



## National Park Women Pub Quiz!

Challenge yourself (and your friends!) with these trivia questions. Check the answer sheet to see how well you did and get a bit more background on women associated with the NPS.

- 1** In what year did Petrified Forest National Park hire its first permanent uniformed female employee?

A. 1906                      C. 1966  
B. 1954                      D. Trick question! Women in the park don't wear uniforms.
- 2** Fran Mainella was the first woman director of the National Park Service. When did her term start?

A. 1997                      C. 2006  
B. 2001                      D. 1987
- 3** Which "park wife" wrote *Bears in my Kitchen*?

A. Dama Margaret Smith    C. Phel K. Jacobsen  
B. Grace Albright            D. Margaret Becker Merrill
- 4** Who was known as "The National Park Lady?"

A. Mary Bell King Sherman    C. Mrs. John Muir  
B. Nevada Barr                D. Clare Marie Hodges
- 5** How old was Emma Gatewood when she became the first woman "through-hiker" of the 2,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail?

A. 68                          C. 70  
B. 18                          D. 34
- 6** The first Park Service Women's Conference was held in what year?

A. 1973                      C. 1959  
B. 1979                      D. 1987
- 7** In the NPS, what does the term "dual careers" mean?

A. Doing 2 jobs because the park is short staffed    C. Both spouses work for the NPS  
B. Temporary employees moving from park to park    D. Working winters in one park and summers in another
- 8** Who was the NPS' first woman biologist with a PhD?

A. Mary Meagher              C. Ruth Ashton  
B. Pauline Patraw              D. Ann Elder
- 9** In which decade did the skirts become part of the NPS uniform?

A. 1920s                      C. 1940s  
B. 1930s                      D. Another trick question! Women rangers were never allowed to wear skirts.
- 10** When was the first woman custodian hired for any national monument in the NPS?

A. 1965                      C. 1980  
B. 1937                      D. 1916
- 11** Who is the oldest active park ranger?

A. Betty Reid Soskin        C. Olive Johnson  
B. Mary Rolfe                D. Enid Michael
- 12** When was the first woman U.S. Park Police officer hired?

A. 1955                      C. 1942  
B. 1990                      D. 1971

# Check Your Answers

## 1 The answer is C: 1966

It was 60 years after the park was established in 1906 before the park hired its first permanent uniformed female employee. To add insult to injury, the article in the National Park Courier that announced her hiring failed to mention her name!

## 2 The answer is B: 2001

Fran Mainella was the 16th director of the NPS. She was sworn in on July 18, 2001.

## 3 The answer is D: Margaret Becker Merrill

Published in 1952, the book inspired some women to write to Merrill asking “How can I marry a ranger?”

## 4 The answer is A: Mary Bell Kind Sherman

She led the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) during the early years of the NPS. The GFWC, together with Enos Mills, successfully pushed for the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. But that was just the beginning. GFWC and state women’s clubs were key players in preservation of many national parks and historic sites. Sherman’s success and leadership lead her to be known as “The National Park Lady.”

## 5 The answer is A: 68

Known as “Grandma Gatewood,” she actually completed the Appalachian Trail twice- once at 68, and then again at 70. Only 5 men had accomplished the feat before she did in the mid-1950s.

## 6 The answer is B: 1979

More than 80 women participated in the conference. For the first time in the history of the Park Service, the past, present, and future status of women and their careers were examined.

## 7 The answer is C: Both spouses work for the NPS

Dual careers present the challenge of finding two positions in the same location where both spouses can work in their chosen fields. Women have often resigned from their positions when their husbands got new jobs and the family had to move. Some take jobs outside their fields to make a situation work. Still others endure long-distance relationships with spouses or significant others, waiting for positions to come available.

## 8 The answer is A: Mary Meagher

Meagher earned her PhD in 1970 while studying Yellowstone National Park’s bison population. When hired at the park in 1959 she was only the third woman hired for a permanent position (and the only one since Herma Albertson in 1931. Margaret Boos had received her PhD in geology, but was a seasonal ranger-naturalist at Grand Canyon.

## 9 The answer is C: 1930s

The exact date that skirts were added as an exemption to the Park Service standard uniform is unknown but one of the earliest photos dates to 1931. Skirts become much more common throughout the 1930s. Beginning in 1941, skirts were required, although some women wore pants when the work demanded it. The 1970 uniform included trousers for women for the first time in c. 40 years. Today, the skirt remains an option for the dress uniform.

## 10 The answer is D: 1916

Edna Pinkley served as acting custodian at Casa Grande in 1914 during her husband’s leave of absence. However, Jessie Jack Foote was the first permanent custodian. She was appointed at Capulin Volcano NM.

## 11 The answer is A: Betty Reid Soskin

Betty Reid Soskin is a ranger at Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. She will be 100 years old on September 22, 1921.

## 12 The answer is C: 1942

Beatrice Ball began with the U.S.P.P. on January 2, 1942 but she already had 10 years of experience as a policewoman in Washington, D.C. She was hired to take charge of cases involving women and children but that summer she left to join the Coast Guard Women Reserves. During WWII she worked as an intelligence officer within the U.S.