



# DCNR Ranger Opportunities PA State Parks and Forests

9/2019



## Make Your Office The Great Outdoors!

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) seeks individuals who want challenging and rewarding careers in conservation, recreation, environmental protection, and law enforcement. If these are your interests, consider joining the team responsible for the safety and protection of state park and state forest visitors and resources across Pennsylvania.

DCNR maintains 121 state parks, manages more than 2.2 million acres of state forest land, provides support for the state's ecological and geological resources, assists with community conservation, and provides education and recreation programs. To accomplish this, it employs approximately 1,400 year-round and 1,300 seasonal employees. Most of these positions are covered by the Pennsylvania Civil Service Act.

## How to Apply

[www.employment.pa.gov](http://www.employment.pa.gov)

DCNR Ranger Trainee: Click on 'Open Jobs' and search for 'DCNR Ranger Trainee' to locate the DCNR Ranger Trainee Exam link. Applicants must apply, schedule and take the exam, and receive a score prior to applying for DCNR Ranger Trainee positions. Applicants will be notified when their exam has been scored and recorded, at which point they are eligible to apply for any posted DCNR Ranger Trainee positions on [employment.pa.gov](http://employment.pa.gov).

DCNR Ranger: Click on 'Open Jobs' and search for 'DCNR Ranger' and apply for the specific posting you are interested in.



## Information

For additional information on DCNR Ranger hiring requirements, contact our Park Operations Section at 717-787-8800 or [Park-Operations@pa.gov](mailto:Park-Operations@pa.gov)

Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal opportunity employer supporting workforce diversity.



### DCNR RANGER:

DCNR Rangers are expected to provide excellent customer service through professional law enforcement duties while upholding the bureau's mission statement. DCNR Rangers take an oath to hold and maintain their commission as a law enforcement officer with the powers of arrest, enforce the Commonwealth's Crimes Code and Vehicle Code, investigate crime and complaints, and issue citations within state parks and forests. They serve as emergency responders in search and rescue operations and water and boat rescues. They also administer first aid and CPR in emergency situations as first responders.

### TYPICAL WORK DAY:

Rangers are often the first point of contact for park visitors. A DCNR Ranger can expect to answer various questions about parks and forests; explain rules and regulations; patrol the park or forest; investigate complaints, accidents, and crimes; coordinate activities with local law enforcement, including the PA Game Commission and PA Fish & Boat Commission; issue citations; and present cases before District Justices. DCNR Rangers may conduct their duties on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, snowmobile/ATV, boat, and motor vehicle.

### Career Development



DCNR provides officer and instructor training in Traffic Control, Water/Boat/Ice Rescue, Baton and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray, Firearms/Undercover Firearms, Search and Rescue, Wilderness First-Aid, and Defensive Tactics.

As a DCNR Ranger, there are many opportunities for advancement and relocation throughout Pennsylvania's 121 state parks and 20 forest districts. Employees are able to transfer between parks and forest districts to expand knowledge and pursue new challenges while retaining leave and benefits. Year-round opportunities are available through seniority.

## Entry-level DCNR Ranger Positions and Requirements

### DCNR RANGER TRAINEE:

For those interested in becoming a DCNR Ranger but who lack formal law enforcement training, selected applicants begin as DCNR Ranger Trainees. Newly hired rangers are immersed in public contact work and a varied training program that includes mentorship and on-the-job instruction designed to develop the basic knowledge and skillset for work as a DCNR Ranger. DCNR Ranger Trainees also participate in the National Park Service's Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Program which combines classroom learning, park scenarios, and physical training components. It includes: firearms safety, basic tactics and self-defense, patrol techniques, criminal procedures, effective communication, emergency driver training, and crimes and vehicle codes training.

Upon successful completion of all components of the initial ranger training program, graduates receive the authority to exercise the power of arrest within DCNR lands as a commissioned peace officer.

The training program typically takes one year to complete.

## DCNR Ranger & DCNR Ranger Trainee Qualifications

### DCNR Ranger

All requirements listed for a DCNR Ranger Trainee plus one of the following:

- Successful completion of DCNR Ranger Trainee program
- OR
- Completion of 15 credits in natural or environmental sciences, natural resource management, park management, outdoor recreation, forestry, environmental education, ecology, wildlife management, or related natural resource or recreation courses; and completion of a department recognized police training course such as the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (ACT 120), or completion of an equivalent law enforcement officer training or certification program that allows eligibility for commissioning as a police officer

### DCNR Ranger Trainee

- 21 years old minimum age
- PA residency
- Valid Class C motor vehicle operator's license
- Take and pass the PA State Civil Service Test
- Completion of 15 credits in natural or environmental sciences, natural resource management, park management, outdoor recreation, forestry, environmental education, ecology, wildlife management, or related natural resource or recreation courses
- Possession of a valid certificate or its equivalent in first aid and adult, child, and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as approved by the PA Department of Health for professional rescuers or healthcare professionals

Please note that selected candidates for both DCNR Rangers and DCNR Ranger Trainees must complete additional hiring requirements upon the acceptance of the position including: doctor's physical exam, psychological exam, fitness assessment, and criminal/driving record checks. Specific information regarding minimum standards in those areas will be provided to you at the time of your interview.

