



PUBLIC SERVICE
RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I believe in the importance of natural spaces as a means of escaping the busy pace of life. I serve because my own health flourishes by being outside and working with my hands. I serve because I believe in the benefits of teaching practical work and professional skills to my diverse staff, while cultivating a safe and enjoyable work environment. I serve because if we don't, who will protect the land that has been entrusted to us?

Christa McMains
Park Ranger, Pocahontas State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I grew up in a family-owned restaurant. Serving the community and pleasing customers continued to be very important to me at a young age mostly because it made me feel good to make people happy. I learned how to treat customers and the public. This would come to be the backbone of my adult working life as an x-ray technologist to now a park family member. I serve because I love making people happy and occasionally even making their day!

Laura Cole
Office Assistant, Westmoreland State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I want to reach the next generation. Those who have yet to experience the wonders of the outdoors. This big beautiful world we live in is a treasure to share. The memories made between parents and children creates a bond that lasts a lifetime and they happen in our parks. We are the keepers of nature for today and tomorrow.

Jim Jones

Park Manager, Natural Bridge State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I grew up in Mathews County and my favorite place to go, ever since I was a young child, was Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve. I met the Natural Heritage Stewards and remember thinking 'when I grow up I want to do what they do'. Now my dreams have come true that I get to have a career in DCR! I'm honored to contribute to conserving natural resources for the Commonwealth's citizens.

Kristal McKelvey
Planning and Recreation Resources



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

Sandie Ingersol

Office Manager, Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I have been fortunate to find a job that I love which proves the old mantra, "If you love what you do for a living you will never 'work' a day in your life". A Park Ranger's career is not "work", it is a calling. It is a love of camaraderie with one's fellow colleagues, with history, culture, nature, and striving to preserve them for future generations by imparting one's knowledge and skills through interactions with a visiting public starving for a life-changing experience. In addition, to be attached to a historic battlefield, there is a duty, responsibility and an honor to get the story right, and to "speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves". It is a daily blessing, for which I am truly grateful, to protect an important chapter in the history of this great nation!

Lee Wilcox

Chief Ranger, Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I believe we all were put here for a reason. Things that are our passions are your gifts. For me, it's working in state parks. I enjoy teaching and mentoring staff with the birds, wildlife and all the living things in our parks. Each day is different and full of challenges. As a team, we can do anything. What I love about State Parks most is that you never know what the day will bring and that's the fun and challenge.

Tony Widmer

Park Manager, Shenandoah River and Seven Bends State Parks



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I want to give back to an area that I grew up in and provide an opportunity to expose people of all ages to recreation in the outdoors. As well as to provide protection for the people, wildlife and resources that I have been given the rewarding task to manage.

Charlie Conner
Park Manager, Douthat State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... Why I serve is a question, I think, that takes careful consideration. It's something that reaches down to the very heart of your role as a Virginia State Parks employee. Yes, I believe in the mission of DCR and state parks to conserve and protect our natural, cultural, and historic resources. But for me, it goes beyond that. My devotion, my dedication, and my passion for serving are geared towards the future. I want to work for tomorrow's parks and the legacy it will provide to future generations. Maybe I'll have a small impact in instilling in a child the importance of this mission and planting a seed that produces a "future ranger" to carry on this great work.

Brad Thomas
Chief Ranger, York River State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I believe in the importance of having information readily available to educate the citizens and visitors to the Commonwealth about what our great state has to offer and the reasons to enjoy and conserve its beauty and nature.

Mary Bishop

Web Manager, Public Communications and Marketing Office



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... 2020 is my 40th year in public service dedicated to biodiversity and natural resource conservation with The Nature Conservancy, TN Department of Conservation and here at DCR. I was motivated by my grandmother and parents, growing up on a small farm, several great mentors and wonderful colleagues over the decades, caring for the Earth's natural communities, plants and animals/stewardship and serving people bring me joy and fulfillment as a public servant.

Tom Smith
Deputy Director of Operations



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I believe in what I do! Taking care of the environment has always been part of my life's mission. I love Virginia State Parks!

Annette Bareford

Visitor Services Specialist, Eastern Virginia, Virginia State Parks



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... it's important to me to protect our special places forever. I serve to leave a legacy to my kids and their kids. I serve in order to be a positive witness to others.

Brian Fuller

Real Property Manager, Office of Land Conservation



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I like helping people. I also find it important to be the voice for those who can't speak up for themselves-namely the natural environment: plants, trees, rivers and animals of all kinds. I enjoy teaching about our environment and the impact we have on our beautiful State Parks in Virginia.

Clara Mills

Office Manager, Lake Anna State Park



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

MAY 3-9, 2020

I serve because...

... I am able to help people recognize the valuable places where nature can thrive and people can recreate while looking to the future to ensure that these places are there for all future generations. As a landscape architect, my focus has always been to help create places where people feel comfortable while ensuring that the natural world is healthy and protected. I help communities see the value of their resources and how those resources can help with their economic stability. The best way to do that is through public service.

Lynn Crump

Scenic Resources Coordinator, Planning and Recreation Resources