

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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State Parks welcomes new ranger to Navajo Lake State Park

SANTA FE – New Mexico State Parks welcomes a new law enforcement officer to Navajo Lake State Park and to its dedicated team of State Park Rangers.

Park Ranger Oran Hurst received certification from the San Juan County Criminal Justice Training Authority-Basic Police Academy on June 13, in Farmington, New Mexico. Hurst was named valedictorian of his academy class, recording the highest academic score and delivering the valedictorian address during the graduation ceremony.

New Mexico's State Park Rangers play a critical role in safeguarding New Mexico's iconic parks, history, and recreational areas. Their responsibilities include ensuring the safety of park visitors, protecting wildlife, preserving historic and cultural sites, and supporting education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the state's unique natural resources.

"New Mexico's state parks are among the most beautiful and diverse in the nation," said **State Parks Division Director Toby Velásquez**. "Our rangers bring a wealth of experience, passion, and commitment to preserving these precious resources for future generations. We're excited to welcome Park Ranger Hurst to the team as we continue our important work of conservation and public service."

Hurst joins during a time of increased demand for park rangers, with several opportunities currently available across the New Mexico State Parks system. These positions offer a career opportunity that make a lasting impact on the state's outdoor heritage. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply by visiting the New Mexico State Parks website.

New Mexico State Parks is a division of the [Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department](#). Our mission is to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, provide first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promote public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.

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“Joining the team as a park ranger allows individuals to actively contribute to the protection of New Mexico’s natural and cultural resources while ensuring public safety,” added **Gabriel Maes**, chief of the division's Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Bureau. Chief. “We invite those who are passionate about the outdoors and recreation to apply for one of the available positions and become part of this important mission.”

The New Mexico State Parks Division administers and operates a diverse network of 35 state parks found in 23 of 33 counties, each offering unique opportunities for outdoor recreation, education, and exploration.

For more information about available positions, job requirements, and how to apply, visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/meet-our-team/careers/>.



Ranger Oran Hurst delivering his valedictory address

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