

A person wearing a green uniform and a tan hat stands on a stone wall, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. The mountains are covered in dense forests with autumn foliage in shades of green, yellow, and orange. Mist or low clouds are visible between the mountain ridges. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

GUIDE:

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW TO
OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
CAREERS

Introduction



THIS GUIDE offers an introduction and overview of the various sectors, fields and potential occupations and careers available in outdoor recreation and conservation. It includes opportunities to work both IN and FOR the outdoors.

Choose your outdoor career path!

Get started by asking yourself some very basic questions. Even though you might not be able to answer all of them, it is a good first step to narrow down what you really want to do.

Ready? Let's go!

Questions to Ask Yourself

1

What is my experience educational background?

- High school
- Associate's
- Bachelor's
- Master's
- PHD
- Certificates
- Practical experience

2

What is my passion?

- Protection of the environment
- Working with youth
- Science
- Hands on work in the outdoors
- New energies
- Serving people and communities

3

What are interesting fields of occupation?

- Natural Resources
- Outdoor Recreation
- Outdoor Conservation
- Environmental Education
- Outdoor Youth Development
- Retail
- Brands and Manufacturing

4

What working environment do I want?

- IN or FOR the Outdoors / both
- Interesting work
- The mission of the employer
- Job security
- Moving / not moving to another location
- Good benefits
- Money
- Many options for different career paths

5

Government career or private sector?

Government Jobs

- Federal and Local Government

Private

- Nonprofits
- Education
- Commercial Businesses

Choosing a Career Path...

The Progression

Sectors

- Government
- Nonprofit & Education
- For-Profit

Fields of Occupation

Choosing the general field you want to get into, for example, Land Management or Parks and Recreation.

Occupations & Careers

Specific careers, like park ranger, guide, environmental educator and more!

Part 1: Sectors

Government

There are many outdoor related fields of occupations where federal and local government agencies provide career opportunities, such as land management, parks and recreation and conservation, or environmental education.

Nonprofit & Education

There are an abundance of jobs in the nonprofit and education sectors that allow you to work in or for the outdoors. Careers in the outdoors in both education and nonprofit sectors can vary greatly depending on the mission and vision of the organization you choose to work for.

For – Profit

Careers working in and for the outdoors in the for profit sector branch across a variety of technical fields. The nature of available positions may differ depending on the field of your choice. Positions may be seasonal, part-time or full-time dependent on the outdoor career path you choose to pursue.

Part 2: Fields of Occupation



Part 3: Occupations & Careers

It can be helpful to start by reviewing a list of different career options. Knowing what types of work people do may lead you to a field you didn't know existed - and one of them just might be ideal for you! Here are just a few examples of potential careers and occupations you may be interested in pursuing.

- Cartographer
- Environmental Lawyer
- Environmental Planner
- GIS Specialist, GIS Analyst
- Wildland Firefighter
- Plant Protection Technician
- Soil Conservation Technician
- Forestry Technician
- Outreach Coordinator
- Program Coordinator
- Logistics Coordinator
- Recreation Coordinator
- Guide / Instructor
- Photographer/Videographer
- Program Manager
- Sales / Customer Service
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Wildlife or Fisheries Biologist
- Geologist
- Camp Director
- Marketing/Communications Manager
- Landscape Architect
- Nonprofit Executive Director
- Retail Specialist
- Graphic Designer
- Public Relations
- Land Surveyor

Take a Deeper Dive

For a deeper dive, there are several additional resources designed to help you understand and navigate developing a career working in or for the outdoors.

- Case Studies for Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Careers
- GUIDE Federal and Regional Government Outdoor Fields of Occupation
- GUIDE Federal Government Agencies Introduction and Overview for Outdoor Career Opportunities
- GUIDE Regional Government Agencies Introduction and Overview for Outdoor Career Opportunities
- GUIDE Finding and Applying for a Government Job
- GUIDE Navigating the USAJobs.com site
- GUIDE Creating a Resume and Resources for Federal Government Jobs
- GUIDE Nonprofit and Education Outdoor Career Opportunities
- GUIDE For Profit Sector Outdoor Career Opportunities
- GUIDE Resources for Starting an Outdoor Career

Contact



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For further information please visit MyTYO.org



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