

A Day in the Life of a Forest Ranger

Dear diary,

Today, I went into the forest for my daily patrol. The sun hadn't even risen yet when I got up and prepared for a long day's work. I had to eat until my stomach felt like bursting. Once I'm in the middle of the forest, I wouldn't be able to eat meals as good as the food in camp. Before leaving the camp, I had to make sure that all the stoves were turned off and the perimeter was safe. After all the troubles, I was finally able to set off.

During the hour-long trek, I saw a wide variety of plants and animal species that are new to me. As an avid enthusiast of science and nature, I am glad to see new things and learn more about them. As grueling as it may sound, a day as a ranger is not that daunting. Being a ranger is indeed tough, but with the adequate experience each one of us possesses, what my team needs most is an uninterrupted and deep slumber at the end of the day. Working as a ranger in a forest constantly surrounded by wild animals, there is going to be a time when the job gets dangerous. Luckily though, it's not today. Other than scratches occasionally left by sharp sticks, I hardly got any damage. Preserving an endangered species? Sounds like a blast! I fear that what we as a species are doing is not in the slightest enough for the pandas' continuous survival. Nevertheless, what I am currently doing is worth it!

Speaking of preserving pandas, my work can certainly protect the pandas. By working as a ranger, I can constantly monitor the pandas' movements where I can find any irregularities in the animal's routine. When one is found, I can go down the rabbit hole and find the cause of it. From there, I could use my expertise to fix the problem as best I could without startling them. Only when I am unable to assess the situation will I request support from professionals in this particular field. However, I'll still have to report the irregularities to the higher-ups and professional. Not only will we, the

rangers, serve as the first respondents to a problem, but we will also be the first deterrence to any illegal poaching.

For a species at the top of the food chain, we humans have been very disruptive to our local ecosystems. We have brought in invasive species into these delicate spaces. Time and time again people have shown the world that they do not care about animals that have been driven into extinction. For decades, human encroachment into different territories has destroyed the ecosystem. With it, poaching becomes rampant in several regions of the world. For example, the northern white rhinos have been poached to the point of extinction. If the trend continues with pandas without any interventions, they will most likely be critically endangered or functionally extinct. This entails that our beloved pandas could be poached to extinction in the near future.