



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Frieda Nelson, 1926. (Yellowstone National Park Archives).

Frieda B. Nelson
Yellowstone National Park
Park Ranger, 1925-1926

- Born Frieda Berlin on June 25, 1894 in Sedalia, Missouri.
- Married Norman L. Nelson on October 1, 1915.
- Visited Yellowstone National Park in 1924 and was inspired to apply to the ranger service.
- Became a temporary park ranger in 1925, the "only woman in the park ranger service" that year.
- Worked in the information office, patrolled campgrounds on horseback, and performed clerical duties at the chief ranger's office.
- Wore the standard NPS uniform. The jacket was tailored for her but the breeches required suspenders to keep them up.
- Appointed "special aide" to Governor Nellie T. Ross (Wyoming) during the annual opening ceremony of Yellowstone National Park in 1925.
- Was one of five women park rangers at Yellowstone during the summer of 1926.
- Resigned to accept other employment on August 31, 1926.
- Following her short NPS career, she returned home to Missouri and over time worked for several financial and insurance companies.
- Served as a charter member of the Sedalia Business and Professional Club, serving as its president from 1927-1928.
- Traveled to Vienna, Austria in 1931 as the first international representative to the Business and Professional Women's Convention.
- Became a notable business woman in the area and was invited to give talks about women and business.
- Died in March 1972 at her home in Sedalia.

This research was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.