



RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

# PARK RANGERS



[rsrpd.org](http://rsrpd.org)



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There are a few types of park rangers in the Parks and Recreation field, with naturalists and peace officers being the most common. Naturalists offer tours and information about plants, animals, biology, and nature; peace officers are trained in law enforcement.



**Peace Officers:** Park rangers who work for Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District in both Simi Valley and Oak Park are peace officers. The District employs full-time and part-time Rangers. Park rangers have the same powers as police officers with the ability to cite, gather evidence, preserve a crime scene, carry weapons, and arrest violators, as provided by the California Penal Code.

**Duties:** Park Rangers Coverage includes park patrol, gate security, community events, facility rentals, filming company oversight, and more.

**Qualifications:** The Rangers who work for the District are peace officers who must pass a full background check and be qualified to carry a weapon. The District's Rangers come from diverse backgrounds that help them work well together when solving crimes and working with all aspects of the public.

**Cooperation:** On a regular basis they meet to review trends noticed in the community and work to solve those problems in the parks. Park Rangers also work effectively with law enforcement agencies including Ventura County Sheriff's Department and Simi Valley Police Department. When circumstances dictate, Park Rangers may call law enforcement authorities to the scene.



The District has agreements with both the Simi Valley Police Department and Ventura County Sheriff's Department to provide assistance with background and criminal history checks along with trends in crimes. Everyone works cooperatively to exchange information as needed, especially in regard to graffiti and other wide scale problems that affect all law enforcement agencies.



**Citations:** Park Rangers provide a very important deterrent to criminal activity. Not every interaction with the public leads to a citation. The Rangers frequently work to educate the public on how to best enjoy the park in a way that does not negatively affect the use of the same park by others. As for citations, uncooperative or repeat offenders are more likely to receive a citation, with more serious offenses resulting in an arrest.

**Offenses:** Typical offenses seen in parks include vandalism, graffiti, being in the park before and after hours, alcohol consumption, dogs off leash, smoking, and littering. Anyone interfering with a park ranger in the performance of enforcement duties is subject to the same criminal prosecution as an individual who interferes with a police officer.