

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

CLASS SPECIFICATION

11/8/96

PARK RANGER, 1966

Summary of Duties: Patrols City parks, beaches and other City facilities and property by vehicle, foot and horseback; interprets and enforces Departmental rules, regulations and Municipal and Penal Code sections relating to park usage; provides public assistance and emergency service such as first-aid, crowd and traffic control, fire fighting, search and rescue operations, and park security; prepares and presents interpretive nature and environmental programming and classes; acts as liaison and conducts joint operations with local, state and federal agencies involved with public safety and environmental protection; or supervises a group of employees engaged in such work; and performs related duties.

Distinguishing Features: A Park Ranger is responsible for the positive enforcement of laws, rules and regulations pertaining to Department of Recreation and Parks property, and the coordination of commercial filming in the parks. Park Rangers provide enforcement by issuing citations for parking and animal regulation violations, posting and enforcing regulatory signs, assisting police in investigations and making arrests when necessary. Park Rangers must respond to emergency situations involving public safety and protection of City property. Park Rangers are also responsible for planning programs for the public relating to flora and fauna and other ecologically related subjects. This class is distinguished from the class of Security Officer in that the latter is assigned primarily to plant and building protection, parking lot patrol, gate closures, and dispatch operations.

Park Rangers are initially hired in a temporary training status and must successfully complete a comprehensive training program, including a basic police recruit school approved by P.O.S.T. prior to beginning a regular probationary period.

Some Park Rangers may advance to positions that act as lead worker over others in the classification. In addition to the above duties, the Lead Park Ranger may provide general direction and training for the park patrol officers; and acts as the Senior Park Ranger in his/her absence or during work shifts where a Senior Park Ranger is not on duty.

Example of Duties:

- Patrols City parks, beaches, undeveloped land and rural areas, and other City property and facilities by vehicle, foot or horseback and maintains order;
- Observes and reports unsafe and unlawful acts or situations, summons and assists emergency personnel, directs traffic and provides positive law enforcement through counseling sessions with violators, or through issuance of citations and/or physical arrests;
- Makes court appearances and gives depositions when required;
- Plans, analyzes, investigates and submits comprehensive reports regarding the use of

Department facilities for special events, misuse of Department facilities, property encroachment, boundary disputes, fire lane clearances, toxic waste dumping, and threats to public safety;

- Conducts nature hikes, conservation projects, workshops and classes relating to flora and fauna found in City parks, equestrian safety skills and activities, and history of the native people of the area;
- Plans, prepares and delivers presentations for school groups, conferences and symposiums on environmental topics relating to park ecology, geography and anthropology, and provides merit badge counseling for Scout groups;
- Provides information to the public regarding park resources;
- Organizes, supervises and directs work projects involving agencies such as California Conservation Corps;
- Maintains care and upkeep of horses and equipment;
- Arranges for veterinary, farrier and stable services;
- Organizes and stages special equestrian activities such as trail rides, horse shows and parades;
- Conducts search and rescue operations for lost hikers, campers, etc;
- Administers first-aid and CPR;
- Maintains emergency preparedness for Department action on disaster activities;
- Coordinates and processes motion picture filming permits in City parks;
- May lead other Park Rangers in the performance of their duties when designated as a Lead Park Ranger;
- Prepares demographic, social and statistical analyses of occurrences impacting park usage and security;
- May act as the Senior Park Ranger in his/her absence;
- May train and supervise part-time employees engaged in Park Ranger and/or Security Officer duties;
- May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Qualifications

Knowledge of:

A good knowledge of:

- Common and botanical names of varieties of trees, plants, shrubs, chaparral vegetation and other flora and fauna found in parks;
- Habits and behavior of wildlife and insects native to the area;
- Soil, water, plant and climatic ecological concepts and ecosystems, including ponds and tide pools;
- History of Griffith and other major parks and people inhabiting the area;
- Proper methods of preparing and interpreting historical and natural science displays;
- Proper methods of conducting search and rescue operations and using ropes, knots and repelling equipment;
- Fire fighting procedures and fire prevention techniques, including proper use of fire

fighting equipment;

- Basic first-aid, CPR and self-defense techniques;
- Emergency safety principles and practices, including work, driving and park lake safety;

A working knowledge of:

- Principles and practices involved in Environmental Resource Management;
- Park Ordinances and applicable Sections of the Municipal, Penal, Vehicle, Health and Safety, and Business and Professional Codes;
- Laws of search, seizure and arrest;

A general knowledge of:

- Rules and regulations related to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

Ability to:

- Communicate orally and speak effectively in public;
- Understand and follow written and oral instructions;
- Maintain accurate records and write clear and comprehensive reports;
- Apply practical judgment and critical reasoning to enforcement and information gathering situations;
- Deal tactfully and effectively with the public, supervisors and other employees;
- Adapt to a variety of situations;
- Confront possibly dangerous situations.

Requirements:

1. Graduation from a recognized four-year college or university with a major in Criminal Justice, Fire Science, Park Administration, Recreation, Botany, Zoology, Biology or other field-oriented natural science, Social or Behavioral Science, or a closely related field.
2. The following experience may be substituted for the education lacking on a year-for-year basis.
 - a. Full-time experience or the equivalent as a park ranger or other law enforcement officer experience from a recognized peace officer organization.
 - b. Full-time paid experience or the equivalent in the protection (or preparation and presentation of scientific information related to vegetation, wildlife, ecosystems or historical significance) of a park, forest, or public recreational or historical area or facility.
3. U.S. Citizenship is not required prior to employment. However, non-citizens must have applied for citizenship before application for Park Ranger is submitted. Non-citizens must indicate on the City employment application the date that they applied for U.S. Citizenship. Proof that the citizenship application conditions have been met will be required. California State law requires that citizenship be

obtained within three years of the application for employment.

Because this class has been designated as Safety Sensitive in accordance with City policy, a drug and alcohol screening test may be required prior to appointment.

License:

1. A valid California driver's license and a good driving record are required for all positions.
2. Standard First Aid and CPR or EMT-1 certificate is desirable.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitations.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties, responsibilities, and required qualifications of any position shall be.