

Park Warden

Enforce the law inside national parks. Peace officer powers, a backcountry office and very few positions.

TYPICAL PAY

\$75,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$46k to \$107k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**National parks, historic sites,
backcountry patrols, highway cor...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Biology, geography, physical education and a second language if you can. Stay out of trouble, since a criminal record ends this before it starts.
- 2 College diploma or degree** 2 to 4 years
 Natural resources, fish and wildlife, ecosystem management, conservation enforcement, or a related science degree. Some colleges run conservation enforcement programs aimed at this exact job.
- 3 Seasonal park work** 1 to 3 seasons
 Visitor services, resource conservation, trail crew or fire crew. This is how you get known and how you learn how a park runs.
- 4 Apply to a warden competition** Several months
 Openings are posted through the federal public service job site. Expect written tests, an interview, a fitness test, a medical and a security clearance.
- 5 Law enforcement training** Once hired
 A paid in-house course covering peace officer duties, use of force, investigation and park legislation, roughly three months.

Pros and cons

- + An office that is a national park
- + Federal pay, pension and paid training
- + Real authority to protect wildlife and heritage
- Very few positions and stiff competition for each one
- You live where you are posted, often a small remote town
- It is law enforcement, including confrontation and risk

Good to know

The warden service started in 1886

Canada's first park warden was appointed at Rocky Mountains Park, now Banff National Park, and the service originally recruited trappers, mountain men and former poachers because they knew the country.

They carry the same powers as police

Park wardens are peace officers as defined in the Criminal Code, with the broad powers of police officers inside the places Parks Canada administers. That is why the hiring process includes a security cleara...

Optional boosts

Backcountry travel. Swiftwater and rope rescue. Wildland firefighting. Second language.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Game Warden in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Parks Canada: law enforcement

Parks Canada: jobs

Fleming College: School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/park-warden>



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