



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

NPS-IMR ProRanger Program  
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## News Release

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Program website: <http://rpts.tamu.edu/academics/proranger/>

# ProRanger cadets return to Prairie View A&M, share stories of summer success in national parks

College Station, TX — Twelve Texas college students training to become National Park Service (NPS) law enforcement park rangers will report on their first summer of duty in several western parks on Thursday August 11, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The presentations are open to the public and news media.

The students, all first-year cadets in the NPS' s ProRanger Program at Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University and San Antonio College, will make individual presentations (8:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. CDT) in the Prairie View A&M Agriculture–Business Building, Room 114. This summer' s interns were assigned to nine national parks and monuments in seven states. (*List of cadet interns and parks on page 2 of this news release.*)

The cadets serve two 12-week summer internships as part of their training in ProRanger. The program is a partnership between the eight-state, 84-park Intermountain Region of NPS and the Texas schools to recruit and train a new generation of diverse national park rangers. In particular, the involvement of Prairie View A&M, a historically black institution, gives NPS an opportunity to diversify the ranks of law enforcement rangers with young African American recruits, an underrepresented demographic.

The two-year development program includes academic courses, paid internships, and attendance at the NPS Law Enforcement Academy at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangeley, CO. Cadets become commissioned law enforcement rangers in their second summer. Upon graduation, cadets are eligible for permanent hire as career U.S. park rangers.

ProRanger Program Manager Dr. Lavell Merritt established the program in December 2009 at San Antonio College in Texas. The Intermountain Region program' s headquarters is now at Texas A&M in College Station, in the university' s Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences. ProRanger continues to recruit students from San Antonio and the other four Alamo Colleges as well

as Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M. It has placed 17 graduates in permanent law enforcement ranger posts in national parks.

**ProRanger cadet name/school Summer internship host national park**

Martha Todd, Texas A&M	Bryce Canyon National Park, UT
Devonte Jones, Prairie View A&M	Colorado National Monument, Grand Junction, CO
Tremaine Sapp, Prairie View A&M	Dinosaur National Monument, Dinosaur, CO / Vernal, UT
Katherine Wankowski, San Antonio College	Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT
Annie Armstrong, Prairie View A&M	Glen Canyon National Recreational Area, Page, AZ
Dillon O'Brien, Texas A&M	Glen Canyon National Recreational Area, AZ/UT
Bria Cooper, Prairie View A&M	Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historical Park, TX
Christopher Fonteneaux, Prairie View A&M	Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historical Park, TX
Jasmine Hayes, Prairie View A&M	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Ajo, AZ
Bryan Harper, Prairie View A&M	Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, TX
Devon Bobineaux, Prairie View A&M	Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, TX
Jotianna Phillips, Prairie View A&M	Yellowstone National Park, WY-MT-ID

For more information or follow-up questions, contact Merritt at [Lavell\\_Merritt@nps.gov](mailto:Lavell_Merritt@nps.gov) and 956-754-0006.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 409 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*



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