

Career Pathways: Working in National Parks
Wednesday, 11 March 2020, 11 a.m. MDT

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About the Webinar

This webinar will feature two speakers at different career levels and their journeys to positions with the National Park Service (NPS). Eric will talk about his path to working at the Geologic Resources Division and what the Division does within the NPS. He will also present about applied geomorphology and working on unstable slope and erosion problems. Earth surface processes shape many of our National Parks, but also present challenges to providing safe access them.

Robyn will describe her journey through college and beyond and how and why she ended up as the Physical Scientist at Zion National Park. Whereas Eric travels to NPS units all around the country wearing one hat, Robyn wear many hats in one park. At Zion National Park, she manages the hydrology, paleontology, night skies, air quality, fisheries, and geohazards programs. She will briefly describe each of these programs and the go in depth on some geohazard research she and Eric are conducting in Zion. The presenters will address your career questions at the end of the webinar.

About the Presenters



Eric Bilderback is a National Park Service geomorphologist. Eric works for the NPS Geologic Resources Division providing active geologic process technical assistance and unstable slope hazard guidance to Parks and NPS Regions service wide. Eric completed a PhD at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand researching landslides, landslide sediment budgets, and catchment-wide hillslope responses to river incision. Eric also assisted with research and public outreach after the 2010 and 2011 destructive earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand. Eric earned a Master's degree in Geology from Western Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Colorado College.

Previous to his current position, Eric worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation where he helped identify and mitigate landslide hazards to public safety and infrastructure. Before that, Eric worked for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources on watershed-scale landslide hazard zonation mapping and state-wide seismic site-class and liquefaction hazard mapping.



Robyn Henderek is the Physical Scientist at Zion National Park. Robyn studied geology and anthropology at Lafayette College in Easton, PA where she earned two undergraduate degrees. After college, she enrolled in the Geoscientist-in-the-Parks program where she worked at Grand Canyon National Park conducting cave paleontology research. Robyn then took as position as a Remedial Project Manager for the United States Environmental Protection Agency where she supervised the clean-up of several hazardous waste sites in New Jersey. For several months in the winter of 2017/2018, Robyn ran the planning operation for the Hurricane Irma/Maria clean-up mission in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

