

## **Honorary Ranger: the Title and What it Means**

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Today, we gather to honor a remarkable individual by bestowing the title of Honorary Ranger. This title, though symbolic, carries with it the essence of what it means to be a ranger—a guardian of the land, a protector of nature, a steward of culture and heritage.

### **The Essence of a Ranger**

Globally, rangers are known for their unwavering commitment to preserving the natural world. They are the silent sentinels who stand watch over our forests, mountains, rivers, deserts, valleys and sacred places, ensuring that these treasures are safeguarded for future generations. They embody courage, resilience, and a deep respect for the environment. They play an essential role in maintaining the integrity of protected and conserved areas, and support the rights of those with whom they interact.

### **A Native American Perspective**

The title of Honorary Ranger is particularly significant. Today, it strengthens the principles that rangers hold dear. Honorees demonstrate wisdom and leadership that have been instrumental in preserving our collective cultural and natural heritage; teaching us that the land is not just a resource to be used, but a sacred trust to be honored and protected.

### **A Bridge Between Worlds**

By awarding the title of Honorary Ranger, we recognize the profound connection between that person's life's work and the global mission of all rangers. They can serve as a bridge between the ancient traditions and the modern efforts to conserve our planet. Their example reminds us that the values of stewardship, respect and care for nature are universal.

### **A Legacy of Stewardship**

Their legacy is one of stewardship. They show us that true leadership is not about power or authority, but about service and responsibility. An Honorary Ranger, joins a global community of individuals who are dedicated to making the world a better place, one act of conservation, one act of protection at a time.

In recognizing CSPRA's Honorary Ranger we celebrate not only their achievements but also the timeless values that they represent. We are inspired by their dedication, moved by their wisdom, and grateful for their guidance. May their example continue to light our paths as we strive to protect and cherish the natural world.