

INTERPRETATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

HEATHER HOLM

ACTING DIVISION CHIEF

INTERPRETATION TODAY



- Interpreter Positions
 - 2018: 128 Interpreters
 - April 2023: 176 Interpreters
- Interpreter Series Job Specifications

OUTDOORS FOR ALL

20 K-12 Access positions

PORTS expansion to over 50 parks

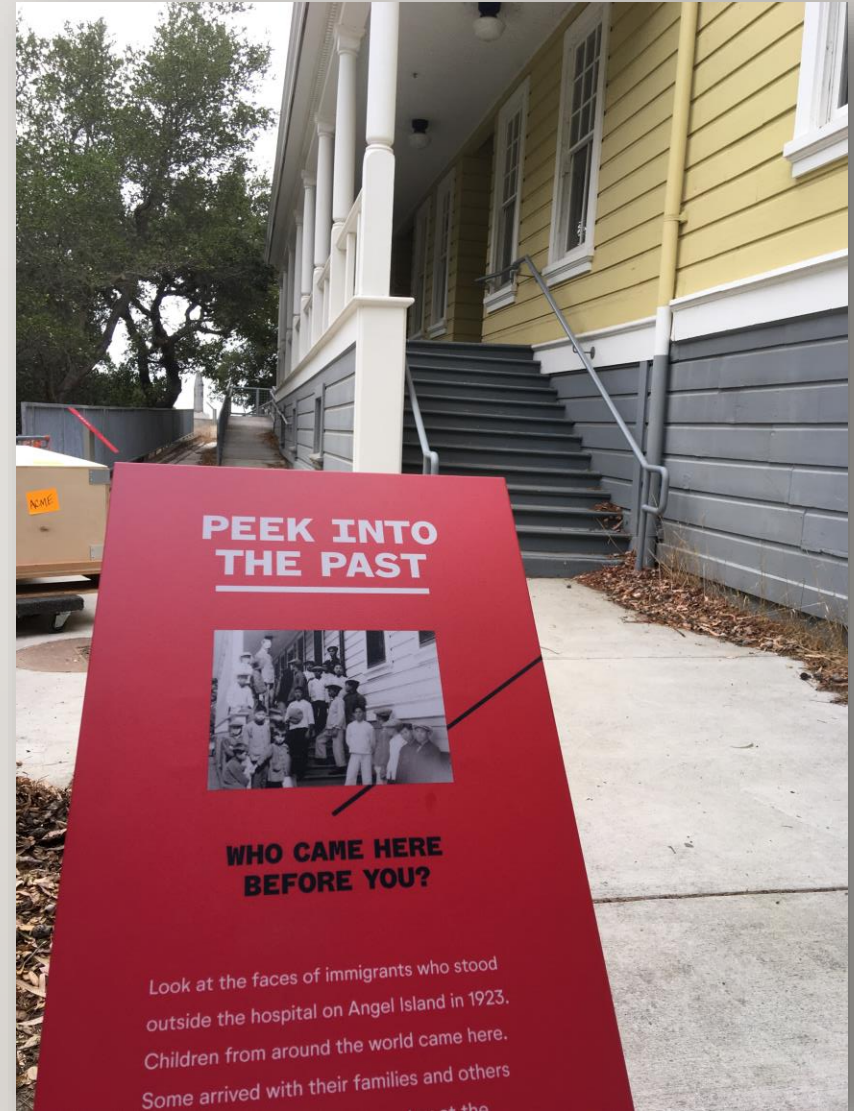
K-12 Transportation

Pass Programs



INTERPRETATION TODAY: A DEFINITION

- Interpretation is "a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and inspire engagement with the world around us." (National Association of Interpretation)



BROADENING NARRATIVES

I. Gathering and integrating current historical and scientific research.

- Relevancy and History Program

RELEVANCY AND HISTORY PROGRAM

Goal 1:

- Expand the understanding of history through research, interpretation, and education.

Goal 2:

- Promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Goal 3:

- Build sustainable partnerships with institutions, community groups, and stakeholders.

Goal 4:

- Create opportunities for community engagement.

Goal 5:

- Providing opportunities for students, scholars, and community members to practice public history in State Parks.


BROADENING NARRATIVES

I. Gathering and integrating current historical and scientific research.

- Relevancy and History Program
- African American History and Engagement Project
- Forest Resiliency and Climate Change Toolkit
- Sea Level Rise Toolkit

BROADENING NARRATIVES

2. Engaging with underrepresented communities.

- Targeted approach through outreach
 - Building partnerships
 - Invite to be co-creators
 - Be non-traditional in approach to engagement
 - Internship or Career Pathway opportunities
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BROADENING NARRATIVES

3. Identifying Standards and Best Practices.

- Research
- Historic Interpretation
- Living History
- Climate Change

CULTURALLY RELEVANT PARKS PROJECTS – 2022

Reexamining Our Past Initiative

One-time General Fund Allocations

Schedule: July 2022 – June 2027

- Address need for accuracy and inclusion in interpretive narratives.
- Seek to build relationships and momentum for ongoing investment.
- Infuse funding into art and interpretation as strategies for making parks more inclusive and engaging.

African American History and Engagement

Tribal Lands Acknowledgement, and Interpretation and Exhibits

Arts in CA Parks
(Cultural and Art Installations in Parks Program)

K-12 AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS– 2022

Access for All Initiative

One-time General Fund Allocations

Schedule: July 2022 – June 2027

Goal: Enhance K-12 education and interpretive programs to broaden access and provide more relevant, culturally sensitive, and inclusive programming.

- Develop and Improve K-12 educational curriculum and interpretive media to ensure content is relevant, accurate and inclusive.
- Evaluate, enhance and support educational and interpretive programming so it reflects current best practices, accurate and relevant content and is inclusive in its content and approach

Inclusive History Project

Historic Site Assessment and Interpretation Best Practices

Visitor Center Film Updates

Curriculum and Docent Manual Updates

Junior Ranger Program Refresh

INCLUSIVE HISTORY PROJECT



- Goal: Strengthen staff's skills in and comfort with making inclusive spaces by building relationships, sharing the full breadth of the past, and connecting park sites to the current world of visitors.
- Directly supports the Governor's Outdoor Access for All initiative, as well the Department's efforts around the Re-examining Our Past initiative and the Relevancy and History program.
- Team: Interpretation and Education Division, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Parks California, Kate Livingston (Expose Your Museum)

INCLUSIVE HISTORY TRAINING

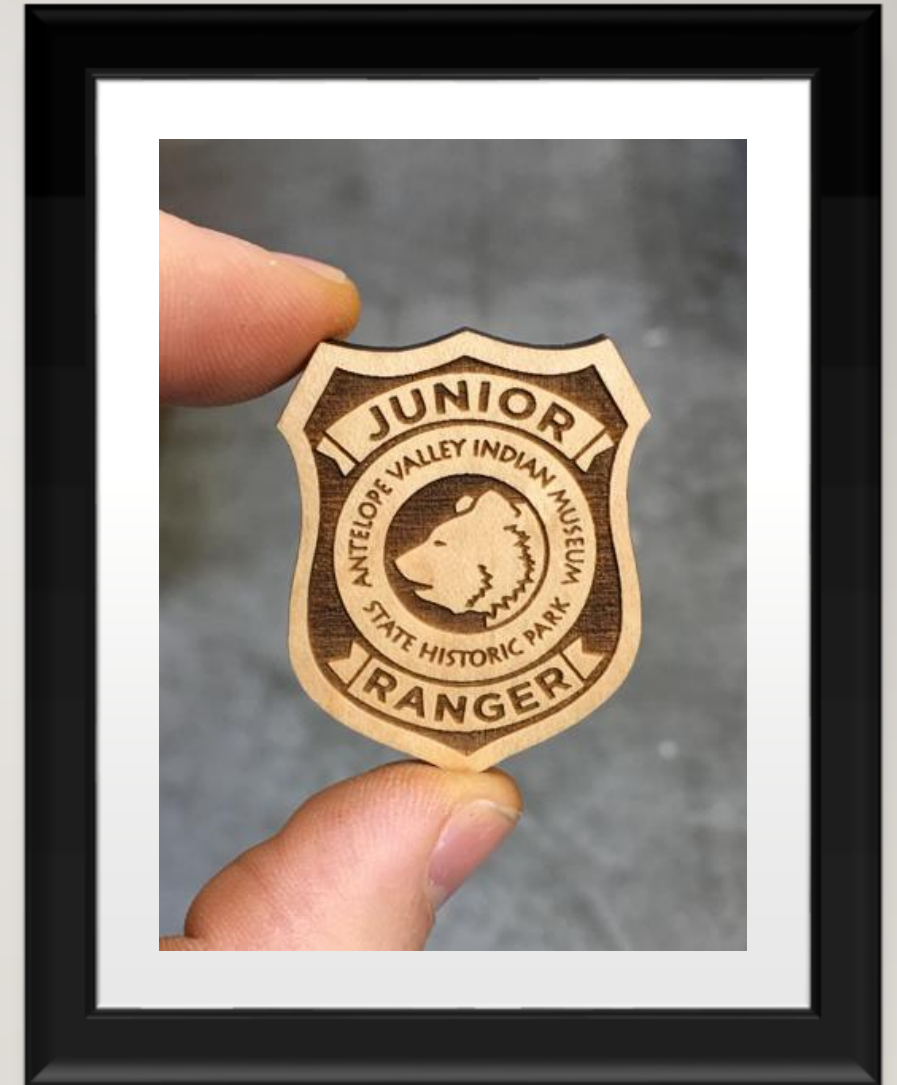
COHORT 1

- El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP, La Purisima Mission SHP, San Juan Bautista SHP, Santa Cruz Mission SHP, Sonoma SHP, Fort Ross SHP
- October 2023—June 2024:
 - 32 hours of training (in-person/virtual)
- July 2024—April 2025
 - 3 small scale projects co-created with community partners
 - Development of a one-year action plan to continue implementation and momentum

COHORT 2: Focus TBD

JUNIOR RANGER REFRESH PROJECT

- Update current statewide program materials, structure and awards so are more relevant to today's youth.
- Formalize the Junior Cub program for ages 3-6.
- Establish a new program for youth ages 13-16.
- Expand Virtual Junior Ranger program into a more interactive and youth-friendly online platform.





TRAINING

- Inclusive History Training
- Interpreting Climate Change
- All Hands Interpreter Quarterly Webinars
- Department Trainings
(caparks.geniussis.com/PublicWelcome.aspx)

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or

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Non CSP accounts, please contact the Training Section

The minimum system requirements are a stable internet connection and a supported browser (e.g. Chrome, Safari, Edge). **NOTE:** The Internet Explorer browser is not supported.

LET'S ACT

- Outdoor spaces are foundational to civic life, acting as living classrooms and community hubs. They inspire and educate visitors of all ages to care for their community and the environment. People who visit local parks have a greater sense of community connection, which improves quality of life. (Outdoors for All Initiative)

CONTACT

Heather Holm

Acting Division Chief

Heather.holm@parks.ca.gov

(916) 240-1068

