the collar insignia of Army officers. This shows up in two portraits of rangers in Sequoia National Park circa 1910 and 1912-16. It was easy to obtain and dressed the uniform up to look official.

Although the Secretary of the Interior had authorized the use of a uniform in the parks in 1911, nothing was said about distinctive insignia. Consequently, the various parks were left to their own devices.

In 1916, Washington Bartlett "Dusty" Lewis, then supervisor at Yosemite, had Meyer's Military Shop in Washington, D.C., make up several NPS insignia. When Lewis proposed that the National Park Service adopt an ornament for the new 1920 coat, he offered one of these as a possible model. From the correspondence, it would appear that these were simply letters attached to a bar, which could be pinned to the collar. Responding to Lewis, Acting Director Cammerer wrote, "There are a number of serious defects in the design, which is a stock-cut proposition put out in the cheapest possible way for the largest gain."

No examples of this ornament have been found, but it shows up in a couple of photographs depicting Yosemite rangers from around 1919. One is of Forrest Towsley, taken while he was on temporary duty at Grand Canyon National Park and the other is of William "Billy" Nelson, from the Ansel Hall Collection. If stock, as Cammerer states, the letters would probably be 1/2".

In late 1917 or early 1918, Service headquarters started requiring "N.P.S." to be stitched on the collar of the uniform in bronze thread, "to match the buttons." There is a 1919 forestry green cloth coat in the Yellowstone collection with NPS on the collar.
1919 National Park Service uniform. This coat is forest green wool with NPS buttons, backstamped "Sigmond Eisner", and N.P.S. embroidered on a patch attached to the collar.

Joe Cosley, c.1911. Cosley was a ranger at Glacier National Park, 1910-1914, and was one of the first recipients of the new 1911 uniforms. Photograph was taken prior to the arrival of his uniform. He is wearing a 1910 US Army coat with GNP on the collar. The park solicited the department to allow them to have this applied to their new uniforms, but it was denied.

In this case the N.P.S. is embroidered on a piece of coat material and then stitched to the coat collar. The original bronze-colored thread has faded to an orange. This coat would indicate that the NPS was used from it’s introduction until the new metal USNPS collar insignia came in with the 1920 regulations. Glacier had earlier requested that G.N.P. be applied to their collars, but this was turned down.

The 1920 uniform regulations ushered in what was to become the second oldest insignia still in use by the National Park Service: the USNPS collar ornament. Only the button is older. Building on Lewis’s suggestion, the Service finally decided to use the NPS but with US over it. A drawing of the ornament shows that the letters were to be 1/4-inch high and states: "Device to be supplied with strong pin with safety catch, pin to be attached lengthwise of device, and so fixed to same that pin does not project beyond outer edge of device. Die to become property of Government.”

Officer’s ornaments were to be heavy gold plate, ranger’s, No. 12 gauge German silver, and temporary ranger’s, bronze (plated brass). The die was retained by the Service and loaned to the successful bidder whenever new ornaments were required. From the appearance of the extant examples of this early pin, the die must have been rather crude in comparison with later ones.

The USNPS collar ornament was a source of much ridicule since few outside the Service understood the significance of the letters. As a result of this, it was decided at the 1926 superintendent’s conference to replace it with a new insignia consisting of the Interior Department or National Park Service seal or words superimposed with the letters US. The Landscape Engineering Division was assigned the task of coming up with design recommendations and the field was invited to send ideas to the chief landscape engineer for consideration.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Design and Specifications for Collar Device

US NPS

Device to be heavy gold plate, German silver, No. 18 gauge or bronze, as ordered, and of dimensions corresponding to above design.

Device to be supplied with strong pin with safety catch, pin to be attached lengthwise of device, and so fixed to same that pin does not project beyond outer edge of device.

Die to become property of Government.

Approved

Laurel Carter
Director.
Sketch of new collar ornament proposed by Thomas C. Vint, chief landscape architect. It was returned with the suggestion that the US be made smaller. It was but one of many designs submitted but not approved.

National Archives RG 79 208.30

The first offering returned by Thomas C. Vint of the Landscape Division was a pencil sketch of a circle with a large US in the center surrounded by DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. Shortly thereafter, a blueprint was forwarded to the Washington office. After examining the blueprint, Acting Director Cammerer returned it suggesting that the US be made smaller, so as not to fill the entire circle. The following months brought forth a number of drawings of suggested collar devices. Unfortunately, none of these have been found with the correspondence. The favorite seems to have been a shield-shaped device. Apparently the draftsman thought that this design had the inside track, as well, for he included it on one of the initial drawing of the 1928 regulation uniform.

It was decided at the superintendents' conference in 1928 to dispense with the silver and bronze collar devices and to have everyone wear gold ornaments. But no agreement could be reached on the design, so the ornament revision was tabled. In January 1931 it was decided that because of the lack of "inspiration," the Service would keep using the old ornaments until "something really appropriate can be devised." And that is where it stands today.

While retaining the same basic design, the ornaments have undergone minor changes over the years. In the late 1930s the fastening device was changed to a screw post like that used by the military. This was changed again in the 1960s to the popular and much more convenient bayonet pin with spring
fasteners. In the 1961 handbook, released in November 1959, the colors were changed again. Now only the superintendents and assistant superintendents were to wear gold collar ornaments and everyone else was to wear silver. With the 1971 uniform regulations, gold devices once again became the standard for all uniformed personnel. They remain so today.

For a while in the 1980s, plastic collar ornaments were being sent with the uniforms. It was difficult to distinguish these from the metal ornaments, although they would scratch and break if handled roughly. The current ornaments are again of metal.
1909-1917
COLLAR ORNAMENT, SEQUOIA

Standard U.S. Army Officer's collar insignia used by arangers at Sequoia National Park.

Description: Bronzed, 5/8" letters

1916-1920
COLLAR ORNAMENT, YOSEMITE


Description: Bronzed 1/2" letters

1917-1920
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COLLAR INSIGNIA

Worn by all uniformed NPS personnel. Stitched directly on collar or on a patch applied to the collar.

Description: Stitched with bronze colored thread.

1920-present
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORM COLLAR ORNAMENTS

Heavy gold plate
1920-present All uniformed officers
1928-1961 All uniformed personnel
1971-present All uniformed personnel

German silver
1920-1928 All park rangers
1961-1970 All uniformed personnel except superintendents

Bronze, anodized
1920-1928 All temporary rangers
While technically not an insignia, the ranger hat has become synonymous with the ranger service. Even though Smokey is actually a motif of the Forest Service, most people think of the Park Service when they see him. Similar police hats are also called "Smokey the Bear" hats.

It would appear that this "Stetson" style of felt hat evolved from John B. Stetson's first "Boss of the Plains," which he marketed in 1863. This style has long been known as the "ranger" hat, no doubt from being used previously by the Texas Rangers. This style of hat was so popular in the West that "Stetson" became a generic term, like Fedora in the East.

The first hats worn by rangers in the Park Service were "Stetsons" like those of the Army. These were usually creased fore and aft, but there were no regulations on the subject and it was left to the ranger to do whatever styling he wished.

When the first "authorized" uniforms were ordered in 1911, they included a "felt camping hat after the Stetson style." It can be assumed that this was a continuation of what the rangers were familiar with. With the ordering of uniforms in 1912, though, an "Alpine" style hat was specified. From the drawing submitted by Sigmund Eisner, it would appear that this was the forerunner of the current stiff-brimmed hat. Photographs bear this out. They show a hat similar to what the rangers wear now, except for a higher "Montana" peak, or pinch. This would seem to prove that when Mark Daniels attempted to formalize the Park Service uniform in 1914, the hat was already being used.

The hat was first formally specified in the 1920 uniform regulations. They stated that it would be "Stetson, either stiff or cardboard brim, 'belly' color", a shortening of "Belgian Belly", named after the beautiful pastel reddish buff color of the underfur of the Belgian hare from which some of the finer hats were felted. Here again, this was more than likely a ratification of what was already being worn by the rangers.

The 1932 regulations specified that the "Stetson hat" was to have a "three inch stiff brim," was to be equipped with the "prescribed National Park Service leather hatband," and was to be considered the standard headpiece for use in "all National Parks and National Monuments." There were exceptions to the "all." Employees in the eastern parks and monuments and rangers assigned to motorcycle duties were authorized to wear an "English Army Officer" style, of the same material as their uniforms.

Sigmund Eisner drawing of the "Alpine" hat ordered by the department in 1912.

NPSA/YELL
Richard G. Doyel, Guide, Mammoth Cave National Park, 1941. Doyel is wearing the soft cap worn by rangers assigned to motorcycle duty and in some of the Eastern parks and monuments.

National Archives/RG 79-SM-32

Ranger force at Mesa Verde National Park, 1929. Prior to 1959, when blocking was done at the factory, rangers were only instructed to "put four small dents in the crown," resulting in all sorts of variations.


NPSHPC-George Grant photo-HFC#3-179

In 1935, there was some agitation from the field, especially the western parks, for a wider brim to help protect the head from the sun and rain. Office Order No. 324 of April 13, 1936, changed the hat specifications to call for a "Stiff brim 3 to 3 1/2 inches wide, and 4 - 4 5/8 inch crown, side color." Why the color was changed from "belly" to "side" is not known. The John B. Stetson Company, which started selling hats to the Park Service in 1934, initially had trouble with the "side color," and the Service ordered all purchases from the company to stop. In September 1936 the company notified the Uniform Committee chairman that it had "developed the exact color desired by the National Park Service" and was in a "position to manufacture hats and fill orders." It also agreed to replace all hats of the wrong color previously ordered at no charge. The Service rescinded the stop purchase order.61

Office Order No. 350 of June 15, 1938, changed the color back to "belly" and added three ventilator holes on each side. They were to be arranged in the "form of an equilateral triangle, bottom leg of triangle 1 1/2 inches above brim, legs of triangle 1 inch."

Until 1959, the only instructions to employees concerning the blocking of the hat was to put four small dents in the crown. Thereafter the dents were
blocked at the factory for uniformity.

Uniform regulations issued in November 1959, effective January 1, 1961, were contained within a National Park Service Uniforms Handbook. This handbook contained uniform specifications and other information pertinent to the wearing and care of the various garments. Under the heading of hats, it stated:

"Care should be used in selecting the correct size and head shape. Width of brim should be chosen to suit shape of face and physical appearance. Generally, average sized individuals should wear 3 1/4" brim, short stocky persons or those with long thin faces should wear the 3" brim. The felt hat is available in "long oval," "regular oval" and "wide oval." If the hat fits the head properly, it will be more comfortable, look better, and will not be easily dislodged by sudden gusts of wind. The average life expectancy of a felt hat is three years. It should be worn at a slight angle to the right side and not tilted forward over the eyes or worn on the back of the head. The cloth hat band that comes with new hat should be removed and never should be worn under the uniform leather hat band."

Regarding hat care and maintenance, the handbook stated:

"Excessive sweating or the use of hair oil will quickly ruin the appearance of the felt hat. Accumulations of oil around the sweatband and brim will also penetrate the hatband. For this reason, care should be used in placing an old hatband on a new hat or the new hat will be soiled. Clean the hatband with saddle soap. A compound of carbon tetrachloride "Carbona" is available for cleaning hats and the inner surface of hatbands. French chalk may be used to remove fresh grease stains. If the hat becomes wet it can be satisfactorily dried by turning the sweatband outward and allowing the hat to stand on the sweatband until thoroughly dry. Sandpaper or a nail file can be used to remove accumulations of dirt and grease.

The Stetson Company will recondition felt uniform hats for $7.50 if the hat is not too far gone."

In 1959, a straw version of the standard hat was inaugurated for warm

Barton Herschler, custodian, Muir Woods, 1933. As this photograph attests, ventilation holes had been used in the hat for many years prior to their becoming specified in the regulations.

NPSHPC-George Grant photo-HFC/MUWO#8a
weather wear. Its specifications were as follows:

Style—"National Park Service" ventilated milan braid material, Belgium Belly color, crown specifications same as for the felt hat. Stiff brim, flat set, average width 3-1/4", marine service curl, leather sweatband and hat [sic]. Indentations in crown, same as for the felt hat.

A transparent plastic hat cover was made available for the protection of both the felt and straw hats.

The 1970 regulations concerning women's uniforms brought with it another version of the standard hat. Unfortunately, it was more a victim of style than function. It closely resembled the standard men's hat and while made from a quality felt, it was nevertheless of light-weight material like other women's hats, instead of the heavier men's grade. Because of this lack of body, the brim didn't remain stiff, nor the hat in general, hold up to the rigors of everyday use. Most women that were required to wear a hat, opted for the man's felt or straw, depending on where they worked.

These hats have carried over to the present time. Down through the years there has been an array of other headgear, but nothing has stood out as a symbol of the National Park Service like the regulation "Smokey the Bear" felt hat.
Hatband and Straps

Through the 1920's, ranger hatbands were either the plain grosgrain bands that came with the hat or individualistic replacements by the rangers. At the San Francisco National Park Conference in 1928, the subject of a special band for the ranger hats was brought to the floor for discussion. One design was submitted (description unknown), and another proposed design included a "pressed" style of hatband. There was considerable criticism of the Sequoia cone because it was significant to California alone. It was felt that the design should be more emblematic of the Park Service as a whole. A ranger on a horse, buffalos, and geometric designs were among the motifs suggested. A pack horse drew the most interest because it dealt with park work and had the essence of the tourist and out-of-doors in it.

At the 1929 superintendents' conference at Yellowstone, the Uniform Committee recommended that a band more in keeping with the identity of the National Park Service be adopted for the ranger hat. Chief Landscape Architect Thomas Vint had a sample hatband prepared. This consisted of Sequoia cones and foliage tooled onto a leather band secured at the left side by ring fasteners. The front had a blank space where the name of the park could be impressed, if desired. This was sent to the chairman of the Uniform Committee, Superintendent Owen A. Tomlinson of Mount Rainier, who forwarded it to the director with the committee's recommendation that it be adopted. The committee thought, though, that USNPS should be stamped on the front instead of the park name, which would have to be done by hand and complicate matters.

Three naturalists at First Chief Naturalist Conference, 1929. Since there wasn't a regulation covering the hatband at this time, rangers wore whatever caught their fancy. Hall is wearing the hatband, grosgrain, that probably came with the hat. Yeager's hatband appears to be made of fabric, while Harwell is sporting a tooled leather one, similar to that later adopted by the Service.

Left to right: Ansel F. Hall, Dorr G. Yeager, C.A. "Bert" Harwell

NPSHPC/CPR#B-126
at the various parks. The manufacturer of the sample had provided silver acorns as ornaments, but the committee thought that Sequoia cones would be more appropriate. Nickel silver ornaments could be had for fifty cents each in lots of two hundred, and sterling silver for sixty cents. The total cost of the hatband would be $2.10 with the sterling ornaments.\(^{62}\)

The hatband was approved on January 16, 1930, with the proviso that the sterling ornaments be used. Associate Director Cammerer thought that the added cost of the silver ornaments was "well worth while" and that they should be mandatory. "The hat band is therefore approved with the ornament of the National Park insignia as an integral part of it," he wrote.\(^{63}\)

When estimates were obtained, it was found that the hatbands, with silver ornaments, could be purchased from a manufacturer in San Francisco in lots of 150 for approximately $2.00 each.\(^{64}\)

The sample hatband was returned to Tom Vint, along with the changes required, so he could make a drawing. The drawing incorporated two styles, utilizing the same information. One style had USNPS on the front only, while the other had it on the front and the back. The advantage of the latter was that it would require a die half the size, at considerably less cost, than the former. The die would make two revolutions to imprint the band, instead of the single needed to make the former. The committee thought that, despite the extra cost, the larger die should be used.\(^{65}\)

In order to reduce the cost to the employees, the Service decided to purchase the die and lend it to the successful bidder whenever new hatbands were required.\(^{66}\)

Since the hatband was paid for by the individual, it could be retained after termination of employment. As Acting Director Cammerer stated it: "This hatband is not an emblem of authority such as the Police Badge worn by rangers and other field men, which must be returned in order such emblems of authority will not be scattered promiscuously throughout the country. On the other hand, it is realized that the desire for retention of some souvenir of employment is uppermost in the minds of
many, if not most, of the temporary rangers, and by making them pay for the band it will enable them to retain it along with their hats and collar ornaments.\(^{67}\)

The hatbands were to be made out of four-to-five-ounce "Tooling Veal-skin," with a two-ounce cinch strap. The Sequoia cone ornaments and the rings were to be sterling silver.

Superintendent Tomlinson received the first consignment of hatbands on May 26, 1930. These were made by a Mr. Brown. It is not known if he made the hatbands personally or just represented the company that did. The finished product made such a striking appearance that the first thought was to restrict them to working employees. However, the director had already authorized that they be personal property, and prohibitions that could not be rigidly enforced would only weaken the regulations already in force.\(^{68}\) So this idea was dropped.

New hat bands and cap chin straps were prescribed in the 1936 regulations (Office Order No. 324, April 13, 1936). "Pending approval of a new design and manufacture of a new die", the existing silver Sequoia cone ornaments were to be used. It is not known at this time what the intended changes, if any, were to be to the hat band ornaments. From drawings and photographs, it would appear that the only change in the leather hat band was to widen it from its original 15/16" to 1-1/3". It was recommended that "at least one new hat band be purchased immediately by each field unit so the standard cordovan color prescribed for all leather articles of the National Park Service will be available."\(^{69}\)

There was a slight variation in the design in the 1970s, when the manufacturer supplied its own die.

These hatbands are made of heavier leather and have a much deeper embossing and the cones have the appearance of pine cones instead of the approved Sequoia cones. With a change of suppliers in the late 1970s the hatband reverted to the original design. Unfortunately, the new bands were of a very inferior quality. They were very...
thin, with shallow embossing. After a couple of years a new die was cut, and the hatbands once again became something employees could be proud of. With the change of uniform suppliers in the late 1970s or early 1980s the Sequoia cones were changed to gold plate. This was probably to bring them into line with all the other metal on the uniform, which had gravitated to gold over the years. In 1984 they became solid brass. But because the hatbands did not wear out and were usually transferred to new hats, there are still many older rangers sporting the original sterling cones on their hats.

Head and chin straps were authorized for the hat in Office Order No. 324 of April 13, 1936. The head strap was to be plain 1/2-inch leather, but the chin strap could be either plain calf-skin or "same design as the hat band," with silver Sequoia fasteners. The 1961 uniform regulations eliminated the chin strap but retained the head strap, although it was now only 1/4-inch wide and to be "worn only in sustained windy conditions." This regulation is still in effect.
Although not officially authorized by the Service, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Atlanta, Georgia introduced a large 4” x 10” patch in 1984 to be worn on the back of “raid” vests and jackets in conjunction with a new cloth badge (page 35, top) on the front. This was inaugurated in order to present a more visible identification for rangers participating in law enforcement activities. This patch consisted of the words “U.S. RANGER/FEDERAL OFFICER” embroidered in a golden yellow on a dark forest green background. As with the accompanying cloth badge, it was an outgrowth of a vest issued to the 1983 class with these two elements stenciled in yellow on it. This patch was phased out with the issuance of the 1991 badge patch, although it still shows up occasionally.

The new raid vest has the badge/patch sewn on the left front, with NATIONAL PARK/SERVICE silk-screened on the right in 1/2” gold letters. Instead of a patch, the back has reverted back to having the wearers identification silk-screened on the back, also in large gold letters, although it now says “NATIONAL PARK RANGER/POLICE.” The first two lines are 1-3/4” with POLICE being 4 1/8”.

1984-1991
LAW ENFORCEMENT PATCH

Issued by FLETC to be worn on the back of raid vests by during special operations.

Description: dark green material with bright yellow gold letters
size: 4” high x 10” wide
Length-of-Service Insignia

The first Length-of-Service (LoS) designation was authorized at the national parks conference held in San Francisco on January 9, 1915. It consisted of a stripe on the sleeve for each five years with the park service. The correspondence authorizing these stripes does not specify color, size, material, nor location, but a photograph of Forrest Townsley taken in 1919 at Grand Canyon National Park shows him wearing three dark bands of tape, presumably black, around the top of the cuff of his left sleeve. These appear to be similar to that worn by Army staff officers. If so, they are probably 1/2" wide. Since Townsley entered the park system in 1904, giving him fifteen years service in 1919, it can be assumed that these three stripes are those mentioned in the above communique.

With the 1920 uniform regulations, the single black stripe was regulated to one year of service, with a silver star taking its place for five years. These insignia were to be sewn on the left sleeve of the coat, as well as the shirt, with the lowest device being 2-1/2 inches from the end. The stripes were originally to be “narrow black silk braid 3 inches long” but when the regulations were issued they specified “A service stripe of black braid 1/8" wide by 2 inches long.” The stars were to be “embroidered white” (silver). Both the embroidered stars and the applied braid were issued on long, three inch wide strips of unbound forest green serge, which may account for the earlier discrepancy. Apparently the edges of the material were to be turned and basted onto the coat sleeve, and in the case of the stripes, leaving two inches of the braid exposed. However, photographs show stripes of varying lengths resulted when left to the individual. Trying to turn the soutache (braid) and keep it neat was also a trick. Although not specified in the regulations, photographs show that the normal practice was for the stripes to be below the stars when worn together, with the stars pointing down.
Some employees had been around since long before the formation of the National Park Service, entitling them to an abundance of stars and stripes. "A man with fifteen or twenty years of service looks like a rear admiral," Frank Pinkley commented. This situation was alleviated in 1930 by Office Order No. 204, which introduced gold stars to represent ten years of service. They lasted only until Office Order No. 324 of April 13, 1936, revamped the stripes and silver stars as follows:

For each year of completed service a black braid, 1/8" wide and 2" long.

After the first star is earned, bars shall be discontinued to indicate service of less than five-year periods. For each five-year period of completed service, a silver embroidered star.

The new regulations also addressed the problem of the stripe uniformity as well. They were still applied on long 3 inch wide rolls of unbound forest green serge, but now, the stripes, instead of tape, were embroidered 1/8 inch by 2 inches long on it.

The order also stated that "When more than one star is worn, they shall be arranged horizontally up to four and triangularly when more than four stars are worn."

The "triangularly" part caused some problems later until it was decided that the fifth star would be centered over the bottom four and subsequent stars would contribute to an expanding pyramid. Stars came in units of one to six. Units of one to four were arranged horizontally, while five and up were to be

Forrest Townsley, c.1929. Even though this image is purported to have been taken in 1929, Townsley appears to be wearing LoS insignia for 16 years on his sleeve, which would make it 1921. It is, however, the only image of anyone wearing their LoS insignia on their shirt. It would be interesting to know if he also has his chief ranger brassard on his other sleeve, per the regulations.

Courtesy of Virginia Best Adams (Mrs. Ansel Adams)

Guy D. Edwards, superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, 1936. Edwards has LoS insignia for 7 years on his sleeve. He is wearing his superintendents badge. This was the year the badge was changed from silver to gold for supts.

NPSHPC-Geoge grant photo-HFC#201-T
arranged triangularly. (seven stars - unit of four and a unit of three; eight stars - unit of five and unit of three; etc.)

Until 1956 the service stars were made up on a continuous roll, same as the stripes. When cut and applied to the sleeve, the serge material often unraveled and took on a ragged appearance if not sewn properly. That year, Charles C. Sharp suggested that they be made up on neat cloth panels, of from one to six stars each. This solved the problem. 72

Also in 1956, with some personnel reaching very long service, it was decided that when seven stars were worn, the bottom row would contain five stars.

The 1961 uniform regulations eliminated all the stars and stripes, replacing them with Department of the Interior (USDI) pins for service in ten-year increments from ten to fifty years. These pins, worn at the discretion of the employee, featured a buffalo with U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR in an arc over the top and the year designation across the bottom. They were all bronze, but each year had a different background color.

In 1972 the Service switched to pins supplied by the General Services Administration (GSA). These consisted of an eagle over a shield containing the years, with DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR on a ribbon underneath. They were bronze for ten years, silver for twenty years, and gold for thirty years and above, again with different colored backgrounds.

The pins changed again in 1987. This time they came from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and consisted of the national eagle emblem, complete with wreath of stars over the top. Again they came in bronze, silver, and gold, but there was no wording on them, only the years designation at the bottom. All of the designations had a blue background.

In 1990 the Service reverted to the Interior pin. These are now considered personal adornment and discouraged from being worn on the uniform. As in previous cases, the earlier pin continued to be issued until the stock was depleted.
1915-1920
SERVICE STRIPE

Denoted 5 years service-worn around top of left cuff

description: flat black tape
size: 1/2" wide

1920-1938
SERVICE STRIPE

Denoted 1 year service-worn on left cuff

description: black soutache tape sewn on uniform material, issued in 3" wide rolls
size: 1/8" wide x 2" wide (edges turned under)

1920-1956
SERVICE STAR, white

Denoted 5 years service-worn on left cuff, above stripes

description: white star embroidered on uniform material, issued in 3" wide rolls
size: 1/2"

1930-1936
SERVICE STAR, gold

Denoted 10 years service-worn on left cuff, position not specified

description: gold star embroidered on uniform material
size: 1/2"

1936-1961
SERVICE STRIPE

Denoted 1 year service-worn on left cuff

description: black, embroidered on 3" wide piece of uniform material
size: 1/8" wide x 2" long
1956-1961

SERVICE STAR PANELS

Stars were issued on panels from 1 to however many needed. When more than 4 stars were worn, they were arranged in a pyramid shape.

description: silver stars on green panel with 1/8" border
size: depended on number of stars

1961-1972

1990-present

USDI SERVICE PINS

Worn in left lapel

description: Bronze, with different accent colors
size: 1/2" high x 5/8" wide

1972-1987

GSA SERVICE PINS

Worn in left lapel. Not to be worn after 1977

description: bronze, silver & gold with different accent colors
size: 5/8" high x 1/2" wide

1987-1990

OPM SERVICE PINS

Not to be worn on uniform

description: bronze, silver & gold, blue number accent
size: 11/16" high x 1/2" wide
Name Tags

Although name tags had been used prior to 1961, that was the first year they were included in the uniform regulations. As with the other items prescribed, they actually came into use the year before. They were not mandatory, though. The 1961 uniform regulations stated, under Name Tags:

"A plastic identification tag is authorized to be worn at the discretion of the superintendent. It shall be of plastic, with two pin-through fasteners with spring keepers on the back. The tag itself shall be approximately 3/4" x 3", with dark green background, and white letters. The individual's name should be in letters 1/4" or 3/8" high, and the employee's title (optional) 3/16" high, below the name. The name tag when worn shall be centered over the left breast pocket flap of coat or shirt."

Uniformed employees name tags were to have first name, middle initial and surname only.

However, Director Wirth thought that all uniformed employees should wear a name tag when meeting the public. So it was recommended that the uniform regulations be change to reflect this. It was thought impractical to wear the name tag on field uniforms but consideration might later be given to a "pliable leather" or cloth name tag, similar to those used by the U.S. Air Force, to be sewn on the field uniform. (Many Service helicopter pilot's were later to adopt the sewn on leather name tags on flight coveralls)

The location provided for the badge and name tag (for men) was not

This image is from a slide presentation on the proper dress and edicate of National Park Rangers. This particular photograph illustrates the what not to do, smoking and carrying cameras around, but it also shows the leather name tags that were sometimes worn prior to the green laminate tags prescribed in the 1961 regulations.

Left to right:
J. Gifford; Reg L. Wilson;
(?)
NPSHPC/HFC#96-1348

Felix Hernandez, III, Big Bend National Park.
Hernandez is wearing the 1960 green laminate name tag, 1960 style badge and summer straw hat.
NPSHPC-M. Woodbridge
Williams photo-HFC#2775-5

Park Ranger Paul Fodor preparing to leave on a medical evacuation in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sept. 8, 1978. Fodor is wearing a military style leather name tag on his coveralls and an arrowhead decal on his helmet.
Courier. December, 1978
Beatrice Lunt, Colonial National Historical Park. Lunt is wearing the Model 1962 stewardess uniform with the 1960 green laminate name tag and Arrowhead pin ("in lieu of badge"). The "regs" called for the USNPS to be worn on the blouse collar, if worn outside, but she has hers on her coat lapels.

NPSHPC/HFC#96-1332

very becoming to women, it being too low. Besides women did not have breast pockets in their coat (jackets). It was recommended that the name tag be raised to 2" below the notch of the lapel on the right side of the jacket and in a similar location on the blouse. These recommendations were approved by Wirth on October 20, 1960. 74 When the jacket with shawl collar was adopted in 1962, this same general location was still used.

A suggestion was put forward that wearing the name tag, as approved for uniformed employees did not serve the purpose adequately. It was thought that a more descriptive identification should be used. This could be accomplished by several ways. Add (1)(a) "National Park Service" (this was thought to be redundant since it was already on the arrowhead patch): (b) name of park, monument, or other specific area (preferable); or (2) his or her employment category (if feasible on a single line). Wirth considered (a) the best and even though he approved it on December 12, 1961, there are no amendments to the regulations or photographs to show that it was ever implemented. 75

Amendment No. 4, January 30, 1962, changed the discretionary part of the above to make it mandatory for all uniformed employees when in dress uniform and meeting the public to wear the name tag. However, it was still optional, at the superintendents discretion, to be worn on uniforms during winter activities, boatmen's uniforms or on the stormcoat. Its location was changed as well. It now was to be worn above the right breast pocket flap on coat or shirt.

Also included in the amendment was an identification badge (name tag) for nonuniformed employees who met or dealt with park visitors in the normal course of their work. This badge served to identify them as members of the National Park Service. The badge was to be made out of the same material (dark green plastic laminate) as the ranger name tags. It was to be 3" x 1-1/4" with
a 1” arrowhead insignia on the left side and three lines of text. The first line consisted of "National Park Service" in lower case; the second line was the employees employment category, i.e., PARK ENGINEER, ROAD FOREMAN, SECRETARY, etc.; third line was for employees name in lower case. (first, middle initial, surname) These name tags were made by the Yosemite National Park Sign Shop for $2.00, with name, or $1.50 without name.

A similar name tag was also used by park maintenance personnel. The badge was made out of the same material as above along with the arrowhead on the left and "National Park Service" on top, but "Park Maintenance" in lower case was on the bottom, with the employee's name in green embossing tape between them.

The above tags were worn until 1969, when the style of the ranger name tag was changed to "gold metal plate with cordovan colored block letters; corners rounded." This tag also had the two pin keepers, but now it was to be worn over the right pocket. This tag was also issued to maintenance supervisors.
Claude S. Fernandez, 1970. Fernandez is wearing a "HABLO ESPANOL" identification tag under his 1970 name tag. Also note the PARKSCAPE tie tack.

NPS/HPC/HFC#91-4

As well.

Although the 1974 uniform regulations first specified a new name tag for uniformed maintenance personnel, photographs show this had been introduced in the late 1960's. Instead of being detachable, this new name tag was embroidered and sewn on the uniform centered above the right breast pocket with the bottom flush with the top of the pocket flap. It consisted of white block lettering on a green background with a brown border.

However, though not addressed in the regulations, there were actually two cloth name tags, one over each pocket. The one over the left pocket contained NATIONAL PARK SERVICE in 1/2" white block letters, per the regulations, while the other contained the first initial and last name of the employee in white script. Sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s, the arrowhead patch was added to the shirt, making the National Park Service patch redundant and it was eliminated. The name patch is still worn today. These name patches were and still are, furnished by the Lion Brothers Company of Owings Mills, Maryland. The name patches are sent to the uniform supplier blank and the name is stitched in there.

In 1981 the name tag was changed to the larger rectangle style
used today. It retained the gold finish. In keeping with the Service's goal of trying to assist all visitors, new name tags were issued to sign and foreign language interpreters. These were the same as the standard name tag, only expanded to accommodate the additional lettering. Language interpreter tags had been worn before this, but they were separate from the employee's name tag and usually purchased locally by the park. This was the first time that they were made part of the uniform regulations.

Included with these tags was one for non-uniformed personnel. This consisted of the same gold badge, but it had the NPS arrowhead emblem on the left side. Under the employee's name was NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. This name tag was not to be worn with any uniform, although in the mid-1980s it was worn by rangers in some parks. These badges were made by the Reeves Company, Inc. of Attleboro, Massachusetts.

1960-1969
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

description: green laminate plastic; name engraved
size: 3/4" x 3"

1960-1974
SUPPORT PERSONNEL

description: green laminate plastic; National Park Service, name & position engraved
size: 1-1/4" x 3"

1969-1981
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

description: gold colored metal; engraved name, cordovan colored letters
size: 7/16" x 2" (average)

1974-1981
MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

description: green cloth with light brown border; National Park Service in white 3/8" block letters
size: 1" x 4"
1974-present
MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

description: green cloth with light brown border; employees name in white script letters
size: 1" x 4"

1981-present
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

description: gold colored metal; name and information in black letters
size: 5/8" x 2-5/8" (average-ranger)
7/8" x 2-7/8" (interpreters)

Ranger

Single language interpreter

Multiple language interpreter

Sign language interpreter
  - style 1 -

Sign language interpreter
  - style 2 -

Non-uniformed personnel
Also issued to uniformed personnel in some parks in mid 1980's.
Sleeve Brassards

The 1920 uniform regulations brought forth a plethora of insignia. In addition to the three USNPS collar ornaments, there were 14 patches for the sleeve. These sleeve insignia, or brassards, were to identify the rank and position of the various park employees. They were to be worn between the elbow and the shoulder on the right sleeve. These insignia were embroidered on the same material as their respective uniforms: forest green serge for officers and forestry green wool cloth for rangers. All were to be 2-1/4 inches in diameter with a 1/8-inch "light green" border.

There were three categories of brassards: for directors, officers, and rangers. The basic device for directors was four maple leaves. These were to be embroidered in "golden green," with a star in the center. The only difference...
Director Stephen T. Mather at the North Entrance (Antler Gate), Yellowstone National Park, 1928. His director’s brassard shows very clearly, although the gold star is difficult to distinguish.

NPSHPC/HFC#91-11

John W. Emmert, chief electrician, Yosemite National Park, 1922. Emmert’s chief electrician brassard can be seen on his sleeve. The lightening bolts can readily be seen, but the oak leaves are hard to detect.

NPSHPC-Jimmy Lloyd photo-HFC#87-35

between the director and assistant director was that the former had a gold star and the latter a silver one.

The basic device for officers was oak leaves, three for chiefs and two for assistants. The oak leaves were a “shaded golden yellow” with “dark brown” branches. Superintendents and assistant superintendents had “golden brown” acorns with “darker brown” cups and branches, three and two, respectively, as their identifying devices. All other officer identifiers were embroidered in white. These identifiers were:

Clerk: ink bottle and quill (only two oak leaves)
Electrician: lightning bolts
Engineer: triangle and square
Forester: crossed axes (on three colored Sequoia cones)

Although foresters were considered to be officers, their brassard did not have the customary oak leaves. Instead, for some unexplained reason, the chief ranger patch was utilized with white crossed axes.

The basic device for the rangers was stated as being the Sequoia cone, while in actuality the common denominator was a wreath. Sequoia cones denoted the relative positions of the various permanent rangers. The chief ranger had three, the assistant chief ranger two, and the ranger one. All of these were within a “dark green” wreath. Temporary rangers had only the wreath. Sequoia cones were “light brown” with “dark brown” details and branches.

Although the 1920 regulations listed supervisors and assistant supervisors as officers, no special sleeve device was assigned to them. The 1922 order for sleeve insignia corrected this over-
sight and added four more officers to the fold:

Park supervisor: wheel
Chief clerk: inkwell and quill
   (three oak leaves)
Park physician: PARK PHYSICIAN
   on bar beneath circle
   (two oak leaves)
Park Naturalist: PARK NATURALIST
   on bar beneath circle
   (two oak leaves)
Chief Buffalo Keeper: CHIEF
   BUFFALO KEEPER
   on bar beneath circle
   (brassard to be same as chief ranger)

GAME WARDEN could also be added in white beneath the circle on any brassard.

When the contract for insignia was drawn up in 1924, a new sleeve brassard was added. This insignia, designated “unclassified,” was to be used by all uniformed officer personnel not otherwise covered under the regulations. It consisted of two oak leaves on a branch.

Because of resistance to the park naturalist sleeve brassard, no new ones were ordered in 1924. The park naturalists preferred to wear the “unclassified” insignia instead. Since the park physi-
Visitors eating lunch on meadows at summit of Logan Pass during highway dedication, July 15, 1933. Ranger is wearing the bear's head ranger naturalist patch on his sleeve.

NPSHPCH-George A. Grant photo-Glac#785

A design for a new park naturalist sleeve insignia was submitted by Ansel F. Hall, chief naturalist of the Service, in March 1925. Hall's original design has not been located, but correspondence indicates that it was based on an eagle. It was considered too intricate to be embroidered on the small patch and a simpler design was worked up, following the standard practice of the other sleeve brassards.

These are the two sleeve identification patches that were sent to Ansel Hall as substitutions for the eagle design he submitted. Hall chose the bear's head but thought the shape incorrect. His sketch of the correct design can be seen pinned to the bird patch.

Left: National Archives/RG 79 208.30
Right: NPSHC

Two samples were sent to Hall. both contained the three oak leaves of supervision, but one had a bird on it and the other a bear's head. Correspondence states that due to a lack of brown thread, the supplier worked the bird and bear's head in white, but more than likely, this was just a continuation of the practice of embroidering the identifier in that color. Hall approved the bear, but objected to the shape of the bear's head as being too round. He drew a corrected version and returned it to Washington. Thus, by 1926 the park naturalists had their own distinctive insignia. Park ranger naturalist, a temporary, or seasonal position, fell under the ranger category and as such wore a bear's head, worked in shaded brown, surrounded by foliage.

As the Service diversified, holders of new positions clamored for their own sleeve identification. Because the majority of these positions were not in the ranger field, they considered themselves officers. This situation was rapidly getting out of hand until the 1928 regulations resolved the matter. The matter of the officer badge had been decided in 1921 by declaring that only
those officers having a command function were to wear it. Now it was determined that those same individuals were the only ones to be considered officers. All others, with the exception of the rangers, were classified as employees. This resulted in the rangers being elevated to a position within the Service more equitable to their duties and responsibilities in the field. At the same time it was decided to eliminate the sleeve insignia from all but the ranger force.

At the 1934 superintendents' conference, it was decided that the sleeve brassard on the ranger uniform was an unnecessary expense and served no useful purpose. Even so, they remained in the regulations for several more years. Although there is photographic evidence that the sleeve brassards were worn as late as 1946, patches would not officially return to the National Park Service uniform for many years.

**1920-1928 DIRECTOR**

*description:* forestry green serge with light green border; 4 maple leaves in golden green; gold star in center

*size:* 2-1/4" diameter

**1920-1928 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

*description:* forestry green serge with light green border; 4 maple leaves in golden green; silver (white) star in center

*size:* 2-1/4" diameter
1920-1928
SUPERINTENDENTS
and
CUSTODIANS

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves embroidered in shaded golden yellow with dark brown branches; 3 acorns in shaded brown
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1928
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; 3 acorns in shaded brown
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1928
ELECTRICIAN

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; 3 white lightening bolts in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1920-1928
ASSISTANT ELECTRICIANS

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; 2 white lightening bolts in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter (example: 2-1/8" diameter)

1920-1928
ENGINEER

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white triangle and square
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1928
ASSISTANT ENGINEER

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white triangle and square
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1922-1928
SUPERVISOR

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white wheel in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1922-1928
ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white wheel in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1928
FORESTER

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 Sequoia cones in shaded brown with green wreath (same as chief ranger); white crossed axes
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1922-1928
CHIEF CLERK

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white ink bottle and quill in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1928
CLERK

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown branches; white ink bottle and quill in center
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1936
CHIEF RANGER

description: forestry green wool with light green border; 3 Sequoia cones in shaded brown with green wreath
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1920-1936
ASSISTANT CHIEF RANGER

description: forestry green wool with light green border; 2 Sequoia cones in shaded brown with green wreath
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1936
RANGER

description: forestry green wool with light green border; 1 Sequoia cone in shaded brown with green wreath
size: 2-1/4" diameter

1920-1936
TEMPORARY RANGER

description: forestry green wool with light green border; green wreath with brown stems
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1922-1928
PARK NATURALIST

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown stems; bar attached to bottom with PARK NATURALIST in white letters
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" high

1922-1928
PARK PHYSICIAN

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown stems; bar attached to bottom with PARK PHYSICIAN in white letters
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" high
1922-1936?
CHIEF BUFFALO KEEPER

description: forestry green wool with light green border; 2 Sequoia cones in shaded brown with green wreath; CHIEF BUFFALO KEEPER in white letters in bar at bottom
size: 2-5/8" wide x 4" high

1924-1928
UNCLASSIFIED

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 2 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown stems
size: 2-1/4" diameter
1926-1928
CHIEF NATURALIST

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown stems; bear's head in shaded brown in center; bar underneath with CHIEF NATURALIST in light green letters
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" high

1926-1928
PARK NATURALIST

description: forestry green serge with light green border; 3 oak leaves in shaded golden yellow with brown stems; bear's head in shaded brown in center
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" high

1926-1928
RANGER NATURALIST

description: forestry green wool with light green border; bear's head in shaded brown in center of green wreath with brown stems
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/2" high
Tie Ornaments

In the early years the coat was usually kept buttoned, negating the need for a tie tack or bar. Occasionally, a stick pin or other such ornament shows up in a photograph, but for the most part, nothing was used to hold the tie down even when the coat wasn’t worn.

The first tie ornaments were authorized on February 13, 1956. Amendment No. 12 to the 1947 uniform regulations states, “If a tie clasp is used the National Park Service emblem tie clasp is suggested.” This first Service tie clasp consisted of a hidden bar with a chain looped over the tie and a small arrowhead emblem, in gold or silver, suspended from the middle of the chain. This was only a suggestion, and photographs show that a lot of employees used plain chain ornaments as well as bars. As fashion changed, so did the ornaments. The arrowhead was next put on a bar, then a tie tack. One did not necessarily succeed the previous style. In 1965 all three were available from Balfour Supply Service, Inc.

With the 1956 uniform regulations, the wearing of a tie clasp remained optional but if one was worn it had to be the National Park Service emblem (arrowhead).

The 1961 uniform regulations still listed tie ornaments as optional, although now it was specified that if one were worn, it would be the “official National Park Service silver (gold for superintendents) tie tack.” When worn, tie tack was to be “centered at third
button down, starting with the neckband button, the clutch pin piercing both tie ends and the anchor chain bar secured through the shirt buttonhole."

As stated previously under badges, in January 1962 a silver “tie tack style” pin was authorized as an option for women employees, in lieu of the regulation badge. Although this pin conforms to the size and design of the men’s tie tack, it was stamped from a different die. All surface features are either raised or diked, as if the pin was originally designed to be enamel-filled. Word from the field is that they were crudely constructed and the pin on the back was in constant need of repair.

In late 1963, authorization was given for the wearing of enameled tie tacks, or “pinettes”, as they were called, instead of the plain gold or silver. These were of gold or silver with a multi-colored enamel fill. Either color metal could be worn, but superintendents were to designate which, in order for their entire park staff to be uniform. In 1964, V. H. Blackinton and Co. began making these tie tacks in “HiGlo” (enamel) and “Rhodium” (enamel) for $2.25 and $2.50, respectively. These enameled tie tacks could be used by both uniformed and non-uniform employees.

As stated in the Arrowhead section, in 1966, the National Park Service initiated a service-wide program entitled MISSION 66. An outgrowth of this, and a pet project of Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., was another project called, PARKSCAPE USA. It’s emblem was three intertwined angles surrounding three round dots. This emblem was also converted into a tie tack and authorized to be worn in place of the arrowhead, if so desired. Most
This image from Yosemite National Park, 1960, shows the early placement of the name tag over the left pocket. Kowski (the designer of the experimental 1955 badge) is wearing one of the early arrowhead tie tacks. This tie tack came in with the 1961 regulations, but like a lot of items in those provisions, was purchased in the intervening year.

Left to right: Myron Sutton, Frank Kowski, Ted Thompson

This photograph is one of a series that were taken in 1974 to illustrate the different ranger uniforms and the proper way to wear them. This particular image shows the summer shirt. The 1970 name tag and badge are shown as well as the gold tie tack.

NPSHPC/HFC#74-1599

uniformed personnel, however, preferred the arrowhead, with its symbolism, to the abstract PARKSCAPE design.

With the design change of Interior’s seal in 1968 and Director Hartzog’s pressing his PARKSCAPE USA agenda, one of the casualties was the arrowhead tie tack. The small triangular pin became the official tie tack of the National Park Service.

With the Interior seal reverting back to the buffalo in 1969, the attempt to replace the Arrowhead with the PARKSCAPE symbol was abandoned. The Arrowhead shoulder patch was reinstated, but the latter was retained for the official tie tack. The little triangles, now gold and green enamel, remained in use until 1974, at which time the arrowhead once again came back into use.

In 1976, the country’s Bicentennial brought forth a number of decorations for the uniform. One ornament was an adaptation of the standard arrowhead tie tack with “American Bicentennial” on a curved bar across the top. These were made by Blackinton. This tie tack was authorized as a replacement for the standard tie tack in a Memo by Acting Director Raymond L. Freeman on April 16, 1976, and continued until December 31, 1977. It’s use was not mandatory, but, nevertheless, strongly encouraged. Cost was $3.25 per 100.

Service uniforms were becoming very cluttered. After the Bicentennial fanfare was over, reaction set in and the uniform was stripped of extraneous paraphernalia. Only the basics were retained: collar ornaments, badge, arrowhead patch and tie tack. The uniform remains in this condition today.
1956
OPTIONAL TIE CLIP

description: gold or silver; 11/16" x 13/16" arrowhead suspended by small 1
swept link chain.
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/4" high
made by: Balfour Supply Service, Inc.

Late 1950s
OPTIONAL TIE BAR

description: gold or silver; 11/16" x 13/16" arrowhead mounted on 3/8" x 2" bar.
size: 2-1/4" wide x 3-1/4" high
made by: Balfour Supply Service

1961-1968
OFFICIAL NPS TIE TACK

Superintendents wore gold, rangers silver.
description: gold or silver; bayonet clip fastener
size: 5/8" wide x 13/16" high

1962-1970
WOMEN'S ARROWHEAD PIN

While still in the regulations, this pin was seldom worn after mid 1960s.
description: nickel-plated with pin fastener
size: 5/8" wide x 3/4" high
1963
ENAMELED ARROWHEAD TIE TACK

Authorized to be worn by all uniformed employees. Superintendent had the option of specifying gold or silver trim.

description: gold or silver with multi-color enamel fill

size: 5/8" wide x 3/4" high

1966-1969
PARKSCAPE USA TIE TACK

Optional until 1968, then replaced arrowhead.

description: silver with black fill

size: 9/16" wide x 9/16" high

1969-1974
OFFICIAL NPS UNIFORM TIE TACK

Arrowhead tie tack reinstated in 1974

description: gold with green and black enamel

size: 9/16" wide by 9/16" high

1976-1977
OPTIONAL AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL TIE TACK

description: gold with black enamaled ribbon on top, AMERICAN BICENTENIAL in ribbon

size: 4/4" wide x 1" high

made by: V.H. Blackinton & Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts

1974-present
OFFICIAL ARROWHEAD TIE TACK

description: gold

size: 11/16" wide x 3/4" high
After World War II, returning uniformed Park Service employees were allowed to wear their military uniforms on duty, along with any decorations, for 60 days. After which time, they had to don their Park Service uniform but were still authorized to wear “any ribbons to which they are entitled for service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.” Apparently this allowance was loosely interpreted, because photographs show rangers wearing military medals and decorations, as well as ribbons. This practice continued until rescinded in the 1961 uniform regulations.

The 1956 uniform regulations authorized those employees who had received Departmental Awards either for “distinguished service” or “meritorious service” to wear the appropriate lapel emblem as part of the official uniform. The Department length-of-service emblem (USDI) was also authorized to be worn. The 1961 regulations state that these emblems are to be worn in the left lapel buttonhole, but the sketch that accompanies it shows the length-of-service pin above the button on the right top pocket flap. Apparently the pin placement was changed prior to the regulations being issued and the sketch overlooked.

The 1961 uniform regulations also authorized the wearing of temporary buttons: “At the discretion of the superintendent, temporary fund drive buttons for charities and public benefits recognized by the National Park Service may be worn on the uniform on the left lapel on jackets or on the flap of the left pocket on shirts.”

Although the 1961 regulations were the first to address the issue, pins and tags had adorned the uniform from the early years. The most notable occasion was the American Bicentennial.
Tom Curry, administrative support clerk, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, 1991. Curry is wearing the NPS 75th Anniversary pin.

The early 1970's seem to have been the "Hey-Day" of wearing the round tin button-pin on the uniform. This is a small sampling of pins worn on Park Service uniforms.

A. 1972-National Parks Centennial pin
B. 1976-American Bicentennial lapel pin
C. 1974-Urban Youth Program, Richmond National Battlefield
D. 1972-Environmental pin (environmental program)
E. 1973-Year Of The Bike pin
F. 1973-Flag pin authorized by Director Ron Walker
G. 1991-75th Anniversary pin

and its myriad symbols. But there were many others. The Centennial of the National Park System saw a stylized geyser emblem, in the form of a pin, receive much wear. There were also several environmental programs underway at the time with their own symbols. This practice is continued today with pins for special occasions such as the Service's 75th anniversary in 1991 still periodically authorized.

There are too many of these pins to be treated in detail here, but the following small assortment is representative of this type of decoration.
Conclusion

As can be seen, the National Park Service, like any viable organization, has attempted to change with the times—not always for the better. The uniform today is basically the same as that envisioned in 1920. Even though it now has shoes and trousers, instead of boots and breeches, there are still far more similarities than differences. The cut of the dress coat has been altered somewhat, to accommodate the women in the Service, but the color remains the forest green laid down in the early years and the buttons and collar ornaments have survived long enough to become a tradition. Old hands like Walter Fry or Dusty Lewis would still recognize a park ranger if they were to run into him today. The old saying “the more things change, the more they remain the same” is nowhere truer than in the National Park Service.
Photo File
Nine rangers at Yosemite National Park, c. 1917. Their coats have something on the collars, probably the specified N.P.S., either stitched or of metal (furnished by Lewis). They are all wearing the small badge, except for the third man from the left, who appears to be wearing the large 1906 "eagle" badge.

*Left to right:*
(?, Forresat S. Townsley, (?), Billy Nelson, Jack Gaylar, Ansel Hall, (?), Charlie Adair, (?)

*Courtesy of Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley*

Motorcycle patrol at Yellowstone National Park, 1919. Scoven's (Assistant Director 1956-1962) small badge can be seen partially hidden under his left pocket flap.

*Left to right:* John Tyler; Eivind Scoven; Clyde Roney; Emmett Matthews; Hollis Matthews

*NPSHPC/YELL#31*
Ranger force at Yosemite National Park, c.1924. They are all wearing the 1920 badge that was first issued in July, 1920. Chief Ranger Forrest Townsley is on the right.

*NPSHPC/HFC#YOSE 909*

Nature guides in front of a section of Sequoia gigantea at museum in Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, 1926. Michael, though employed for several years as a nature guide and ranger-naturalist, never wore a uniform. The other guides are still wearing the 1906 badge even though it was supplanted by the 1920 badge six years earlier.

*Left to right:* E.Rett; R.D.Harwood; G.C.Ruhle; Enid Michael; D.D.McLean; C.P.Russell; Dr. H.C.Bryant

*NPSHPC/HFC#88-1*

NPSHPC/YELL#131,465

East side motor patrol, 1933, Rocky Mountain National Park. Jack Barrows, on the left, is wearing the "English Officer's" hat as prescribed in the Regs, while Vernon Moist is wearing the later faceted hat with his badge on the front.

NPSHPC/ROMO#962

Ranger force at Sequ [Sequoia National Park], c. late 1920s. Note the variety of ties and belts worn due to the lack of a regulation governing them.

Left to right: Packard; Lew Davis; Kerr; Williams; Brooke; Cook; Peck; Dorr; Fry; Alles; Smith; Spigelmire; Gibson

NPSHPC/HFC#86-246
CRLA [Crater Lake National Park] Naturalist Staff, 1939. Bears head shows clearly on their sleeve brassards.

*Left to right:* rear: Kartchner, Osmond, Applegate, Miller, Huestis. *Front:* Famer, Doerr, Nee, Aldrich

*NPSHPC/CRLA#4505

Louis Fowler in Anemone Cave, Acadia National Park, c.1935. Fowler is dressed for motorcycle duty; Sam Browne belt, cap, etc. He also has an eagle on the front of his cap.

*NPSHPC/HFC#73-898

Ranger force at Carlsbad Caverns, 1937. The men are wearing regulation badges, including Superintendent Tom Boles [right front]. The woman, however, along with her chic little hat, is wearing a small round object of unknown origin.

*NPSHPC/CACA#7490*
Uniformed staff, Mesa Verde National Park, 1941. Almost all of the rangers are wearing some sort of tie restraint, the majority of which are arrowheads of one type or another.

**Front row, Left to right:** Morehead, Riley, Ross, Jean Pinkley, Rose, Ptolmey, Asst. Park Naturalist Watson, Chief Ranger Faha  
**Back row, Left to right:** Supt. McLaughlin, Guillet, Withers, Taylor, Fluckey, Smiley, Attane, Sutherland, Asst. Supt. Williams

NPSHPC/HFC#94-497

NPSHPC-Jack E. Boucher Photo-HFC#59-JB-513

There's always an exception to the rule. Frank A. Kittredge, superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, 1940, has his USNPS's embroidered on his collar in gold thread. He is also wearing a metal nametag, the type where the name is written on paper and inserted.  
NPSHPC-Carl P. Russell Photo-HFC#M69-15
Charles R. Greenleaf, c. 1961. Greenleaf, captain of the RANGER II (NPS boat at Isle Royale National Park), is wearing the standard uniform with hat of matching material. He has a larger version of the crossed anchors on his hat, but now they are fouled.

NPSHPC-Jack E. Boucher Photo-HFC#61-JB-1003 (CN)

Louise Linen, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, c. 1961. This image clearly shows the ornamentation worn women during this period.

NPSHPC/HFC#96-1329

Uniformed staff at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 1965. Regulations state that boatmen were to wear the standard hat when ashore, but apparently Gene F. Gatzke (right end, second row) ignored this. He has the crossed anchors on his cap along with a small round disc with NPS on it. It appears the park only had one uniformed woman at this time.

NPSHPC-LAME-HFC#96-1349
Seasonal lifeguard Jean Newman at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, 1965. Newman is wearing the orange swimsuit with a variation of the Lifeguard arrowhead patch.

NPSHPC/HFC#WPS-15-82

Marie K. Absalon hands Joan Riley her seasonal pass, while Beverly Robinson looks on, Morristown National Park, 1966. In addition to her other uniform decoration, Absalon is wearing a USDI 10 year Service pin.

NPSHPC-Jack E. Boucher Photo-HFC#96-1335

Yosemite National Park, California. Park rangers receiving instruction in mountain climbing and rescue techniques so that (sic) can respond intelligently to the emergency needs, such as this, of venture-some hikers on the cliffs. C.1960's. Man in background is wearing the ski cap with the USNPS embroidered on the front.

NPSHPC/HFC#WASO-G-795
Calling in a possible smoke from Rankin Ridge Lookout - Wind Cave National Park. Man is wearing the 1947-1978 Fire Control Aid badge.

*NPSHPC/WICA/HFC#1350

Jessie J. Sutphin, c.1968. Sutphin's "Good Hands" badge shows very clearly.

*NPSHPC/HFC#1351
Mary Reinhart and Marian Riggs demonstrate the OLD and the NEW uniforms at the Grand Showing of the 1970 uniforms for women at Independence National Historical Park during Freedom Week, June 27, 1970. As you can see, the name tags were changed and the USNPS ornaments replaced by a small patch. Riggs is wearing an man's straw 'Summer' hat in place of the authorized women's version.

*NPSHPC-Cecil W. Stoughton photo-HFC#70-256-1-1A

This photograph of Carole Scanlon, taken the same day as above, shows the hat clearly, as well as the 1970 Class A woman's dress uniform. The hat had only a single vent hole in front instead of the 3 on either side like the men's hat.

*NPSHPC-Cecil W. Stoughton photo-HFC#70-255-1
Ranger inspects cherry trees in the National Capital Region, c.1972. He is wearing a pin from one of the many programs initiated over the years by the Park Service.

NPSHPC-Jack Rottier photo-HFC#10094-18E

Bill Rudolph, park technician, National Capital Parks, plays with a little furry friend, 1973. Rudolph is wearing one of Director Ron Walker's flag pins.

NPSHPC-Jack Rottier photo-HFC#11026-5R
Young seasonal ranger talks with visitor at Lincoln Memorial. Her hat and uniform ornamentation stand out clearly, proclaiming to everyone that she is a member of the National Park Service.

*NPSHPC-Herman B. Gaines photo-NCR*
Appendix

The first comprehensive uniform regulations for the National Park Service were formalized in 1920. These regulations specified the clothing to be worn by the various classes of employees and though ornamentation was covered rather extensively, there was no mention of a badge, although correspondence from the period indicates that a badge had been designed and was in the process of being made. Amendments were made in 1921 authorizing additional badges and later changing who was to wear them, but the first time badges were incorporated into the regulations was 1923.

Forester was considered an officer position and even though the 1920 and all subsequent uniform regulations, up until 1928 when officers' sleeve insignia were discontinued, described it as having the basic officer insignia of “Three leaves [oak leaves] with crossed axes superimposed”, the drawing accompanying the 1921 contract for sleeve insignia indicate it was to be the “Three cones with foliage” of the Chief Ranger with white crossed axes superimposed.

Following are the two regulations that set the standards for the early uniform decoration.

1920

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNIFORM BY OFFICERS AND RANGERS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(1) The standard uniform for officers of the National Park Service shall consist of:

(a) Coat of forestry serge 12 to 14 oz.; four button sack; either open or English convertible collar*; pinch back and half belt in back; two breast pockets, pleated; two side pockets, bellows; all outside pockets with flaps fastened with Service buttons.

* It had been agreed at the 1919 conference that the coat would be “four button sack; either open or English convertible collar”. However, after the Regulations were drawn up, but prior to their adoption, it was decided that the coat would not be convertible, only open collar. In spite of this change, when the Regulations were issued, the term “English convertible collar” was incorporated in them and remained in subsequent Regulations until 1928, even though “convertible collars were not allowed.
(b) Riding breeches of same material; two side and two hip pockets and watch pocket; a double seat; with or without leather reinforcement inside knees; buttoned at knee opening.

© Leather puttees and shoes to match, tan or cordovan color, latter preferred, except on dress occasions, when leather puttees are prescribed. Either spiral puttees or tan riding boots may be worn as a part of uniform.

(d) Service hat - Stetson, either stiff or cardboard brim, “belly” color.

(e) Shirt - grey wool or white shirt and collar.

(f) Tie - dark green four-in-hand.

(g) Collar ornaments, sleeve insignia and service stripes as herein-after prescribed.

(h) Overcoat of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz.; five button ulster type, double breasted, English convertible collar; diagonal side pockets, pinch back with half belt and back vented to waist.

(2) Officers in the field service of the National Parks to whom are referred in these regulations as authorized to wear the officers uniform of the service are those employees holding appointments under the following designations:-

- Superintendents,
- Assistant Superintendents,
- Engineers,
- Assistant Engineers,
- Supervisors,
- Assistant Supervisors,
- Foresters,
- Clerks.

And such other employees as the Director of the national Park Service may from time to time authorize.

(3) The standard uniform for Park Rangers shall be the same as prescribed for officers with the following exceptions:

(a) Coat and riding breeches to be made of forestry cloth 16 to 18 oz. instead of forestry serge.
(b) Overcoat of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz., four button mackinaw type, English convertible collar, half belt in back.

(4) While temporary rangers are not required to equip themselves with the standard ranger uniform, its use by them is encouraged. In lieu of the standard uniform all temporary rangers, before reporting for duty, or as soon afterward as practicable, will provide themselves with the following prescribed temporary ranger uniform.

Riding breeches - Dux back.
Puttees - leather, tan or cordovan color,
Preferably latter.
Shoes - to match puttees.
Shirt - grey wool.
Tie - dark green four-in-hand
Hat - Stetson - either stiff or cardboard
Brim, “belly” color.

Collar ornaments and sleeve insignia as prescribed under paragraphs 5 and 9.

(5) The collar ornament prescribed for all officers and rangers of the Service shall be the standard NPS service device containing the letters US, the various NPS service units to be differentiated as follows:

(a) All officers, device of gold,
(b) Chief Ranger, device of silver,
© Asst. Chief Rangers, device of silver,
(d) Park Rangers, device of silver,
(e) Park Rangers, Temporary, device of bronze.

(6) The sleeve insignia for the Director of the National Park Service shall consist of a single gold star surrounded by four maple leaves, the whole surrounded by a circular frame. The entire device to be embroidered on forestry serge, the star in gold, the leaves in dark green, and the circular frame in light green silk.

(7) The sleeve insignia for the Assistant Director of the National Park Service shall be the same as that prescribed for the Director except that the star shall be of silver color instead of gold.

(8) Oak leaves have been adopted as the basic insignia of the field service other than Rangers, for sleeve insignia. Upon all are superimposed devices designating the particular division of the field service to which the officer is attached. The various designations shall be as follows:

Superintendents - Three leaves with three acorns superimposed
Asst. Supects. - Two " " Two "
Engineers - Three " " T-square and triangle "
Asst. Engineers - Two " " " " "
Foresters - Three " " Crossed axes "
Chief Electricians - Three " " Lightning bolt "
Asst. Electricians - Two " " " " "
Clerks - Two " " Ink bottle and quill "

(a) Officers' sleeve insignia shall be embroidered on forestry serge.

(9) The Sequoia cone and foliage have been adopted as the basic insignia for the Park Ranger Service for sleeve insignia, the differentiation in rank being indicated by the number of cones. The various designations shall be as follows:

Chief Ranger - Three cones with foliage,
Asst. Chief Ranger - Two cone with foliage,
Rangers - One cone with foliage,
Temporary Rangers - Foliage only.

(a) Sleeve insignia of the Ranger Service shall be embroidered on forestry cloth.

(10) All Rangers shall be in uniform when on duty at park headquarters during the tourist season, when on official business either inside or outside the park, and on any other occasion as directed by the Superintendent of the park to which they are attached. In addition to this the use of the uniform is encouraged on all occasions where contact is had with the public either on or off duty where the nature of the duties being performed makes it practicable.

(11) Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Engineers, and Assistant Engineers shall wear the uniform at all times when on duty during the tourist season and shall be required to transact all business either inside or outside of the park in uniform except when on duty in the District of Columbia, or as may be otherwise directed by the Director of the National Park Service.

(12) Other officers of the field service will not for the present be required to supply themselves with or wear the uniform but its use by all above included is urged so far as practicable.

(13) Collar ornaments shall be worn in pairs, one device on either side of coat or shirt collar.

(14) Sleeve insignia shall be worn on the upper right arm of coat or shirt.
(15) A service stripe of black braid 1/8" wide by 2 inches long shall be allowed for each completed year of service, and a silver embroidered star for each completed five years. Service insignia shall be worn on the cuff of the left hand sleeve of coat, overcoat or shirt.

(16) Collar ornaments and sleeve and service insignia will be furnished by the Service upon requisition of the various park superintendents.

(17) These regulations shall be made applicable to officers and employees at Hot Springs Reservation with such modifications as in the discretion of the Director of the National Park Service may be appropriate.

(18) The above regulations shall become effective on July 1, 1920, but all officers and rangers are urged to supply themselves with complete uniform equipment at the earliest possible date.

Approved:

(sgd) Stephen T. Mather

Director, National Park Service

March 20, 1920

1923

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

(1) Each regularly employed officer of the field units of the National Park Service as hereinafter designated and each ranger, whether employed on a permanent or temporary basis, shall provide himself at his own expense with a regulation uniform as hereinafter specified and shall wear the same in such manner and at such times as specified in these regulations.

(2) The standard uniform for officers of the National Park Service shall consist of --

(a) Coat of forestry serge or whipcord 12 to 14 oz.; four-button sack; either open or English convertible collar; pinch back and half belt in back; two
breast pockets, plaited; two side pockets, bellows; all outside pockets with flaps fastened with Service buttons.

(b) Riding breeches of same material; two side and two hip pockets and watch pocket; double seat; with or without leather reinforcement inside knees; buttons at knee openings.

(c) Leather puttees and shoes to match, tan or cordovan color, latter preferred. Except on dress occasions, when leather puttees are preferred, either spiral puttees or tan riding boots may be worn as a part of uniform.

(d) Service hat, Stetson, either stiff or cardboard brim, “belly” color.

(e) Shirt, grey wool or white shirt and collar.

(f) Tie, dark green four-in-hand.

(g) Collar ornaments, badge, sleeve insignia, and service stripes as hereinafter prescribed.

(h) Overcoat of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz.; five-button ulster type, double breasted, English convertible collar; diagonal side pockets, pinch back with half belt and back vented from waist.

(3) Officers in the field service of the National Parks who are referred to in these regulations as authorized and instructed to wear the officers’ uniform of the service are those employees holding appointments under the following designations:

- Superintendents,
- Assistant Superintendents,
- Engineers,
- Assistant Engineers,
- Supervisors,
- Assistant Supervisors,
- Foresters,
- Clerks,
- Chief Electricians,
- Assistant Electricians,

and such other employees as the Director of the National Park Service may from time to time authorize.

(4) The standard uniform for Park Rangers shall be the same as prescribed for officers with the following exceptions:
(a) Coat and riding breeches to be made of forestry cloth or whipcord 16 to 18 oz. Instead of forestry serge.

(b) Overcoat of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz., four-button Mackinaw type, English convertible collar, half belt in back.

(5) The collar ornament prescribed for all officers and rangers of the Service shall be the standard Park Service device containing the letters U.S., the various service units to be differentiated as follows:

(a) All officers, device of gold.
(b) Chief Ranger, device of silver.
(c) Assistant Chief Park Rangers, device of silver.
(d) Park Rangers, device of silver.
(e) Park Rangers, Temporary, device of bronze.

(6) The badge prescribed for all officers and rangers of the Service shall be of the design designated below:

(a) Director and Assistant Director, round form of badge, gold plated.
(b) Superintendents and Custodians, round form of badge, nickel plated.
(c) Chief Ranger and Assistant Chief Rangers, shield form of badge, gold plated.
(d) Park Rangers and Park Rangers, Temporary, shield form of badge, nickel plated.

(7) The sleeve insignia for the Director of the National Park Service shall consist of a single gold star surrounded by four maple leaves, the whole surrounded by a circular frame. The entire device is to be embroidered on forestry serge, the star in gold, the leaves in dark green, and the circular frame in light green silk.

(8) The sleeve insignia for the Assistant Director of the Service shall be the same as that prescribed for the Director except that the star shall be of silver color instead of gold.

(9) Oak leaves have been adopted as the basic insignia of the field service other than Rangers, for sleeve insignia. Upon all are superimposed devices designating the particular division of the field service to which the officer is attached. The various designations shall be as follows:

Superintendents -- Three leaves with three acorns superimposed
Asst. Superintendents  --  Two  "  "  Two  "  "  "
Engineers  --  Three  "  "  T-square and triangle  "
Asst. Engineers  --  Two  "  "  "  "  "
Foresters  --  Three  "  "  Crossed axes  "
Chief Electricians  --  Three  "  "  Lightening bolt  "
Asst. Electricians  --  Two  "  "  "  "  "
Clerks  --  Two  "  "  Ink bottle and quill  "

(a)  Officer’s sleeve insignia shall be embroidered on forestry serge.

(10)  The Sequoia cone and foliage have been adopted as the basic insignia for the Park Ranger Service for sleeve insignia, the differentiation in rank being indicated by the number of cone. The various designations shall be as follows:

Chief Ranger  --  Three cones with foliage.
Asst. Chief Rangers  --  Two cones with foliage.
Rangers  --  One cone with foliage.
Temporary Rangers  --  Foliage only.

(a)  Sleeve insignia of the Ranger Service shall be embroidered on forestry cloth.

(11)  All Rangers shall be in uniform when on duty at Park headquarters during the tourist season, when on official business wither inside or outside of the Park, and on any other occasion as directed by the Superintendent of the Park to which they are attached. In addition to this the use of the uniform is encouraged on all occasions where contact is had with the public either on or off duty where the nature of the duties being performed makes it practicable. Coat shall always, when worn, be kept fully buttoned.

(12)  Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Engineers, and Assistant Engineers shall wear the uniform at all times when on duty during the tourist season and shall be required to transact all business either inside or outside of the Park in uniform except when on duty in the District of Columbia, or as may be otherwise directed by the Director of the National Park service. Coat shall always, when worn, be kept fully buttoned.

(13)  Other officers of the field service will not for the present be required to supply themselves with or wear the uniform, but its use by all above included is urged so far as practicable.

(14)  Collar ornaments shall be worn in pairs, one device on either side of coat or shirt collar.

(15)  Sleeve insignia shall be worn on the upper right arm of coat or shirt.
(16) A service stripe of black braid 1/8 inch wide by 2 inches long shall be allowed for each completed year of service, and a silver embroidered star for each completed five years. Service insignia shall be worn on the cuff of the left-hand sleeve of coat, overcoat or shirt.

(17) Each officer and ranger upon entrance on duty will be furnished, free of charge, two complete sets of collar ornaments, sleeve insignia, and service stripes. Each year thereafter one set of sleeve insignia and service stripes, or one new set for each uniform ordered, will be furnished by the Service. Any additional collar ornaments, sleeve insignia, or service stripes desired by employees will be furnished at cost prices.

Upon entrance on duty each Superintendent, Custodian and Ranger will be furnished with a badge for which a deposit of $5 will be required. This sum shall be returned upon surrender of the badge for which it was deposited. If the badge should be lost a new deposit of $5 will be required before a new badge may be issued. All employees now in the Service shall be required to make a like deposit for the badge now in their possession.

Badges are not to be sold or otherwise disposed of. They are issued to show authority and should not be allowed to fall into the hands of unauthorized persons.

(18) These regulations shall be made applicable to officers and employees at Hot Springs Reservation with such modifications as in the discretion of the Director of the National Park Service may be appropriate.

(19) The above regulations shall become effective March 1, 1923, but all Officers and Rangers are urged to supply themselves with complete uniform equipment at the earliest possible date.

(20) The foregoing regulations supercede all regulations previously issued on the same subject.

ARNO B. CAMMERER

Acting Director,
National Park Service

Approved: February 16, 1923

E.C. FINNEY

First Assistant Secretary
Interior Department
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Notes


   It was customary for the uniform committee to request input from the field whenever a uniform change was contemplated. Often these requests were forwarded by the superintendents to the rangers for answers. In the questionnaire dated December 2, 1922, question 5 asked: "Are the various insignia specified in the present regulations in your opinion satisfactory as to:

   (a) Superintendent's Badges
   (b) Ranger's Badges
   (c) Collar Devices
   (d) Sleeve Insignia
   (e) Service Insignia"

8. Williams, p.22


10. Letter, George E. Goodwin to Director, NPS, 7 January, 1921. NA/RG 79.

11. Ibid.

13. Letter, Jesse Nusbaum to Director, NPS, 28 April, 1922. NA/RG 79.

14. Letter, Stephen T. Mather to Washington B. Lewis, 13 April, 1921. Custodians were site managers at Southwestern parks that didn’t warrant a superintendent due to their size or visitation.


17. Ibid.

18. Minutes, 12th National Park Conference, p.91, NA/RG 79. This conference was held at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, 3-8 April, 1932.


20. Memorandum, John C. Preston to Director, NPS, 28 May, 1941. HFC/Y55.


22. Letter, Lawrence F. Cook to Director, NPS, 12 October, 1960. NPS/RG Y55.


28. Williams, p.28.


30. Ibid

31. Ibid


33. Ibid

35. Letters, Carmi A. Thompson to Walter Fry; W.F. Arant; Major Lloyd M. Brett; Major W.W. Forsyth; William J. French; Edward B. Linnen, 20 April, 1911. NA/RG 79.


37. Letter, Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI, 13 December, 1911. NA/RG 79.


39. Letter, Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI, 10 January, 1912. NA/RG 79.

40. Letter, Walter Fry to Secretary, USDI, 22 October, 1911. NA/RG 79.

41. Letter, Stephen T. Mather to Mark Daniels, 3 November, 1915. NA/RG 79.

42. Letter, Bo Sweeny to Sigmund Eisner, 12 June, 1915. NA/RG 79.

43. Letter, Sigmund Eisner to Secretary, USDI, 6 October, 1915. NA/RG 79.


46. There were at least three (3) other Office Orders issued between the revision of Office Order 204, revised (1932) and Office Order 324 (1936), but since none of these have come to light, it can not be determined with certainty just when the new items that appear in Office Order 324 were introduced.

47. Memorandum, Lawrence F. Cook to Director, NPS, March 16, 1960. HFC/GC.


51. This style of coat was first authorized in 1917. The color was Olive Drab (Army color), but this was changed to forest green in 1919.


53. Letter, Thomas C. Vint to Director, NPS, 12 January, 1927. NA/RG 79 208.30.

54. Telegram, Owen A. Tomlinson to Director, NPS, 13 January, 1931. NA/RG 79 208.30.


56. Letter, Carmi A. Thompson to Edward S. Hall, 10 April, 1911. NA/RG 79.

58. Williams, p.1.

59. "Stetson" became a generic term for a wide brim hat in the west, like Homburg" was used for a dress hat in
   the east. The John B. Stetson Company did not furnish hats to the National Park Service until 1934.

   Supplement B.

61. Memorandum, Hillary A. Tolson to all field officers, 8 October, 1936. NA/RG Y55.

62. Letter, Owen A. Tomlinson to Director, NPS, 23 December, 1929. NA/RG 79 208.30.


64. Memorandum, Owen A. Tomlinson to all park superintendents, 23 January, 1930. NA/RG 79 208.30.

65. Letter, Owen A. Tomlinson to Director, NPS, 13 February, 1930. NA/RG 79 208.30.


67. Ibid


69. Memorandum, Arthur E. Demaray to all superintendents and custodians, 7 May, 1936. HFC/GC.

70. Memorandum, Stanley T. Albright to regional directors, NPS, 9 March, 1984. HFC/GC.

   Although this handbook was written in 1959, its provisions were not to be fully implemented until January 1,
   1961. Even so, many of items were instituted in 1960. (name tags, badges, etc.)

72. Memorandum, Lawrence F. Cook to Director, NPS, 12 October, 1960. HFC/GC.


74. Letter, Samuel F. Ralston to Secretary, USDI, 15 September, 1915. NA/RG 79.

75. Questionnaire response, Frank Pinkley, 18 December, 1922. NA/RG 79.

76. Williams, p.30.

77. Contract, between National Park Service and F.J. Heilberger & Sons, Inc., 5 April, 1922. NA/RG 79.

78. Williams p.31.

Index
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

UNIFORM

COAT

Front:
Top of upper pockets to be level with armpit. Bottom of lower pockets to extend 2 to 2 1/2 inches above bottom of coat. Bottom of coat to extend 1 1/2 to 2 inches below crotch. Top button to be in line with top of upper pockets.

Breeches:
Breast pockets to measure 6" in length, 2 1/4" at bottom, with flap 2 1/2" wide, to be 3 1/2" high.

Lower pockets to be 6 1/2" in length, 10" at bottom, with flap 3 1/2" wide.

Back:
Back of coat to be 2 pieces with 2 shaping seams in each piece; to have 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 inch vent.

Overcoat:
Half-tail, convertible collar. Bottom of coat to extend 1 to 1 1/2 inches below bottom of coat. Pockets to be 3 1/2 to 4" in top, bottoms 8 to 9", depth 6 to 8 1/2" wide, 3" flap.

Bottom of pocket 2 to 3" above bottom of overcoat.

BREECHES

Front:
Bottom of pockets 2 inches above bottom of overcoat.

Back:
Back of breeches to be 2 pieces, 7 1/2" at top, 10" at bottom, with flap 3 1/2" wide.

Complete uniform showing proper position of collar ornaments, sleeve insignia, badge and service stripes.