

My Summer as a Seasonal Park Ranger

Madeline Wilson

Background Information

I worked for Columbus Metroparks for the 2021 summer at Glacier Ridge (located in Dublin) and Homestead (located in Hilliard).

The mission of Metroparks is “to conserve open spaces while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature” which is very personally meaningful to me.



Acquiring the Internship

I actually applied for a different position in Metroparks after recommendation by a friend, and in my rejection for that position, Metroparks HR recommended that I apply to be a seasonal ranger.

I went through one interview with HR, one follow-up interview with a park manager, then after getting hired I completed an extensive background interview along with a drug test and fingerprinting.

Formal Training

Skills I formally learned:

- Driving various vehicles (a Dodge Ram, a Gator)
- Attention to detail (observing for signs of potential crime or distress)
- Self defense with baton and pepper spray
- Emergency Response Guidelines
- First-aid
- CPR



Daily Duties On the Job

- Keeping a Ranger Log of activities
- Signing in & out on the radio, responding to role calls
- Patrol in various vehicles or on-foot
- Litter clean-up
- Completing monthly inspections on fire extinguishers, safety equipment, trails, etc
- Light maintenance

Bonus Perks

Some daily activities I participated in which weren't included in the job description include...

- Watching the sun set and rise
- Casual interactions with visitors
- Giving kids stickers
- Learning about wildlife (I spent a lot of time searching for and identifying mushrooms)
- Finding peace in being present
- Caring for critters



Looking Forward - Reflection

After spending the summer in the organization, I realized Metroparks almost exclusively promotes internally. So, even though I don't intend on becoming a full-time ranger, being an employee within Metroparks gives me ample opportunity for the future. This job has been personally fulfilling and I'm so grateful for the experience.

