IN OUR BACKYARD

Those of us who reside in the Pacific Northwest know just how very fortunate we are to have three iconic national parks quite literally in our backyard. We value them, treasure them, volunteer to take care of them and give to them through Washington’s National Park Fund. We know and value the economic impact they have on the great state of Washington. We feel a sense of pride – and ownership – knowing they’ll always be there. We believe this too. We believe that Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks will always be there.

One thing rings true. OUR BACKYARD ROCKS! Continue to partner with Washington’s National Park Fund as we help to fill the gaps in funding. Together, we have a profound and lasting impact on Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

BY LAURIE WARD

There’s something special about park rangers. Hardworking, dedicated, smart, scrappy, resourceful and dedicated...many view their jobs as a calling.

One of the main responsibilities of park rangers is safety. Seemingly small tasks such as completing registration forms at park offices become crucial links should a search and rescue mission become necessary. Park rangers are always alert to what’s going on around them including changing weather patterns, declining trail conditions and high wind gusts. Beyond their daily exchanges with visitors, rangers provide guided tours, place badges on Junior Rangers, enforce laws and provide emergency roadside service. They’re often called upon to serve as conservationists, ecologists, environmentalists and even botanists. They work to protect natural resources from vandals who attempt to destroy park property, pollute lakes and rivers, harm wildlife and leave campfires unattended.

At Washington’s National Park Fund, we get to work with park staff throughout the year. Superintendents serve as

CONTINUED INSIDE
The National Park Service (NPS) has no dating site. If Rangers Lucy and Darby Robinson had relied on one they might not have met. After all, Lucy loves mountains; Darby loves water. Not a match. However, both grew up as “Park Brats,” kids of passionate, dedicated park employees. Although briefly sampling other careers, the NPS culture exerted its magnetic force. Two years ago both landed at Mount Rainier. Darby describes Lucy as a “spreadsheet ranger.” As Rainier’s Acting Budget Officer, Lucy interfaces with field staff and management. Hovering like a bird over fledglings, she monitors expenditures, matching priorities and funding. Alternatively, Darby serves as the maestro of Paradise. As its Lead Interpreter, he organizes meadow walks, snowshoe hikes, and programs on geology, flora and fauna, photography and astronomy. In 2018, Darby saw a need to engage children and families. Developing participatory programs at Paradise, he filled classes and revitalized the Junior Ranger Program boosting engagement to 12,000.

Without question, these two employees are a perfect match for each other and Mount Rainier.

DID YOU KNOW...

There are more than 300 glaciers in North Cascades National Park. This is equal to one third of the glaciers found in the lower 48 states in the U.S.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER
Continued from front

Advisors to our Board and CEO. Park staff give educational programs at events. As official partners with Washington’s National Park Fund, they share experiences about the impact your hard-earned dollars have on their projects on a regular basis.

As we prepare for the busy summer season in our big backyard, thank a ranger. Extend a handshake as you cross paths. It matters.
APRIL 20-28
NATIONAL PARK WEEK ’19
Saturday, April 20th marks the beginning of National Park Week with free entrance to your favorite parks for the day!

JULY 25
RAMROD
Ride Around Mount Rainier in One Day is the Pacific Northwest’s premier one–day endurance cycling event benefiting Mount Rainier. Riders enjoy views of Mount Rainier while climbing 10,000 ft.

MAY 16-17
FIRESIDE CIRCLE AT PARADISE INN SOLD OUT
Stay at Paradise Inn at Mount Rainier National Park before it opens for the season! You’ll get to be the first visitors to see and enjoy the benefits of the recent remodel.

JULY 26-28
WOMEN’S ONLY WEEKEND (WOW), MOUNT RAINIER
Come together with park–focused women for three days of stewardship at Mount Rainier. Camp, volunteer, hike and more!

JUNE 1
NEIGHBORHOOD FIRESIDE CIRCLE: WEST SEATTLE
Join together with fellow park supporters to learn more about our beloved National Parks.

JUNE 29
COMMUNITY FIRESIDE CIRCLE: SEQUIM HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
Meet Olympic peninsula residents and park supporters at this annual rooftop event.

AUGUST 4
RIDE THE HURRICANE
Ride Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic National Park and take in the gorgeous vista before enjoying the ride back down.

EVENTS
FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT WNPF.ORG

Save the date for National Parks at Benaroya! Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Washington’s National Park Fund, Anthony Spain and the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, and The Musical Mountainieers will return to Benaroya Hall to celebrate Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks through musical performances and big screen visuals.