

Outstanding National Park Ranger—Kristi Rugg



Image above of smiling woman in park ranger uniform.

Image to the right of woman rock climbing.

- * Kristi joined the National Park Service in 2009 and has worked at Grand Canyon, Acadia, and Joshua Tree National Parks as a media designer.
- * Her job entails shooting photos and videos, designing print publications, and managing the park website. Recently she traveled to Georgia to create a video about NPS' Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program.
- * Kristi is severely hard of hearing and grew up in a hearing household. She wasn't introduced to the Deaf community, language, and culture until her late teens. She prefers to communicate in American Sign Language but mostly reads lips and verbalizes at work.
- * A pivotal moment for Kristi came when she was talking with a park guest who is a Veteran. He told her that he visits the national parks as a way of dealing with his PTSD. It is a great reminder that public lands are places of refuge and emotional connections.
- * Growing up visiting national parks in the northeast, Kristi became a Junior Ranger many times over but never imagined she would become a park ranger. She found a summer position at Grand Canyon National Park and quickly fell in love with being outdoors, assisting others in enjoying nature, and the ranger hat. :-). If you are interested in working for the National Park Service, contact Kristi at kristi_rugg@nps.gov