

**New York State Department of Civil Service**  
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Tentative Classification Standard

**Occ. Code 1506000**

**Assistant Forest Ranger, NS**

Brief Description of Class

Assistant Forest Rangers assist with the preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources on State lands, and ensure the safety and well-being of the public using these State lands and natural resources. Assistant Forest Rangers support Forest Rangers in field work, emergency response, and administrative reporting.

Assistant Forest Rangers are classified only at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management.

Distinguishing Characteristics

*Assistant Forest Ranger:* seasonal; reports to either a Forest Ranger 1 or 2 and protects State lands through fire suppression and prevention; may supervise other seasonal employees or volunteers when conducting search and rescue or fire suppression activities; may work alone, which requires making decisions and determining the correct course of action, since supervisors may be working in alternate locations.

Related Classes

Forest Rangers are sworn police officers, who work within an assigned geographic area, and enforce provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) in order to protect and enhance the State's lands and natural resources and the well-being of the public who use these resources. These positions organize and conduct search and rescue operations; educate the public in wilderness safety and natural resource care; and administer the State's wildland fire-management program, including wildfire suppression and prescribed fire activities. These positions are only classified at DEC.

Parks & Recreation Forest Rangers prevent and control forest fires for the protection of State park lands, and for the conservation of fish and wildlife and other natural resources found in State park lands. In addition, they organize and direct search

and rescue emergency operations and provide information and education to a variety of youth and adult groups. These positions are only classified at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

### Illustrative Tasks

Informs and educates visitors about the use and protection of natural resources; gives tours and presents talks to school groups, state land users, and others; and assists and advises visitors regarding trails and other facilities.

Promotes and monitors the public's compliance with rules, regulations, and laws regarding the use of State lands; patrols assigned areas for signs of fire, vandalism, trespass, or safety hazards; and resolves conflicts among individuals or groups as necessary, informing Forest Rangers when assistance is needed to control or stop illegal, destructive, or unsafe activities.

Performs routine maintenance work on trails and other facilities such as placing signs and removing debris and garbage.

Monitors use of trails and camping areas, evaluating patterns of use, and noting condition of facilities.

Works as part of a fire crew to suppress wildland fires or support prescribed fire on State lands; attends mandatory training; participates in search and rescue operations as needed; and applies emergency first aid procedures to injured persons and assists in their evacuation.

Coordinates radio, telephone, and email communication between program operations and law enforcement during emergency operations.

Maintains records and submits reports relating to daily activities, public use, maintenance needs, and compliance with laws, rules, and regulations.

### Minimum Qualifications

Open Competitive: 30 semester college credits hours; or six months of experience in environmental conservation or natural resource protection, forestry, environmental education, work in a park or recreation setting, or security work. Candidates must possess a valid New York State driver's license appropriate for the type of vehicle to be operated.

**Note:** Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the

Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum requirements for appointment or examination.

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