

Authority of Park Rangers

In accordance with the State of California Penal Code, Section 830.31(b), "Persons designated by a local agency as park rangers, and regularly employed and paid as such, are peace officers; provided that the primary duty of any such peace officer shall be the protection of park property and preservation of the peace therein." In addition Section 5782.26 of the California Public Resource Code provides that the police appointed or employed by the Board shall have, within the Park District for which they are employed, all the powers of police officers of municipal corporations.

The Rangers have the same authority as local police relative to anything happening on Park District property or at District operated programs. The Park District's Park Rangers have the same powers as a police officer with the ability to cite, gather evidence, preserve a crime scene, carry weapons, and arrest violators, as provided by the California penal code.

Anyone interfering with a Park Ranger in the performance of his enforcement duties is subject to the same criminal prosecution as an individual who interferes with any police officer.