

YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 7, 2017



Erin Stahler leads a ground crew for a Search and Recuse Operation 2017/Jake Frank

News

2017 Solar Eclipse: Employee Preparedness

On August 21, the solar eclipse will be visible across the continental United States. Yellowstone National Park is located just north of totality, yet visitors will still be able to experience 96–99% of a total eclipse. Here are some things to be thinking about before the big event!



- **Stay informed:** Utilize [Squad Notes](#) and employee emails for updated information on services and logistics.
- **Sign-Up:** The park is currently looking for employees with flagger and EMS training for the event. If you have supervisory approval, [sign-up online](#).
- **Plan ahead:** Increased visitation is expected during the eclipse week. Purchase groceries (and gasoline) prior to the event.
- **Charge your batteries:** Not just on your radio (as cell phone towers could get overloaded that day) but make sure to give yourself a mental break beforehand by using some of the spiritual wellness ideas in the Safety Corner on page 2!
- **Learn the facts:** It's likely that you'll get a range of visitor questions about the eclipse. REYP and RVP have been working together to create handouts for entrances and visitor centers. Visit the [NASA webpage](#) to learn more facts about the eclipse!

Before you leave!

We are approaching the time of year when seasonal employees begin to check out of their seasonal housing.

- **Supervisors** or designated housing clerks are responsible for employee housing checkouts, be sure they know when you plan to leave.
- **Cleaning** prior to checkout is required by all seasonal tenants.
- **Got Roommates?** Charges for damage or additional cleaning, not attributed to a specific roommate, are *divided among all roommates*. Bring up any roommate concerns with your supervisor prior to checkout.
- For more details on housing policies, review the [Resident's Handbook](#), or read specifics found in the [Employee Handbook](#).

Quick links for:

- [Focus Days Key Messages](#)
- [YNP@Work Archives](#)
- [Employee Safety Committee](#)
- [Suggestion Box](#)

A Bear Doesn't Care How Many Badges You Wear

Ranger Tori Anderson shares a story about two very special Junior Rangers:

"On July 14, 2017, the two most decorated junior rangers I have ever laid eyes on walked up to me with their newly completed Yellowstone junior ranger books. I shared my bear safety poster idea with the family and they were delighted! We went outside for a little photoshoot once they had been inducted into the Yellowstone Junior Ranger club. After the winning photo was shot, the junior rangers engaged me in a game of "stump the ranger". Petrified-stump me they did!"

For many of us seasonal interpretive rangers, working with junior rangers is the greatest delight of our jobs. It is in their eyes and souls that we see the most visible hope for a lasting and flourishing National Park Service. Thanks Meadow and Theo for restoring my hope in everything the Park Service stands for, and everything it has the potential to become."



Safety Corner

Spiritual Wellness

Spiritual wellness is the process of understanding your values and beliefs in life, and finding ways to incorporate them daily into your life. Spiritual wellness can take on many forms, but the focus is to find what you value while respecting the views and values of others.

- Memorize positive affirmations like, "I wake up today with strength in my heart and clarity in my mind," or "I am the architect of my life; I build its foundation and choose its contents."
- Learn relaxation techniques and improve your focus through meditation and relaxation classes; attend afternoon yoga with [YCERP](#) or utilize free resources found in the [Employee Assistance Program](#).
- Track your wellness with the Yellowstone [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP).



Injury Reports: June-July

There's a lot we can learn to prevent accidents and injuries from happening in the workplace. Last month, twelve incidents were filed with the Workman's Comp Officer, Bernie Adams.

Here's a glimpse of what was reported in June and July (includes precautionary filings):

- Knee injuries: (2) strain and bruise
- Exposure to rodent droppings in storage room
- Crushing injuries (2) to fingers
- Eye irradiation due to windblown debris
- Tick embedded on skin
- Foot injuries (3)
- Lower back strain
- Side/groin strain

Safety Champions

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone? Or have you seen a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found on the [YELL SharePoint site](#).

Life & Leisure

Tonight: Homerun Derby

Do you think you have what it takes to be one of the top sluggers in Yellowstone? If you think you have what it takes or you just want to be thoroughly entertained, meet YCERP down at the Fishing Bridge Field tonight, Monday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Dog Days of Summer

In the past month there have been several cases of ["kennel cough" reported in Montana](#). Vets recommend avoiding dog parks, boarding, grooming facilities, doggy day care, and any other high-density dog population areas, if at all possible. If your dog has been diagnosed with this "kennel cough," please isolate them from other dogs for at least 2 weeks after symptoms have resolved. Even vaccinated dogs in the area have contracted the infection and are at risk to spread it even if symptoms are minimal. For more information, contact your local veterinarian office.

Gardiner Food Pantry

The Gardiner Food Pantry needs your help to eliminate hunger in the Gardiner community. The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to: 1) serve on the board of directors; 2) provide food donations; 3) donate money; and 4) volunteer on Tuesdays to distribute food. For more information contact gardinerfoodpantry@gmail.com.

Yellowstone CO-OP Employee Recreation (YCERP)

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Jobs

USAJOBS.gov connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities. As the federal government's official employment site, USAJOBS.gov provides resources to help the right people find the right jobs. Listed below are Yellowstone's job postings as of today:

[Human Resources Assistant](#)
(GS-0203-05/06)

Permanent

Current NPS, Veterans
Closes 8/09/2017

Training

NPS and DOI offer multiple types of practical training and career development options. Trainings are usually in-person or online, while development programs are geared towards an overall professional development goal. Listed below are current trainings available to employees.

Preventing Discrimination Based on Religion and National Origin

- August 8, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (MST)
Vendor: FELTG Cost: Paid by Superintendent's office
Target Audience: All Supervisors/Leads
Location: Superintendent's conference room & telework sites (remote computers)

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid is a workplace mental health training program that teaches participants how to notice and support an individual who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use concern or crisis and connect them with the appropriate employee resources. Mental Health First Aid at Work is a skills-based, experiential and evidence-based practice.

- **Thursday, August 10, 2017** Old Faithful Snowlodge Conference Room 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- To register, email Juanita Bueter at yellowstone4911@gmail.com, or call (406) 224-2629.
 - o Include (name, phone, email, occupation/employer, and a brief description of why you are enrolling in the course).
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR

- August 15, 2017: Mammoth 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- August 18, 2017: Mammoth 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Contact Juanita Bueter to register for the courses at yellowstone4911@gmail.com.

Managing a Mobile Workforce

- August 22, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (MST)
Vendor: FELTG Cost: Paid by Superintendent's office
Target Audience: All Supervisors/Leads
Location: Superintendent's conference room & telework sites (remote computers)

Retirement Training

Hosted by Catherine Bermond from HROC

- October 10: Mammoth (full day), time TBD
- October 11: Mammoth (half-day sessions), time TBD

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Expedition Yellowstone class -2016

News

2017 Solar Eclipse: Planning, Logistics and Safety

- **Staff Assistance Needed:** Employees typically scheduled to work Mondays, will potentially be assigned a role in southern locations of the park. Talk to your supervisor this week to see if you will be stationed outside your normal district location. Or, if you have supervisory approval, [sign-up online](#) to be assigned a role.
- **Pack your bags:** Those of you helping with the event should have:
 - Emergency backpack of supplies: see the [suggested safety items](#) in the Employee Guide to Wildlife Jams- and don't forget your eclipse shades (ask your supervisor if you haven't received them yet).
 - Vehicle safety equipment: Review the Employee Safety & Wellness Committee's [list of safety items to keep in your vehicle](#) as well!
- **Stay informed:**
 - [Sign-up to receive Everbridge alerts](#) for emergency messages and critical updates during the incident dates (August 18-22). Alerts can be sent to NPS or personal email, text message or phone numbers. Must use a .gov address to register.
 - Phone in: During the incident dates, the park will maintain the Admin Travel phone line (307-344-7115) for employees only. It will include updates on emergency notices and critical information.
- **Learn the facts:** It's likely that you'll get a range of visitor questions about the eclipse. REYP, RVP and Strat Comm have been working together to create handouts and [web content](#) for entrances and visitor centers. Visit the [NASA webpage](#) to learn more facts about the eclipse!

Lunch on the Lawn

Do you eat lunch? So do we! This week the Innovative Leadership Network (ILN) will be hosting their final lunchtime social hour for any employees working/visiting/passing through Mammoth. Stop by the YCR front lawn from 12:00-1:00 p.m. bring your favorite to where the ILN will be serving up potluck-style dishes- please share!

Before you

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- **Cleaning**
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Corner

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Life & Leisure

Parkwide Athletic Champions

YCERP would like to thank those who participated in this year's summer recreation programs, and extend their congratulations to all of the parkwide champions!

- 3v3 Parkwide Volleyball – Spikadelics (Lake)
- 3v3 Parkwide Basketball – Pippen Ain't Easy (Lake)
- Yellowstone Cup (Soccer) – Chris's Canyon Krew (Canyon)
- Pelican Playoff (Ultimate Frisbee) - Flick Of Da Wrist (Lake)

- 4v4 Parkwide Volleyball – Red Spike and Blue (Old Faithful)
- 4v4 Parkwide Basketball – Pippen Ain't Easy (Lake)
- League Softball – Geezers (Mammoth)

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Upcoming events:

Bison Seminars

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[YELL Park Ranger - Emergency Services](#)

(GS-0025-09)

Permanent-Career Seasonal (furlough)

Lateral reassignment

Closes 09/01/2017

The position is permanent, full-time and will be duty stationed at Mammoth. The incumbent will assist the Emergency Services Coordinator with the implementation of the park's Emergency Services Program in a staff capacity, including:

- The EMS program, including quality assurance, training, professional standards, inventory, fleet management, agreements;
- The Search and Rescue program, including incident management, training, professional standards, quality assurance, inventory;
- The Coroner program including death investigations;
- Critical Incident Stress Management and other similar employee-targeted care programs;
- Disaster preparedness.

This position does NOT qualify for coverage under enhanced retirement provisions of (CSRS) and (FERS) for law enforcement or firefighters. This is NOT a law enforcement position. Law enforcement employees who have satisfied the minimum number of years in a covered position to qualify for enhanced retirement and who want to continue their career in emergency services may find this opportunity interesting along with any others who may

qualify. The position requires an active AEMT/Park Medic or Paramedic Certification. This is a lateral reassignment, which is not processed through USAJobs. Applicants must e-mail their completed application package to rogelio_herrera@nps.gov with the Northern Rockies SHRO in Yellowstone National Park. Roy Herrera can be reached at 307-344-2044, for assistance Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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News

REYP ranger Nicole Sedgely and SCA Emily Sweet catch a glimpse of the Eclipse/Neal Herbert

Eclipse Recap

As the sun and moon crossed paths yesterday, the air cooled, shadows morphed, and the skies became like dusk. With an average amount of park visitation throughout Monday, both park employees and visitors were able to safely view the event. Today (Tuesday), the park is experiencing an increase in park visitation as Eclipse viewers travel back home.

- The Superintendent shares a thank you to all employees who helped with park operations for this event. Allowing for the safe viewing and educational experiences for all involved helps carry out the mission of the National Park Service. Thank you!
- To view photos from the event here in Yellowstone, [visit the park's Flickr page](#).

Got Eclipse Glasses? Recycle Them!

- Drop off your glasses to any lodge front desk inside Yellowstone to recycle your glasses. Xanterra be sending them to [Astronomers Without Borders](#) who is sending eclipse glasses to developing countries for the 2019 eclipse!

Before you leave: Check Your Housing

Supervisors or designated housing clerks are responsible for employee housing checkouts, be sure they know when you plan to leave.

- **Cleaning** prior to checkout is required by all seasonal tenants.
- **Got Roommates?** Charges for damage or additional cleaning, not attributed to a specific roommate, are *divided among all roommates*. Bring up any roommate concerns with your supervisor prior to checkout.
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Before you leave: Provide Your Feedback

[Take the Seasonal Employee Exit Survey](#) to tell us what you think, share your experiences, and provide us with your feedback. Your participation is not mandatory, but your responses will help us continue to grow as an organization.

- Your responses will be kept anonymous. If you'd like to see how the results were shared last year, you can view the [2016 Seasonal Employee Exit Survey Results](#).
- The management team and the Innovative Leadership Network (ILN) took last year's results and focused on three common themes: housing, work/life balance, and leadership. The ILN has included updates on these themes for you in the 2017 survey.

Safety Corner

Strains, Bruises, and Bat Bites

This last month a total of seventeen injuries were reported in Yellowstone. Animal-bite related injuries have increased region-wide. Employees should remember the [OSHA guidance on animal-bites](#) and continue to report even minor instances to their supervisor and [document in SMIS](#) immediately. Here's a glimpse of what was reported in YELL July and August (includes precautionary filings):

- Head/Neck: (1) insect lodged in ear canal, (1) eye struck by branch, (1) neck strain due to sudden movement
- Knees: (1) bruise while lifting objects; (1) strain while installing equipment
- Arms: (1) elbow strain from clearing trail, (1) finger laceration while moving a gate, (1) shoulder strain due to repetitive actions while using tools
- Backs: (2) lower back strains: one from lifting, one from falling, (1) inflamed rib from repetitive motion with tools
- Legs: (1) bat bite to lower leg, (1) groin muscles strained while pivoting, (1) shin lacerated by tools, (1) ankle strain while hiking
- Misc.: (1) reaction to deployed pepper spray, (1) case still pending- no info at this time

Do you have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for your job? [Use OSHA's PPE checklist](#) to see what items you should have for your job, then afterwards, stop by the Supply Center or Safety Office to pick up any items you might need!

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News

Early morning bison jam in Lamar Valley 2017/Jake Frank

Today: Bear Education Trailer on Mammoth Parade Grounds

- From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. REYP and US Forest Service staff will use a charging bear simulator to educate the public about bear spray use. Staff will be located across from the Albright Visitor Center.
- Staff will display three full mount bears, bear-safe containers, and a touch table with pelts and skulls.
- The simulator is owned and operated by the US Forest Service, Gallatin National Forest.

Park Visitors Help Share Safety Messages

This summer, a park visitor took the time to document and report someone willfully entering a thermal feature. Because of this person's willingness to help protect our natural resource, the individual who violated park regulations was arrested, sentenced to three days in jail and fined \$1000.

- Allowing people to safely view the park's natural landscape and wildlife is a daily task for many employees.
- The park shares this message through digital media, publications, ranger talks, visitor centers, and at wildlife jams.
- To help promote positive behavior in the park, share information about the [Yellowstone Pledge](#) by sending people to our homepage at www.nps.gov/yell.

Employee Suggestion Box Updates

Over the last six months, employees have been sharing their ideas, concerns and thoughts through the new Employee Suggestion Box, both electronically and on paper. Once submitted, suggestions are given to Dan and Pat for review and action, as appropriate. This week at Squad, the management team discussed the following three suggestions:

- **West Entrance crosswalks and safety:** After numerous near misses and an actual bumping of a supply cart by a vehicle, it was suggested that the crosswalks between booths and the fee office be repainted. It was also suggested that a member of the management team go to the West Entrance, observe the safety issues around fee booths.

Actions: Chief Ranger Pete Webster will visit the West Entrance to observe safety hazards. Crosswalks were painted this past weekend.

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- **Lessons Learned:** Recently, an employee was struck by a vehicle, sustaining minor injuries, while working along the roadside. It was suggested that the park should share “Lessons Learned” with all employees so future incidents can be prevented.
Action: The Deputy Superintendent, Pat Kenney, will work with the Safety Office, Employee Safety and Wellness Team, and Internal Communications to ensure incident information is shared in a timely and effective manner. Pat will follow up on this incident to get shareable lessons learned.
- **Road Closure Signs at Entrances:** It was suggested that management look to utilize a digital road open/close sign to inform travelers on the current road status, similar to what is placed in Cody and Livingston.
Action: Chief Ranger, Pete Webster, will start the discussions with the District staff and Telecommunications to identify messaging needs and methods. Pat Kenney will look for partner opportunities to see if outside funding would be available for any proposed projects.

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Safety Corner

Do You Have What it Takes?

Do you have what it takes to do your job safely? [Use OSHA’s PPE checklist](#) to see what items you should have for your job, then afterwards, stop by the Supply Center or Safety Office to pick up any items you might need!

- As an employee, you should also know your responsibilities to report injuries and near misses to your supervisor who will then help you [document them in SMIS](#) immediately.

Spill Response Reminder

If a park employee or volunteer discovers or becomes aware of a release of oil (or gasoline), she/he must report the spill immediately to the Communication Center over the radio or by calling 911. All spills are classified as emergencies until properly contained and cleaned up. For more information on the park’s spill response and cleanup procedures, reference the [SPCC Plan](#) for Yellowstone National Park or contact the Safety Office (307-344-2029).

Safety Champions

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone? Or have you seen a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found on the [YELL SharePoint site](#).

Life & Leisure

Save the Date

After 25 years of federal service, Chief of Concessions Management George Helfrich will be retiring. A farewell party will be held on Thursday, September 28 to honor his years of service here in Yellowstone. Details for location, time, and RSVP will be shared next week.

Yellowstone CO-OP Employee Recreation (YCERP)

Looking for a hiking buddy? Wishing you could rekindle your passion for kickball? Look no further than your local YCERP office! YCERP provides recreational opportunities where employees can connect to Yellowstone in fun and meaningful ways. [Visit their webpage](#) to view a full list of events, activities and learning opportunities.

Jobs

USAJOBS.gov connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities. As the federal government's official employment site, USAJOBS.gov provides resources to help the right people find the right jobs. The position listed below is an internal lateral-transfer opportunity.

[YELL Park Ranger - Emergency Services](#)

(GS-0025-09)

Permanent-Career Seasonal (furlough)

Lateral reassignment

Closes 09/01/2017

The position is permanent, full-time and will be duty stationed at Mammoth. The incumbent will assist the Emergency Services Coordinator with the implementation of the park's Emergency Services Program in a staff capacity, including:

- The EMS program, including quality assurance, training, professional standards, inventory, fleet management, agreements;
- The Search and Rescue program, including incident management, training, professional standards, quality assurance, inventory;
- The Coroner program including death investigations;
- Critical Incident Stress Management and other similar employee-targeted care programs;
- Disaster preparedness.

This position does NOT qualify for coverage under enhanced retirement provisions of (CSRS) and (FERS) for law enforcement or firefighters. This is NOT a law enforcement position. Law enforcement employees who have satisfied the minimum number of years in a covered position to qualify for enhanced retirement and who want to continue their career in emergency services may find this opportunity interesting along with any others who may qualify. The position requires an active AEMT/Park Medic or Paramedic Certification. This is a lateral reassignment, which is not processed through USAJobs. Applicants must e-mail their completed application package to rogelio_herrera@nps.gov with the Northern Rockies SHRO in Yellowstone National Park. Roy Herrera can be reached at 307-344-2044, for assistance Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Training

NPS and DOI offer multiple types of practical training and career development options. Trainings are usually in-person or online, while development programs are geared towards an overall professional development goal. Listed below are current trainings available to employees.

Retirement Training

Hosted by Catherine Bermond from HROC, sign-up will be available in September.

- October 10: Mammoth (full day), time TBD
- October 11: Mammoth (half-day sessions), time TBD

YNP@Work is a newsletter for employees, by employees and is edited by Internal Communications Specialist, Bethany Gassman. If you have questions or would like to submit content, please email Bethany_gassman@nps.gov.