

HOW CAN I BECOME A RANGER?

Requirements:

- If you would like to be a park ranger in the State of Ohio, you must have a current Ohio Peace Officer Certification. The State of Ohio has more than 60 police academies running continuously. For more information on attending an academy, download [this brochure](#).
- Because the certification test is standardized, you can attend any Ohio police academy regardless of where in Ohio you hope to find employment.
- The police academy nearest to Lake Metroparks is located at [Lakeland Community College](#).
- There is an academy at [Hocking College](#) in Nelsonville, Ohio geared toward natural resource law enforcement. This police academy is attended by many individuals who wish to become park rangers rather than municipal officers.

Lake Metroparks Requirements:

In addition to those mentioned above, those interested in becoming a Lake Metroparks Ranger must also meet the following requirements:

- You must hold a college degree in law enforcement, wildlife management, natural resource enforcement or any comparable combination of education and experience. Examine police academy curriculum carefully before choosing, as some of them may provide a degree in addition to the Basic Peace Officer Certificate.
- You must be able to successfully pass a background investigation including criminal, traffic, past employment and financial history.
- You may be required to submit to drug testing, psychological evaluation and polygraph or voice stress analysis tests.
- You must successfully pass a standardized state of Ohio physical agility test.
- If hired, you must pass a state-certified firearms qualification course and successfully complete a field training program.

Other considerations:

If you are interested in becoming a park ranger, you must recognize:

- Your work hours will include nights, holidays and weekends.
- You will work outside in the rain, heat and snow.
- You may work alone without immediate backup.
- You may be exposed to violent situations, including the possibility of severe injury and death.
- You may be subject to call-out 24 hours a day.
- You will be exposed to the noise of gunfire in training.

The Lake Metroparks Ranger Department is looking for outgoing, responsible, confident personalities with a love of the outdoors and a respect for all people. Experience or interest in public speaking, outdoor recreation, legal matters, firearms, public relations, first responder tactics, written communication and any job history requiring significant responsibility or problem solving skills may demonstrate characteristics of interest to the Ranger Department. Fluency in a second language such as Spanish is a desirable trait in an applicant.

Apply:

Lake Metroparks Ranger Department job openings will be posted on the Lake Metroparks [job opportunities page](#). If you would like to apply for the position of park ranger with Lake Metroparks, please complete and submit an [online employment application](#).