

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Inside NPS article

- Montgomery County teacher steps right into Campfire program "Fairy Houses" teaching natural habitat principles to children at Owens Creek Campground.
- Under TRT, selected teachers spend the summer working as park rangers. They perform various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park, including developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing the visitor center desk, developing curriculum-based materials for the park, or taking on special projects.
- The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program began in Colorado in 2003 and in 2007 became a nation-wide program. In 2011 Catoctin Mountain Park became the first park in the National Capital Region to have a Teacher-Ranger in their park.

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Delights Campers with 'Fairy Houses'

By Susan Burke with Chris Jansson

Chris jumped right into his first camp fire program the day his uniform arrived. "Fairy Houses," presented at Owens Creek Campground, taught children about animal habitat. Chris read the book to his young son and thought it would provide a great theme for his campfire program. Young campers were intrigued by the concept of providing animals with a safe home using twigs and leaves found in the area.

Montgomery County teacher, Chris Jansson, works best with children. He said older audiences frighten him a bit. Since Chris plans to return to Catoctin Mountain Park next summer I'm sure he will get over that.

Although it took almost two years to unwind the red tape, Chris proudly wears the United States Park Service uniform. However, he is still trying to figure out what is his favorite part of the job. Is it helping visitors in the visitor center, or maybe it's giving a campfire program, oh wait, it's being recognized as one on the greatest group of people he knows, Park Rangers.

The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher (TRT) Program began in Colorado in 2003 and in 2007 became a nation-wide program. During the summer of 2008, parks had over 90 Teacher Rangers in uniform learning about their national heritage and serving National Park Service visitors. In 2011 National Capital Region signed its first Teacher to Ranger to Teacher agreement and welcomed Chris Jansson as their first T-R-T.