



Career Spotlight

Forest Service
Career Pathways



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



I help tell stories at the intersection of people, forests and grasslands. My work helps everyone from kids and families to business owners understand the concept of “multiple use.” The common theme in every lesson is that humans are a part of nature, and we are all connected.

Amtchat Edwards
Assistant Director
National Partnership Office
B.S., University of MD, Eastern Shore
Forest Service

What advice do you have for students interested in your job?

Remember that learning is fun! Visit every nature center and museum near you, and read every sign you pass. Then TALK with your friends and family about the things YOU found interesting. Have fun studying and experimenting with all this new information. Finally, practice explaining what you have learned using the simplest words possible.

What is an example of a question you have tried to answer in your job? In our design phase, we’ll ask ourselves, “How is our solution modeled after nature?” Many times our solution is modeled after the beehive (for the bees’ industrious and productive nature), or after the fungi (for their ability to connect nutrients and resources to the places they are most needed). When in doubt, increase the biodiversity in the system, or project, and the answers just start to appear. Nature knows!

What is an example of technology or equipment that you use in your work? My cell phone is literally a computer that fits in my hands! I use my cell phone to research scientific topics, check my understanding, and even record and share instructional videos. The cell phone is a great tool when used the right way.

What has been your most exciting project?

Honestly, it’s been the whole FSNatureLIVE distance learning series! I’ve met so many different types of scientists and experts. Seeing their joy while explaining THEIR field of expertise to young people—that’s the best. Hearing a kid say they want to work in a field they just learned about—priceless!

When did you know this career would be a good fit for you? One day, while hiking with an interpretive ranger, I realized they were being paid to do what I do in my volunteer time. Making memories and strengthening human connections through nature. I immediately switched career paths.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/jobs>



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

