

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

April 4, 2018

STAFF DIRECTIVE 18-02

TO: Regional Superintendents
Park Superintendents
Interpretation & Education Specialists
Park Rangers
Human Resources Assistants

FROM: Carol A. Tingley, Interim Director



SUBJECT: Interpretation & Education Certification

It shall be the policy of the division that all regional superintendents, I&E specialists, park superintendents, and park rangers become Certified Interpretive Guides (CIG) through the standards established by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). CIG has become the national standard for resource interpreters in parks, nature centers and historic sites. The curriculum is well suited for helping rangers connect visitors to the natural and cultural resources of state parks through interpretive programs and guided hikes. Staff previously certified as NC Environmental Educators will continue to be considered certified, and for them completion of the CIG will be optional.

Park Rangers will now become Certified Interpretive Guides after attending BIT within their first three years of employment. Initial completion of either CIG or the NC Environmental Education Certification will now be a requirement for career advancement to Park Ranger Advanced or Park Superintendent positions. Rangers completing the CIG will no longer be required to complete the NC Environmental Education Certification as previously required by staff directive 99-10, which is hereby rescinded.

While the NC Environmental Education Certification is no longer a requirement for rangers who complete the CIG, the Division will continue supporting rangers who choose to complete both. As the travel budget and park schedules allow, the Division will continue to fund the Environmental Education Certification registration fee, fuel costs for state vehicles, and time for rangers to attend workshops affiliated with the program.

This staff directive is effective immediately. If you have any questions or need additional information about this directive, please contact one of the Interpretation & Education Specialists. Requests for extensions to time frames spelled out in this directive will be considered on a case by case basis if the need is caused by travel/training restrictions or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee and the request is supported by the employee's supervisor.

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