**Professional Development Opportunity**

The Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program is a professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers to spend the summer acquiring new skills in experiential learning through a program provided by a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the University of Colorado Denver (CUD). The participants spend between four and six weeks in a NPS unit developing a major educational project and participating in an online graduate course from CU Denver. The goal of the program is to train teachers in the resources and themes of the NPS so that they can return to their schools in the fall and incorporate their new skills into their classroom activities. NPS aims to especially reach students from underserved schools and districts by recruiting teachers from Title 1, urban or rural schools and from tribal schools to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher program.

**Park Name:** Lake Mead National Recreation Area

**Mailing Address:** 601 Nevada Way Boulder City, NV 89005

**Park Contact:** Thomas Valencia

**Park Contact Email Address:** thomas\_valencia@nps.gov

**Park Phone Number:** 702-274-3950

**Projected Dates of Detail:** 5/30/21 -8/31/21 (Dates negotiable based on applicant availability)

**Housing Availability:** None

**Stipend:** $3000.00 upon completion of program and graduate course requirements

**Graduate Credit:** 3 graduate credit hours through University of Colorado Denver

**Program Hourly Requirements:** Total of 230 hours of effort; 160 hours of major educational project, 45 hours of online coursework, discussion, course readings, 25 hours of NPS operational experiences.

**Project Information:** The summer 2021 Lake Mead Teacher Ranger Teacher project will be focused on creating virtual educational materials based on current Lake Mead field trip offerings and resources. This will include creating educational videos and supporting materials that will help the park reach a wider audience. This work will be done for five separate field trip programs. A short summary of each field trip that will be adapted for the classroom is below. The park will provide all materials needed for the creation of any media projects, but the teacher must have access to a computer.

K/1st Grade - Who Lives Here – Lake Mead Visitor Center

All animals, wherever they live, need food, water and shelter to survive. Students will learn about animal parts and their function which help them survive in the Mojave Desert at the Lake Mead Visitor Center.

2nd Grade – Nature’s Neighborhoods – Bluffs Trail

The Mojave Desert contains several different natural communities, some of which have very specific requirements for life. Students will learn of three common desert communities found along the Bluffs Trail and the aspects that make them unique.

3rd Grade – Amazing Adaptations – Wetlands Trail

At first glance, the Mojave Desert appears barren and lifeless, but upon closer study, the area supports a diverse population of plant and animal life. While hiking along the Bluffs Trail, students will learn of the animals living in the Mojave Desert and how they have adapted in ways which improve their ability to survive.

4th Grade – Stories in Stone – Las Vegas Bay Trail

The landscape of the Lake Mead region showcases a variety of different environments which are preserved in area rocks and landforms. Students will take a close examination of these rocks and landforms gives us clues as to what these past environments were like.

5th Grade – Food for Life – Shoreline Trail

In the Mojave Desert, plants and animals interact in many ways. Students will learn about these interactions and describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers and the environment.

**Desired Qualifications:**

* Experience developing elementary curriculum in accordance with all applicable Nevada Academic Content Standards (Next Generation Science Standards, etc.)
* Experience creating multimedia projects is preferred, but not required.
* Ability to travel to Boulder City, NV (location of Lake Mead Visitor Center) and other park locations.
* Willingness to speak in front of a camera for recorded multimedia material

**Application**

**Applicant Name:**

**Home Address:**

**Contact Phone:**

**Email Address:**

**Applicant’s School Name:**

**School District/State:**

**School Address:**

**Grade level and subject(s) taught:**

1. **Do you teach at a Title I school?** (please circle)No Yes If yes, what percentage of your students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunches?
2. **Can you commit to approximately 4-6 weeks of time (230-240 hours) during the summer season (May-August, depending on park needs)?** Yes/No
3. **Describe your most effective unit or lesson plan that actively engaged students in learning. Why was it successful?**
4. **Why do you want to participate in Teacher Ranger Teacher?**
5. **How will you use your TRT experience to enrich your classroom teaching and create opportunities for your students to connect to the National Park system?**
6. **How will you share information and skills acquired through this experience with your school and district colleagues?**
7. **Describe your familiarity and experiences with local, state or national parks.**

**Please provide information for two professional references:**

**Reference 1:**

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email Address:**

**Relationship to applicant:**

**Reference 2:**

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email Address:**

**Relationship to applicant**