Jobs that Make a Difference

Andrew Valdez is the first geologist to work for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. He helped identify critical information that lead to increasing the size of the park. He continues to study the geology, hydrology, and aquifers of the park to address resource needs.

Vicki Ozaki is a geomorphologist at Redwoods National Park. She helps restore damaged lands, their watersheds, and ecosystems. She studies how channels respond to large floods and land use. She also leads field trips and talks with visitors about the park's geology.

Dr. Bob Lillie is a geology professor at Oregon State University. He did a sabbatical in 8 national parks, and went on to become a summer ranger. He teaches about the geology of many National Park Service areas. He also helps teach geology to park rangers across the United States.

Cheryl Jaworowski is a geologist at Yellowstone National Park. She works with others to manage the park's geologic resources, with a focus on volcanology, earthquakes, geysers, and fossils. She literally works in the caldera of a super volcano!

Vince Santucci, now the Chief Ranger at George Washington Memorial Parkway, helped set up the Servicewide paleontology program and has produced many survey reports. He still helps us to understand dinosaurs, prehistoric mammals, and their extinct ecosystems.

To discover more about the geology of your national parks go to http://www2.nature.nps.gov/geology

Internships that Launch a Career

As a paleontology intern, Ta-Shana Taylor worked at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. She discovered, excavated, curated, and catalogued fossil specimens and helped develop a database for the park's paleontological references.

At Capulin Volcano National Monument, Lily Wong gave guided tours and campfire programs on geology. She also created geology displays in the visitor center, and helped address the issue of erosion on this renowned cinder cone.

As a research intern at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Jessica Cundiff wrote informational pamphlets on the geology of the Park. She also helped to interpret the geology at all of the designated road-side viewing areas.

Brit Argow helped Mount Rainier National Park develop a "volcanic hazards" curriculum guide for teachers to use with their grade school students. She also helped teach geology to at-risk high school students visiting the Park.

Eric Butler did literature and field research at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. He wrote a summary of the park's geology and created their geology web pages. He is now helping a park study how its geology helps create habitat for endangered lichens.

Working for the resource management office at Ozark National and Scenic Riverway, Paul Presley helped locate and describe springs and caves. With Paul's help, the park was able to establish a park-wide cave-monitoring program.

The National Park Service's Geoscientists-in-Parks Program works with the Geological Society of America, the Association for Women Geoscientists, the American Geological Institute, & others to place and support interns.