

# Michael S. Connolly, Jr.

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## Profile

As a uniformed civil servant for two decades, I specialize in scientifically-oriented interpretation of the cultural and natural values of wild park lands to all types of audiences. I inspire people to gain an appreciation for park treasures, which ultimately leads to instilling a positive conservation ethic.

## Experience

2014 - 2017

### **GS-5 Park Ranger / Visitor Use Assistant**

National Park Service

Denali National Park and Preserve

Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

Talkeetna, Alaska

- Administration of complex mountaineering permits for the Alaskan Range of Denali National Park and Preserve, including world-famous Denali.
- Front-line visitor contacts in a ranger station that received hundreds of visitors each summer day.
- Informative and engaging visitor discussion of themes such as Denali National Park and Preserve, trip planning, National Park management and values nationwide, mountaineering, worldwide geography of famous mountains, general Alaska trip planning, wilderness values and concepts.
- Extemporaneous and conducted interpretive programming, including regular appearances of tour groups that visited the ranger station; I was a lead team member for a five-minute weekly radio program on local radio station KTNA.
- Conducted a periodic 'relief map talk' conducted program at the Talkeetna Museum.
- Conducted a weekly 'evening program' digital slideshow at the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge.
  - 2014: "The Wild in Wilderness" a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.
  - 2015 - 2017: "Locating a Sense of Adventure" an exploration of adventures that can be undertaken at Denali National Park and Preserve, geared toward a 'cruise ship' audience.
- Mentorship of fellow staff on visitor management technique.

2006 - 2014

**Interpreter I**

California State Parks  
San Luis Obispo Coast District  
Hearst San Simeon State Park  
San Simeon, California

- Created original interpretive and educational material for coastal state park lands through formal conducted programs, extemporaneous presentations, and original compositions and publications.
- Consultation with non-profit group Friends of the Elephant Seal for promotion of outdoor education efforts, 2011 - 2012.
- Conducted appropriate visitor education efforts in the field during winter breeding season of the Piedras Blancas northern elephant seal colony.
- Assisted visitor center operations and facilitated park partnerships at the dual-agency Coastal Discovery Center, 2006 - 2010.

2004 - 2006

**GS-7 Supervisory Park Ranger, Interpretation**

National Park Service  
Kings Canyon National Park  
Cedar Grove, California

- Managed a staff of interpretive park rangers and volunteers at a historic visitor center in Kings Canyon National Park in the Sierra Nevada.
- Trained park staff and volunteers in visitor center operations and conducting inspirational educational programming for park visitors.

2004

**GS-4 Park Ranger, Interpretation**

National Park Service  
Lava Beds National Monument  
Tulelake, California

- Developed, researched, and built a self-guided education program about spelunking and earth science for elementary school groups.
- Staffed an educational visitor center in northeastern California, providing visitor orientation to the park and also regional points-of-interest.

1998 - 2003

**GS-5 Park Ranger, Interpretation**

National Park Service  
Mount Rainier National Park  
Paradise, Washington

- Provided visitor services and developed educational programming at a busy visitor center. Assisted with visitor emergencies as needed.
- As lead ranger, trained other ranger staff on visitor center management.
- Won the park's James Tobin Award for teamwork and initiative in 2000.

2003

**Volunteer Hut Warden**

Department of Conservation  
Tongariro National Park  
Turangi, New Zealand

- As a seasonal backcountry ranger, independently managed remote backcountry bunkhouses for park visitors and backpackers.
- Issued backcountry permits to park visitors. Ensured visitors had a comfortable, clean place to stay. Taught camping skills.

2000 - 2001

**GS-5 Park Ranger, Interpretation**

National Park Service  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

- Conducted a full range of visitor center operations and interpretive programming, spelunking tours, and natural history presentations.
- As a wilderness EMT, participated in the park's cave rescue team. Trained to provide emergency services in a complex cave environment.

1997

**GS-3 Forest Technician, Interpretation**

United States Forest Service  
Shasta - Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville, California

- Developed original campfire programming, guided walks, and tours of historic structures.
- Composed a self-guided recreational brochure.

## **Education**

Graduated from Humboldt State University, Arcata, California in 1998.  
Awarded Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation.

Graduated from Francis Parker High School, Linda Vista, California in 1992.

## **Skills**

Superlative public speaking skills with a resonant voice to match, both prepared and extemporaneous discussions and conducted programming.

Proficient with both PC and Apple computer applications: MS Office, web browsers, email clients, Apple Keynote, Apple GarageBand; I use Evernote to organize my work flow.

Ability to communicate to a very wide variety of individuals or audiences through my two decades of speaking with park visitors from around the globe. I can say “thank you” in ten different languages, and when appropriate I converse using the metric system.

## **Certifications**

- Certified to handle Personally Identifiable Information and other sensitive Federal records, 2017
- Wilderness First Responder two-year renewal from Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS, 2016
- Passed an extensive Federal background check for fee collectors, 2015
- California State Employee safe driver training, 2013
- Training for Interpretive Trainers, California State Parks, 2009
- Eagle Scout award, 1991

## **References**

References are available on request.