

FPPAC Park Ranger Survey Summary Nov 2020.Docx

The Fort Pierce City Commission was interested in obtaining information about establishing a Park Ranger Program.

Thirty-six cities / counties in Florida were sent a survey by the Fort Pierce Parks Advisory Committee (FPPAC), which developed, drafted, and sent the survey on September 28, 2020, with a final deadline of October 12, 2020.

Eleven entities responded about their Park Ranger Programs...

- **Four** entities, though relatively large, reported that they have **no** program: Melbourne, Melbourne Beach, Palm Coast, and Panama City.
- **Seven** entities provided information about their programs: Boca Raton, Brevard County, Broward County, Cape Coral, Deerfield Beach, Delray Beach, and Miami. **All employed their park rangers.**

One county (Brevard) also had a limited use of volunteers at a couple of Viera wetland wildlife observation sites.

Respondents were requested to provide an annual estimated cost per program for the following:

Item	Max Amt	Avg Amt	Responses Included
equipment	\$7,000	\$2,455	Radio (incl batteries), holder, repair, first aid, AED batteries, hurricane supplies, TASR Options (wildlife) & ASP (law enforcement) band radio
vehicles	\$40,000	\$2,600	*after upfitting golf carts, \$28,000 county fleet (incl bikes)
training	\$2,000	\$580	CPR certification, parking enforcement certification
uniforms	\$5,220	\$2,074	Shirts, pants, weather gear, hats (Avg = \$684 per ranger)
badges	\$1,200	\$533	
insurance	\$20,000	\$13,520	

Respondents were asked to list park ranger assignments regarding:

Item	Assignments
conservation	educational & rules compliance
maintenance	after hours troubleshooting, open/close staffed and unstaffed parks
security	safety / security checks (incl park patrol via vehicle, golf cart, bike, foot), restrooms
special events/activities	patron services, parking, campground and pavilion rentals, crowd control, data management, and handling of funds, documentation / report preparation

Documentation was requested to be provided through URLs relative to: eligibility requirements, duties, uniforms, application forms, training information, and handbooks. Respondents provided numerous helpful documents via URLs and document attachments. Documentation included detailed policies, a park rangers business plan, and a park ranger operations manual. These items are available on request.

The survey provided helpful insight into current factors of Florida city / county park ranger programs. **It seems that park ranger programs need to be employee-based and properly funded due to the various legal and logistical factors associated.**