

Park Ranger Training and Standards

Purpose: To provide guidelines for the standards and training of the professional park ranger established by the Park Rangers Association of California.

The standards established by the Board of Directors in March 2001, are minimum skills needed for the professional park ranger. An agency may require more or less than the standards given. The skills describe basic training in interpretation; maintenance & operations; resource management; fire management; emergency medical services; and law enforcement.

The public safety standards and training follow the guidelines of state law, directed by the State Fire Marshall; Peace Officers Standards & Training; and the Occupational safety and Health Association. The Park Rangers Association's recommended training is to provide adequately trained rangers and reduce liability by following state approved training.

Oversight

The Standards and Training Committee serves as oversight for the following committees:

1. Interpretation
2. Resource Management
3. Maintenance & Operations (Park Stewardship)
4. Fire Management
5. Emergency Medical Services
6. Law Enforcement

It will be the Standards and Training Committee's responsibility to continuously evaluate each discipline for any needed changes; monitor the certification process; seek and approve specific training programs for standards and training; and maintain training records of individuals.

Committees

It shall be the responsibility for the committees to:

1. Establish statewide standards for the professional park ranger.
2. Establish professional training, seminars and workshops for its discipline.
3. Establish criteria needed to meet skills for certification.
4. Establish prerequisites needed prior to taking a specific course.
5. Implement a challenge procedure for individuals who may have taken similar/previous training.
6. Develop instructors to provide training for each discipline.
7. Develop or include any time limits needed for update or retraining on specific coursework.

Certification

The Park Rangers Association shall issue certificates of training or skills to individuals completing approved training. Organizations that provide similar training that meet the criteria for the standards may receive certification upon approval from the Standards and Training Committee

Step 1- Verification of Training

Training may have been conducted by professional associations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions or park agencies (including in-house training). Demonstration of such training can be by course certificate, agency training record, or letter from training provider on Agency letterhead. Applicants must provide demonstration that training included specific training components as required by PRAC. In some cases, in Interpretation and Park Stewardship, experience may be substituted for formal training. In these cases applicant must submit a letter, on letterhead, from a supervisor who can verify that the ranger has conducted a minimum of 40 hours of Interpretive programs in each given category, in a manner that is satisfactory to the agency and meets or exceeds professional standards.

Step 2- Submittal of materials for review

Due to differing standards and requirements of both park agencies and training providers, PRAC requires the following submissions, for review by a panel of your peers, in order to issue a certificate for any of the individual training components.

Individuals that have completed all skills provided in each discipline will qualify for a final certificate. The Standards and Training Committee will review the individual's training record and will issue a final certificate.

INTRODUCTION

The applicant will prepare a self-evaluation on the Training Evaluation Form.

These instructions explain:

- * Minimum training required
- * Approved types of training
- * Completion of Training Evaluation Form

MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIRED

For the Law Enforcement domain, completion of a P.O.S.T. P.C. 832 with firearms course *or* equivalent *or* higher-level P.O.S.T course. Certificates must be valid.

Completion of the minimum hours for each Learning Domain in the PRAC required Ranger Training core curriculum.

APPROVED TYPES OF TRAINING

Proof of course content required

Legible and complete training document photocopies are required for all training hours shown on the Training Evaluation Form (TEF). A school - issued course outline, schedule, syllabus, or letter of verification of course content is needed **if** the course:

1. Is a general title, which does not match a TEF subject, such as basic, advanced officer, and in-service courses?
2. Matches a TEF subject, but the title does not reflect all subjects covered.
3. Was longer than one day in length and the certificate does not indicate the total course hours.

Handwritten changes: Course dates must match the completion certificate dates. The school must verify, in writing on school letterhead, that any handwritten changes were authorized by the school.

College/University courses

Transcript issued by an accredited college where course was taken. A passing grade must have been awarded. (Grade reports and work-in-progress reports cannot be used)

In-Service

1. Agency-issued certificate of course completion, **OR**
2. Agency training record, with the agency training officer's/supervisors original signature, printed/typed name, and the signature date on each page.

Other Courses

1. Certificate of course completion issued by a school or agency **OR** verification letter signed by the training officer on letterhead **AND**
2. Matching (dates) course outline, schedule, or syllabus.

Seminar

School-issued certificate, which shows Continuing Education Units (CEU's) awarded by an accredited college.

College

Correspondence courses

Credit by challenge

Life-experience credit

Job Training

Field training, on-the-job training, roll-call training

COMPLETION OF TRAINING EVALUATION FORM (TEF)

Enter Name Of Course Presenter on TEF Compare course subjects and other law enforcement training with TEF subjects. **Use what appears to be an obvious match first.** For each subject, which matches a TEF subject, enter the name of the **Training Institution** on the appropriate TEF line.

Enter Subject Hours On TEF Enter the number of hours for the subject in the appropriate TEF column: P.O.S.T. course, College or Other.

Convert College Units One semester unit equals 20 hours; one-quarter unit equals 14 hours. Example; three semester units equals 60 training hours.

Enter Cross-Reference This allows the PRAC to evaluate training faster and aids in identifying differences between the self-evaluation and PRAC evaluations.

Course Outline 1. Proof of course completion **and** course outline, schedule or syllabus for same dates.

College/University Course

Transcripts And Descriptions Transcript photocopy, and if needed, a photocopy of the course catalog description for the course session completed.

Other Course

Certificates, Outlines Photocopy of course certificate or verification letter. If needed, a copy of matching course outline.

INTRODUCTION

PRAC will evaluate the applicant's training if the evaluation package is complete ie.. properly completed Training Evaluation Form, and training photocopies.

STEP #1: PRAC TRAINING EVALUATION

The applicant's self-evaluation and supporting documents are evaluated to decide if the PRAC Ranger Training Core Curriculum has been met.

DOCUMENTATION

- Attach documents for each domain in the order of the domains in the packet.
- The documents must be college transcripts, POST training, or in house training with a letter from the supervisor stating you attended the training with a copy of the syllabus.

NOTIFICATION

After the evaluation, PRAC will notify the applicant by mail if there is a problem with submitted documentation. If the domain standard has been met with approved documentation, a PRAC certificate in each approved domain will be mailed to the applicant.

After the applicant has received PRAC certificates in Law Enforcement, Interpretation, Maintenance, Resource Management and Fire/EMS, the applicant will be presented a “PRAC Generalist Ranger” certificate stating he/she has met the standards and training to be generalist ranger in accordance with the Park Ranger Association of California. The final certificate will be presented at the banquet during the PRAC conference .

Print and use the forms below (pages 5-12) to do a self evaluation. Staple all photocopies of documentation to each domain and mail to: Park Rangers Association of California
Attn: Standards review committee, P.O.Box 153, Stewarts Point, CA 95480

Law Enforcement 138 hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
832PC.-Arrest, Search and Seizure 40				
832P.C. - Firearms 24				
History and Ethics (LD 1) 6				
Criminal Justice System 2				
Introduction to Criminal Law 2				
Preliminary Investigations 2				
Crimes Against Persons 2				
Crimes Against Property 2				
Crimes In Progress 8				

Information Systems	4				
Report Writing	4				
Cultural Diversity	4				
Custody	4				
Tactical Communications	8				
Use Of Force, Arrest, Search	8				
Arrest and Control	8				
O.C. 10	4				
Baton, Expandable	8				
Shotgun	16				
Weapons Violations	4				
First Aid	23				
Gang Awareness	8				
ABC/Controlled Substances	4				
Resource Violations	4				
Vehicle Code Violations	4				
Emergency Driving	8				

Vehicle Pedestrians Stops 4				
Minimum Instruction Hours (215)				

Resource Management

The Park Ranger's role is dependent on what we know about natural and cultural resources. It supports how we educate visitors, protect, and manage the wildlife and their habitat, how we enforce protection, and how we manage Wild Fires.

Biology 32 Hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Botany 16				
Zoology 16				

Geography 24 Hours Total

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Physical 8				
Geology 8				
Cultural Anthropology 8				

Resource Protection Management 24 Hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other

Natural History	8				
Ecology	8				
Conservation	8				

Interpretation 40 hours

Applicants for certification must show completion of a minimum of 40 hours of interpretive training as outlined in the PRAC “Ranger Training Standards” as adopted April 9, 2001. The training components are as follows:

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Introduction to Interpretation 4				
Program planning and development 16				
Programs for Children 4				
Campfires/amphitheater programs (large groups) 4				
Programs for everyone (accessibility/interpreting audiences with diverse needs) 4				
Presentation Skills 8				

Programs for Children - Submission of a lesson plan specifically for children. In addition to the requirements listed in Program Planning and Development , should include age group and how program relates to needs and learning abilities of specific age group, relevant activities for age group and whether the program meets curriculum standards of local schools and how.

Campfires/Amphitheaters/large groups - Applicant must submit a video tape of themselves conducting a large group program (**or a letter from their supervisor stating they attended the program and it meets PRAC standards**). The submission should include the entire program, from introduction to conclusion, be on VHS videotape, and performed in a park setting with “real” visitors. The submission must not be a portion of

another program or activity. Make sure that the tape has clear, discernable audio and primarily focuses on the interpreter, although the audience should be shown in context at least once during the presentation. Along with the tape the applicant should submit an outline that includes - who the audience is, purpose of the talk (goals), where it takes place, etc.

Programs for everyone - Submission should include lesson plans with information as listed in Program Planning and Development and then demonstrate how the program is accessible to or can be adapted to three special needs groups (applicant can pick) and how.

Presentation Skills - Applicant must submit a video tape of themselves conducting an interpretive talk (**or a letter from their supervisor stating they attended the program and it meets PRAC standards**). The submission should be between 10 and 30 minutes long, on VHS videotape, and performed in a park setting with “real” visitors. The submission must be a talk, and not a portion of another program or activity. Make sure that the tape has clear, discernable audio and primarily focuses on the interpreter, although the audience should be shown in context at least once during the presentation. Along with the tape the applicant should submit an outline that includes - who the audience is, purpose of the talk (goals), where it takes place, etc.

Fire - Rescue 44 Hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Wildland Firefighter 32				
Hazmat Awareness 4				
Incident Command Systems 4				

SAR Awareness 4				
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Maintenance Operations 40 Hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Landscape maintenance				

8				
Equipment Safety & Repair 8				
Facilities Maintenance Hours 8				

Trail Maintenance 8				
Basic Construction Skills 8				

Emergency Medical Services 22Hours

Title and Hours	Course Presenter Name	POST	College	Other
Title 22 First Aid 12				
CPR/Professional 8				
Blood borne Pathogens 2				