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### Petit Jean State Park

At first thought, Petit Jean State Park would seem like an unpleasant place to work. By being a major tourist attraction in the state of Arkansas, the park might seem like an ongoing nightmare to those who must please the many guests. However, at a second glance, one can see that Petit Jean State Park is actually a great place to work because of the friendly coworkers, beautiful scenery, and the high salary and state benefits.

The first reason that Petit Jean State Park is a great place to work is the friendly coworkers. Jeannine Pitts, secretary of the park, states, "We hire only friendly faces in order to keep our workers and our customers happy." Park Ranger Mike Decker explained the most effective way to make sure that there will be no confrontation between employees by saying that the employees are placed to work in certain places around the park according to their training and a brief compatibility screening with the other coworkers in the same field of work.

Secondly, Petit Jean State Park is a wonderful place to work because of the beautiful scenery. The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism advertises that the park consists of "a vast arrangement of waterfalls, bluffs, cliffs, mountainsides, and overlooks, as well as many hiking trails, biking trails, and boating/fishing areas" and is "second to none due to natural landscape beauty." *Rural Arkansas* magazine has included many articles about the natural beauty of Petit Jean State Park in their magazine. The park has also appeared numerous times over the years on Channel 11 News in the segment entitled "Top Ten Most Beautiful Places in

the State of Arkansas.”

Finally, a high salary and state benefits for the employees are the third reason that Petit Jean State Park is an outstanding place to work. According to state park records, depending on the area of employment, Petit Jean State Park pays their employees up to fifteen dollars per hour. These same records showed that not only do the employees of the park receive great hourly rates, but they also receive state benefits from paid vacation to an advanced retirement plan molded for each specific employee. The Arkansas Retirement Plan System rates Petit Jean as one of the best at forming retirement plans for their employees. The United States Retirement System recorded that Petit Jean State Park employees were better prepared to draw retirement funds than 20 percent of the major corporations in the United States.

Friendly coworkers, beautiful scenery, and a high salary with state benefits are available to employees at Petit Jean State Park. Obviously, Petit Jean is a great place to work.