



# CASSIUS CASH

## SUPERINTENDENT FOR GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE  
SFI-00001



PROJECT LEARNING TREE



# MANRRS

PLT is an initiative of SFI

## GREEN JOB FACT SHEET PARK RANGER

Park rangers help protect our parks and share them with the public. They help visitors make the most of their visit, present educational programs on the park's natural or historical significance, maintain facilities, and keep the park safe for everyone. Most park ranger positions involve either (1) education and interpretation or (2) law enforcement and protection.

### The Big Picture

Park rangers are passionate about protecting the environment, wildlife, and park visitors. In the forest sector, their work helps to ensure the sustainability of forests by:

- **Educating visitors** about the forest.
- **Explaining rules** and regulations to visitors and enforcing them.
- **Keeping visitors safe** in the forest and keeping the forest safe from visitors.

### Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$39,230 to \$100,350 per year and average about \$64,020.

### Where Can You GROW?

A career as a park ranger can include a job as a **conservation biologist, fisheries officer, or ecotourism operator**. Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Private conservation sites or landmarks
- Municipal parks

### Moving Forward >>>

Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a park ranger. You'll likely need a four-year college degree.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, earth science, and environmental science classes. If possible, participate in a student ranger or junior forest ranger program, and volunteer in your local parks to gain relevant work experience.
- **COLLEGE:** Earn an undergraduate degree in a related field, such as conservation enforcement, natural resource management, outdoor education, or forestry. You should also get first-aid certification and public safety training.

For more about green jobs, visit [www.plt.org/workingforforests](http://www.plt.org/workingforforests)

### IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU DREAM OF WORKING IN THE GREAT **OUTDOORS**? DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH **PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS**?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Much of a ranger's time is spent outside, and the job can be physically demanding. Park rangers may also work indoors when welcoming visitors, preparing reports, or doing administrative tasks. To succeed in this job, you need to have the ability to cooperate, dependability, integrity, self control, a concern for others, adaptability/flexibility, and leadership skills so you can take charge in emergencies, and you need interpersonal and communication skills to keep park visitors safe.

