

Seasonal Law Enforcement Positions with New York State Parks

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Q. Does New York State Parks employ seasonal law enforcement personnel?

A. Yes, we employ seasonal personnel in three titles.

Park Patrol Officer (police officer)

Parks and Recreation Forest Ranger (peace officer)

Public Safety Ranger (security officer)

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2) Q. What are the employment requirements for these positions?

A. See the information available on the [State Parks website](#) that outlines the minimum qualifications and job descriptions for each of the positions.

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3) Q. Can I work for New York State Parks if I am a retired public employee?

A. Yes you can but there are limitations and restrictions that may apply to you. Each person's circumstances are unique. You should address this question to the Retirement System or your former employer to insure that you are not violating any limitations.

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4) Q. Do I have to be a police officer already before I can work for New York State parks?

A. Yes, you must be a permanently appointed police officer if you are looking to work as a seasonal Park Patrol Officer (police officer).

No, if you are looking to work as a Parks and Recreation Forest Ranger or Public Safety Ranger. Persons holding a valid Municipal Police Training Council Certificate of Police Officer training will be given special consideration for Parks and Recreation Forest Ranger positions.

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5) Q. If I am employed as a peace officer can I apply to work as a seasonal park patrol officer?

A. No. Only currently employed police officers are eligible for seasonal Park Patrol Officer positions. You may be eligible for employment as a Parks and Recreation Forest Ranger.

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6) Q. I am retired on a disability pension can I work in any of the seasonal law enforcement positions?

A. You should consult with your retirement system to determine if there are limits on your ability to work while receiving your disability pension.

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7) Q. Does New York State Parks provide the uniforms?

A. Yes.

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8) Q. If I am currently employed by a public employer does my time worked as a seasonal law enforcement employee count toward my retirement?

A. Each person's circumstances are unique. This is something that can only be answered by your retirement system.

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9) Q. There are state parks all across the state. If I was hired where would I work?

A. Seasonal law enforcement employees are assigned to a specific district and zone within the State Park Police. You would regularly be assigned to duties within that geographic area. All employees of the New York State Park Police are subject to temporary assignments at other areas of the state for special events or details.

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10) Q. Would I be given special training?

A. Yes, there are training requirements for each of the seasonal law enforcement positions. Candidates must meet the training requirements established by the Division of Criminal Justice Services as a police officer, peace officer or security guard depending on the position.

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11) Q. Would I be required to travel to attend the training?

A. Yes. The training will be conducted at the New York State Park Police Academy in Albany County, as well as additional training within your local district. Meals and lodging are provided during training at the Academy.

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12) Q. What kind of protection would I have if I was injured while on duty?

A. All seasonal employees are covered by the statutory benefits provided by the Workers' Compensation Law and the particular benefits included in the respective collective bargaining agreement between the union representing them and the State of New York.

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13) Q. How long can I expect to be employed as a seasonal law enforcement employee?

A. Most seasonal appointments are for the period of greatest visitation to State Parks. This peak period generally occurs between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some appointments may be made for other periods of activity that require additional staffing.

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14) Q. Would I be required to complete any testing to be appointed to a seasonal law enforcement position?

A. Yes, for appointment as a seasonal Park Patrol Officer you would be required to complete a medical examination including psychological evaluation and drug screening. You would be required to prove that you completed a competitive hiring and screening process that included the DCJS approved physical agility for appointment to your permanent employment.

For appointment as a seasonal Parks and Recreation Forest Ranger you would need to complete a medical examination including psychological evaluation and drug screening as well as a physical agility test.

For appointment as a seasonal Public Safety Ranger you would be required to complete a medical examination including drug screening.

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15) Q. What kind of schedule would I be expected to work?

A. Persons employed on a full time (seasonal) schedule would be assigned to work during our busiest periods (including weekends and holidays). Persons working a part time schedule would be assigned to shifts when needed most by the employer.

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16) Q. I have a lengthy vacation booked for part of the summer-would I be able to work around that trip?

A. No, all seasonal personnel are required to be available for work throughout the summer season.

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