
NPS FUNDAMENTALS

**A training program
to create a workforce
that respects the foundations
and values of the
National Park Service.**



The National Park Service cares for special places
saved by the American people
so that all may experience our heritage.
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Why have an NPS Fundamentals training program?

Each year the NPS hires about 700 new employees. Employees whom we expect to help us fulfill the mission of the National Park Service. As they begin their career with us—no matter what position they fill, no matter what grade, no matter what location—they need to know and understand some very important things about the NPS. These include:

1. **Our Mission and Organization.**
2. **The *Universal Competencies* expected of all employees.**
3. **The values that sustain us in times of change.**
4. **That, like an ecosystem, we are most effective when all parts of our organization contribute together.**

If we are to meet the challenges of the future, we must have a workforce that respects the foundations and values of the National Park Service and is prepared to meet the challenges ahead.



NPS FUNDAMENTALS A Five-Part Course Of Study

1. Who We Are

An introduction to the history and mission of the NPS, a guide for local orientation, an introduction to government, and the NPS's place in it, and an introduction to partnerships. This element is presented through web-based modules at the worksite and should be completed within the first month on duty.

2. Why We're Here

An elaboration on the history and mission of the NPS, an exploration of resource stewardship, an overview of NPS operations, and basic communications and interpersonal skills. This element is presented at a two-week classroom event at Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon, Arizona and should be completed before the end of the first year on duty.

3. Taking Charge of Your Future

An introduction to retirement planning and career planning. This element is presented through web-based and satellite modules at the worksite to be completed by the end of the first year on duty.

4. A Workplace for Everyone

Additional work on ethics, diversity, accessibility, and safety. This element is presented through web-based modules at the worksite to be completed by the end of the first year on duty.

5. Working Together

Additional work on the NPS mission, strategic planning, teamwork, leadership, communications, interpersonal skills, problem-solving and visioning for the future. This element is presented at a one-week classroom event at a different location and should be completed before the end of the second year on duty.



FUNDAMENTALS? A NEW IDEA?

*Remember Introduction to
Park Operations?*

Remember Ranger Skills?

*Remember Regional Orienta-
tion to the NPS?*

Remember Compass I & II?

The intent of **FUNDAMEN-
TALS** is to capture the best
ideas from the past - to
achieve similar goals.

Today, the National Park Ser-
vice is a larger and more com-
plex organization than when In-
troduction to Park Operations
or Ranger Skills were offered.
Today's employees bring a va-
riety of skills, experience, and
values.

FUNDAMENTALS is designed
for **ALL** new employees, using
new technologies and new ap-
proaches incorporating impor-
tant principles of adult learning
to create a workforce that is
committed to achieving the mis-
sion.

WANT TO HELP?

If you would like to help move
Fundamentals forward, please
let us know. Share your skills to
help each new employee begin a
successful career with the Na-
tional Park Service. Contact:

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