



## **Mississippi National River and Recreation Area**

---

**Teacher/Ranger/Teacher Program 2009  
Position Description Interpretation and Education Division  
At the Mississippi River's National Park  
Twin Cities metropolitan area, Minnesota  
[www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss)**

With the goal of providing each Teacher-Ranger with a broad and well-rounded experience during this eight-week period, Teacher-Rangers will be involved in a wide variety of park programs and activities. Teacher-Rangers will learn and interpret core information about the Mississippi River's natural and cultural history and the National Park Service and work with a wide range of visitors and circumstances. Teacher-Rangers may provide interpretation and programs at one of many partner parks and sites throughout the metro area, in the Mississippi River Visitor Center, or during outdoor recreation programs such as canoe and camping programs. Applicants should enjoy outdoor recreation and tolerate a wide range of outdoor conditions. A driver's license and experience paddling and cycling are helpful. Teacher-Rangers work independently or with light supervision, and work schedules will vary with weekends and some evening hours possible.

The following are the focus areas in which Teacher-Rangers will work:

### **Park Programs**

Teacher-Rangers will provide informal interpretation and tours along the riverfront in places like downtown Minneapolis, Coon Rapids Dam parks and Hastings. Teacher-Rangers may also present programs at partner visitor centers, river festivals, fairs, and events elsewhere within the park. The position will include assisting and leading walking, bicycling and paddling tours and other interpretive programs, including portraying or escorting the park's costumed mascot, Freddie the Flathead Catfish!

### **Mississippi River Visitor Center**

Teacher-Rangers will help staff the Mississippi River Visitor Center, located in the Science Museum of Minnesota, downtown Saint Paul. Work involves interpreting the Mississippi River and the entire National Park System to a wide range of visitors in an informal setting, as well as selling related merchandise. Teacher-Rangers will also be expected to occasionally present a more formal program in the Mississippi River Gallery. Duties include miscellaneous tasks such as record keeping, brochure distribution and visitor center operations.

### **Volunteer-In-Parks program**

Teacher-Rangers will work with the Volunteers-In-Parks program to support volunteer engagement with the diverse natural resources of the park for activities such as invasive plant removal or restoration projects. The Teacher-Ranger will conduct interpretive programs during habitat restoration projects in the field for visitors of all ages. This focus area will also include a look at recruiting, outreach, and other volunteer administration.

### **School and Youth Programs**

Teacher-Rangers may assist with school visits and field trips on or along the Mississippi River; delivery of programs to students in the park's visitor center, partner facilities, and/or schools; special events, public outreach and related tasks. Review of the park's educational materials and curricula resources may also be included.

### **Technology**

Teacher-Rangers may also work with electronic-based interpretive materials by reviewing, updating and correcting information already posted on the website; assist park employees with researching, obtaining and developing content for the website, and some existing content on the web and on static computer kiosks may be repurposed to enhance its usefulness to both teachers and students. Experience with development of information in printed and on-line formats is helpful.

### **Natural Resource Management**

Even though the focus of this position is the Park Ranger (Interpretation) duties and responsibilities, the Teacher-Ranger will have an opportunity to spend some time with the park's natural and cultural resource management staff. The goal is to have each Teacher-Ranger be able to share many different park experiences and career opportunities with their students and other teachers. Teacher-Rangers will have several opportunities to spend time on and off the river with the Biological Technicians, making site visits, participating in water quality initiatives, or many other activities depending on weather and work loads.

### **Duties when back in the classroom:**

- Incorporates activities related to the National Park Service into their classroom curriculum during the school year.
- Wears the NPS uniform during National Park Week and conducts activities related to the National Park Service and gives several presentations to their classes, a possible school assembly, and to one other school within the district.