

# Ranger Christopher Jackson

YOUTH & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

When Christopher Jackson graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta with degrees in International Studies and Spanish, his skills were in high demand. Fluent in five languages — including sign language — Christopher enjoyed removing the barriers that kept people from connecting and understanding each other.

The travel industry provided an opportunity for Christopher to put his talents to work — translating stories about the life of Frederick Douglass to the people he meets each day at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C. Christopher oversees volunteers, prepares activities for students and performs numerous guided tours each day.

While at Morehouse, Christopher discovered his passion for communicating with others while working on an internship with the National Park Service at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. After graduation, Christopher says he was determined to “continue being a translator to the people I met. I wanted to connect with them through powerful stories, so I took a job with the National Park Service right out of school.”

Christopher, now 28, has stayed with the Park Service. His work has enabled him to gain valuable career skills — especially time management and the ability to juggle multiple tasks. “I have to be ‘on’ all the time,” Christopher says, “and I have to put on different programs each and every day and give tours as well.”

The job has also equipped him with strong interpersonal skills. “I love connecting with people and tailoring or accentuating parts of Frederick Douglass’ story to appeal to and connect with diverse groups.”

Regardless of whether Christopher chooses to continue with the National Park Service, pursue additional education, or change professions, he believes that his time in the travel industry has given him vital qualities that he will take with him for the rest of career. “I have learned how important it is to have passion for what I do,” says Christopher, “to have resilience to bounce back from adversity or challenges in the workplace — and to have initiative and drive, to do the hard work and acquire the knowledge necessary for me to succeed.”

