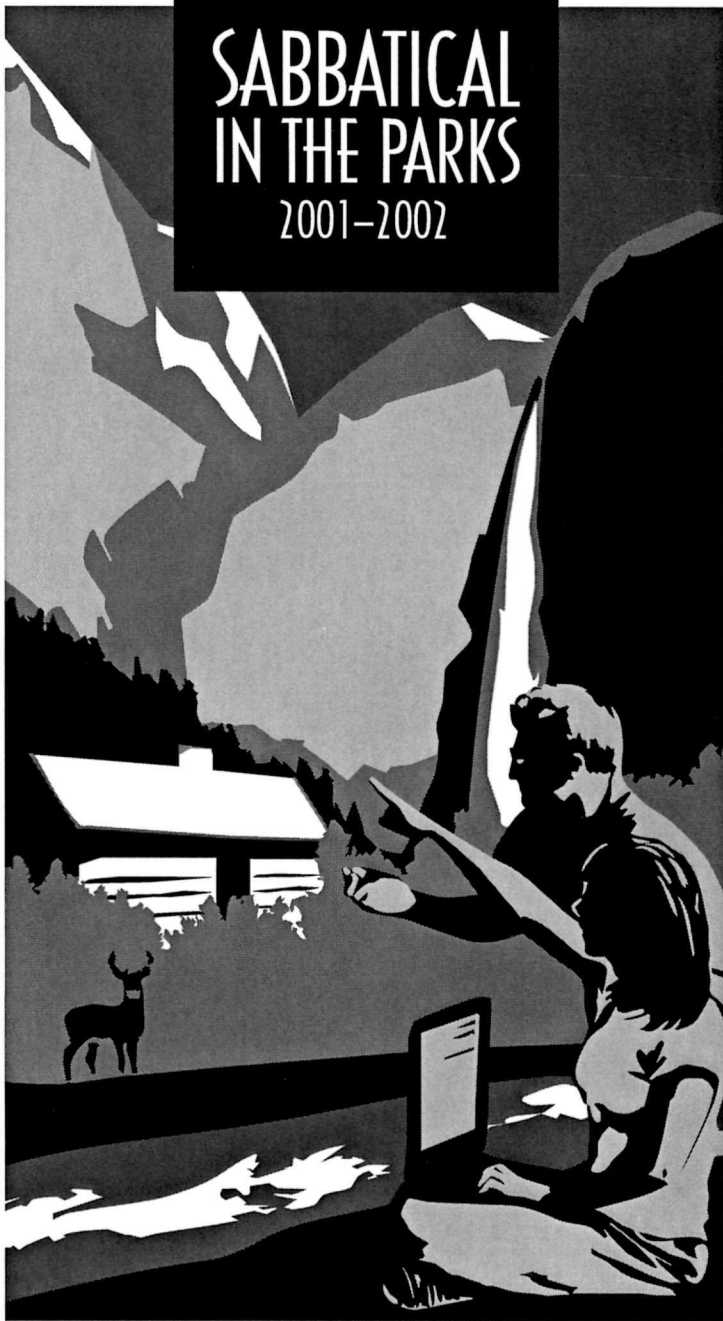


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**SABBATICAL
IN THE PARKS**
2001-2002



Information for Faculty

Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) is charged to preserve the nation's most unique natural and cultural resources. A thorough understanding of those resources is essential to their long-term preservation. Such understanding requires a sound scientific basis. Hence, state-of-the-art science is a necessary and important tool in resource stewardship and the effective management of the National Park System. National parks are also unique laboratories for scientific research.

The NPS has a twofold scientific responsibility—to use the best available science in park management *and* to encourage research in parks that benefits society as a whole. To effectively undertake these dual responsibilities—“science for parks” and “parks for science” the NPS must enlist the help of the academic community, and facilitate scientific inquiry in the parks.

The Sabbatical in the Parks Program was created to assist in arranging faculty sabbaticals to conduct research and other scholarly activity, which provides usable knowledge for NPS management and/or advances science and human understanding.

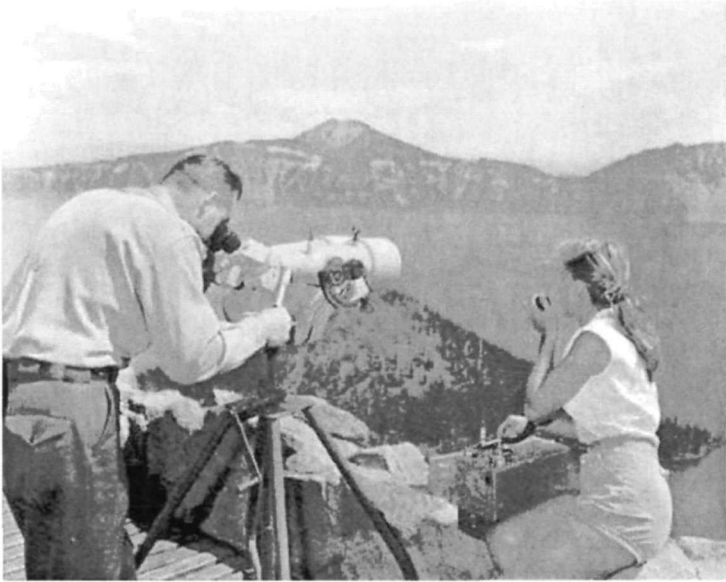
The Sabbatical in the Parks Program is open to tenure-track faculty members from four-year institutions of higher education in the U.S., who have successfully competed for sabbaticals according to the procedures of their institution. Faculty in the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences are eligible to participate.



The National Park System

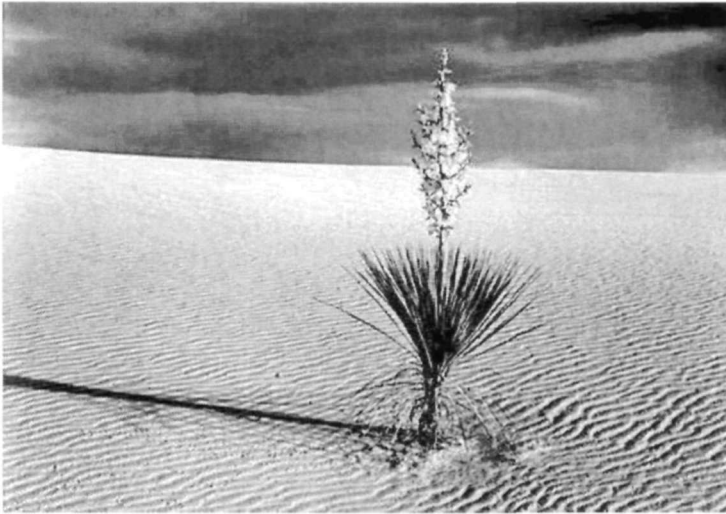
The National Park System provides university professors with unique laboratories for research, and outstanding opportunities to contribute to the preservation of the nation's most significant natural and cultural resources. The system is diverse and includes large natural areas, cultural resources, historic sites, recreations areas and more. It includes areas such as Yellowstone National Park, Everglades National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Martin Luther King National Historic Site, and many others. With nearly 400 units throughout the United States and its territories, the NPS offers numerous opportunities for sabbaticals within the National Park System. Additional information about the units of the system can be found at www.nps.gov/parks.html.





Benefits to Faculty

- ✧ National parks provide uncommon and unique field opportunities for research, such as endangered species recovery, archeological investigations, park visitor studies, and watershed analysis, and more.
- ✧ Working in national parks allows faculty members to ground their academic knowledge in practice, benefiting both their research and teaching.
- ✧ Sabbaticals taken in parks will allow faculty members to understand the full potential of such research sites and opportunities for their students and colleagues.
- ✧ A NPS sabbatical offers faculty members opportunities to contribute to preserving the nation's natural and cultural resources.
- ✧ Taking a sabbatical in a national park will expand the faculty member's professional network and advance the development of future collaborative projects.
- ✧ National parks can provide aesthetic settings away from the university to replenish and reinvigorate faculty members.



How the Program Works

The Sabbatical in the Parks Program maintains a *sabbatical clearinghouse* (www.nature.nps.gov/sabbaticals) through which sabbatical arrangements are made. Interested faculty submit online, short proposals and information pertinent to their research. Enclosed is a *faculty sabbatical interest worksheet* for preparing a submission to the sabbatical clearinghouse.

All faculty submissions are reviewed by the Sabbatical in the Parks Program coordinator. Faculty research interests are carefully compared with the needs and opportunities of individual park units.

Using information from the clearinghouse, interested faculty are then put in direct contact with representatives park units. If discussion confirms that a good match exists, an agreement is negotiated by a park liaison and the faculty member, with guidance from the program coordinator. Park sabbaticals of one semester or one year in length can be arranged (other options are negotiable). All activities conducted by visiting faculty will conform to existing NPS policies on research, scientific collecting, facility use, resource management, interpretation, and education (refer to the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System — science.nature.nps.gov/research). Upon completion of a sabbatical, each faculty member and park superintendent submit brief evaluations of the sabbatical experience to the clearinghouse.

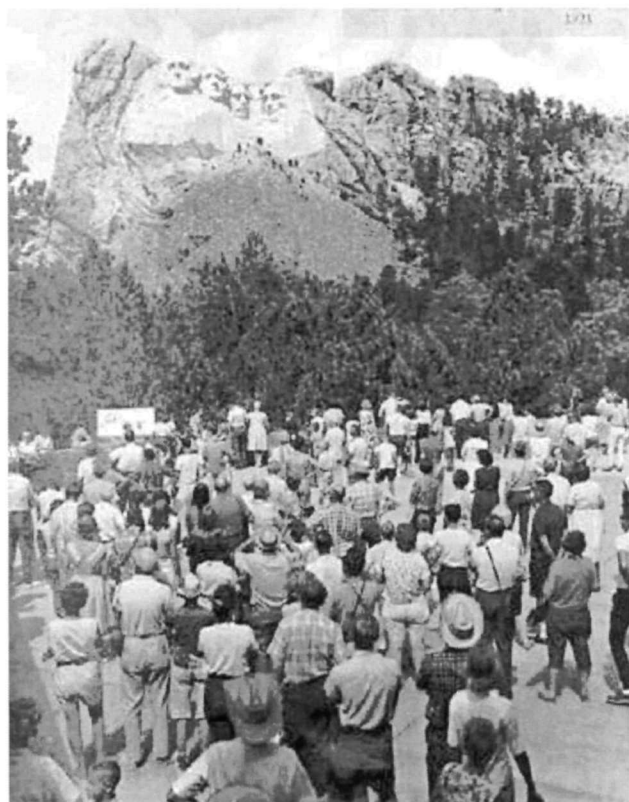
Example Sabbaticals in the Parks

The following examples illustrate some of the ways park sabbaticals can provide valuable opportunities for faculty, inform park management, and offer technical and educational assistance to host parks.

- ✧ A geology professor divides her sabbatical between five parks. At each unit she completes a technical evaluation of the park's interpretation of its geological features. She creates geology training guides, and conducts workshops for interpreters and resource managers incorporating the most recent theoretical and applied research on the geological history of the area, and her interest in the relationship between geologic features and the parks' ecology. In consultation with resource managers and support office staff, she develops a proposal to conduct further research on the geological and ecological interface in two of the parks. At her home university, she uses her Sabbatical in the Parks experience to advise students in an interdisciplinary environmental studies program.



- ✧ A sociology professor on sabbatical, working with park managers and the local Chamber of Commerce, studies visitor carrying capacity of park resources and associated human impacts experienced during the peak tourist season. He helps the Chamber of Commerce develop a marketing plan for the “shoulder tourist seasons.” He designs and facilitates a workshop, for park staff and gateway community residents, on ecological and economic carrying capacity, and resource and business sustainability. He uses this experience to update a graduate course, at his home university, dealing with the potentials and limits of natural resource-based tourism in protected areas.



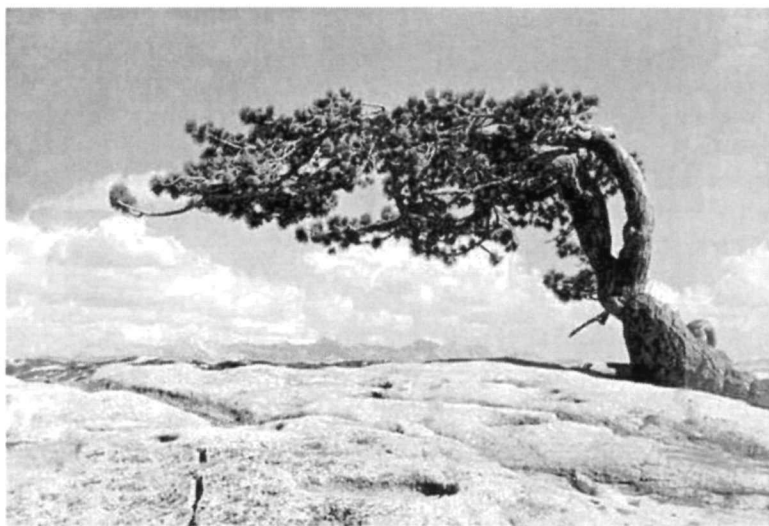


- ✧ A wildlife ecologist uses his sabbatical to design a research protocol to monitor the response of grazing animals to the reintroduction of gray wolves into the park ecosystem. He designs an interpretive program focusing on the impacts of gray wolves on the park's wildlife and plant species. He also conducts a training session for the interpretive staff, which orients them to his research, current theories on predator-prey dynamics, and the ecosystem effects of gray wolf introduction. He works on a book on the history and ecology of gray wolves in the region.
- ✧ An anthropology professor, on sabbatical in a national park preserving ancient cultural ruins tests a new remote sensing method for identifying signatures of probable archaeological sites. She trains and leads volunteers in surface surveys of undocumented regions of the park, and correlates those surveys with the remote sensing data. She completes a manuscript synthesizing recent research, which utilizes remote sensing in archaeological study. She presents her work at an international conference on technological applications in anthropology.

Typical Support and Obligations

Each national park has different levels of support it can offer faculty during a sabbatical. Examples of support may include housing, travel costs, and limited research funds. In all cases, modest administrative support is provided. Ultimately, support is negotiable between the national park and the faculty member, and will vary greatly across the system. However, it is expected that faculty members on sabbatical receive full or partial compensation from their university.

Faculty are encouraged to work on personal research projects during their sabbaticals. However, faculty on sabbatical in a national park are expected to provide some research, technical assistance, and education to the host NPS unit. How much time is spent on each will vary and is negotiated in each case.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will I be paid by the NPS if I take a sabbatical in a park?*

In most cases, no. It is expected that faculty members on sabbatical receive full or partial compensation from their university. In some cases, parks may reimburse the faculty member for travel to and from the park. Additional funds are rarely available.

2. *Who may participate in the program?*

Faculty members from four-year universities in the United States, who are eligible for sabbatical according to their institution's requirements, may participate. Faculty in the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences are eligible to participate.

3. *Is housing available?*

In some cases, yes. Housing arrangements are made by the individual park unit and may include options for families as well. Some parks may not have available housing. Parks are often remote with rudimentary housing and facilities. Park housing is most difficult to arrange during peak visitor seasons.

4. *Who will be my contact in the park?*

A park sabbatical liaison at the park will be the initial contact. You may work more closely with other individuals, as appropriate, upon arrival in the park.



Sabbatical in the Parks Program

5. *When are the deadlines for arranging a sabbatical?*
There are no deadlines for arranging a sabbatical. Faculty should submit their interest form well in advance of their sabbatical, so that the necessary arrangements can be made.
6. *What if my sabbatical is not for at least a year or two?*
Even if your sabbatical is not immediately scheduled, consider submitting your information to the sabbatical clearinghouse. Matching through the clearinghouse can be done much in advance of the actual sabbatical.
7. *What support can I expect once I arrive in the park for my sabbatical?*
Support will vary for each sabbatical and NPS unit. Arrangements will be made as part of the sabbatical agreement, negotiated by the faculty member and the park with assistance from the program coordinator. Support may include office space, clerical assistance, computer access, and so forth.
8. *How much time will I have to spend on my personal research projects?*
Arrangements will vary with each sabbatical and will be specified in the negotiated sabbatical agreement. In general, a faculty member on sabbatical will spend one-half to three days each week in research, technical assistance, or education activities of benefit to the host NPS unit. All other time can be devoted to conducting personal research in the park.
9. *Can a regional or other office of the National Park Service host a faculty member on sabbatical?*
Yes. All units and offices of the National Park Service may host sabbaticals. Parks, administrative offices, program centers, and system support offices are able to participate in the Sabbatical in the Parks Program.

For Further Information

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www.nature.nps.gov/sabbaticals



Sabbatical in the Parks Program
Faculty Sabbatical Interest Worksheet

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Approximate start date: month _____ year _____

Approximate end date: month _____ year _____

Highest Degree: _____

Rank/Position: _____

In what discipline(s) would you conduct your sabbatical?

Biological sciences

Physical sciences

Social sciences

Cultural sciences

What geographic region would you prefer to spend your sabbatical?

What park(s) would you prefer to spend your sabbatical?

Please see reverse

Please check if the following are necessary, desirable, or not needed:

	Necessary	Desirable	Not Needed
Single-family housing/apt.*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to a vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer/printer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Office space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory space*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel support to and from park*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary support*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* May be minimal or unavailable in many parks

On not more than two pages, please describe:

- 1) the research, technical assistance, education, or scholarly activity you will do during your sabbatical,
- 2) other creative work (e.g., independent writing) you plan to do on sabbatical, and
- 3) how your sabbatical would assist NPS management, advance science, or benefit human knowledge.

All three areas must be addressed in the description. You will also be asked to include an abbreviated CV including recent publications and/or other scholarly activity when submitting to the sabbatical clearinghouse.

Please use this worksheet information to complete your submission into the Sabbatical Clearinghouse at www.nature.nps.gov/sabbaticals

If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator.

Jared Ficker, Program Coordinator

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