

KDS Graduate is Alabama's Youngest Park Ranger

When Alex Prickett got a job as a tour guide at Cathedral Caverns State Park, he was in the 10th grade and had no idea that he would find his life's calling of work in the great outdoors. In June of 2018, Alex became the State of Alabama's youngest park ranger when he was sworn in at Cheaha State Park. But he is actually a park veteran. Beginning in 2014, he worked part-time as a tour



guide and maintenance man at Cathedral Caverns State Park in Grant throughout his high school years at KDS DAR School. Although just 20 years old, Alex Prickett is already a veteran employee of Alabama's State Parks.

After his high school graduation, Alex was offered a job as the assistant manager at Rickwood Caverns in Warrior, Alabama. Now, as a ranger at Cheaha, he will not only be a ranger, he will be a law enforcement officer as well having recently graduated from the Northeast Alabama Police Academy to earn his certification.

"Alex is a very dedicated, focused, and talented member of our team," says Cheaha Superintendent Renee Raney.

"We are pleased that he chose to work in this park, and it will be fascinating to watch his success now and in the future. He challenges himself to be the best he can be and is a true blessing to all of us, staff and guests, at Cheaha State Park."

Alex says his favorite part of being a Park Ranger is interacting with park visitors. He says, "They may only get to see the park for a few hours or a few days, so I try to make their experience memorable. Every day is vacation in your Alabama State Parks."

"When I first got to Cheaha, the assistant superintendent took me out to Pulpit Rock, and I was hooked the first day. I said 'This is now my home,'" Prickett said.

