



# **Jilakin Rock Rangers**

## **Training Manual**



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# Mission and Background

## Mission

Rangers are citizens of Jilakin Rock City who encourage self-reliance, individual accountability, and shared responsibility. Rangers mediate situations involving citizens, the Blazing Swan organisation, or cooperating agencies. When circumstances dictate, Rangers act to uphold the principles of our Community. Rangers also work closely with and support the Event Management Team to ensure a safe and vibrant event.

## Background

The Jilakin Rock Rangers are one of many volunteer departments dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Jilakin Rock City. The Jilakin Rock Rangers are a broad cross-section of the Blazing Swan Community who volunteer some of their time in the role of non-confrontational Community mediators. They are empowered by the Community and the Blazing Swan Committee to address safety concerns, mediate disputes, and resolve conflicts when the persons involved cannot resolve them. Rangers encourage a Community of shared responsibility and only assist the Community when needed.

Jilakin Rock Rangers have developed and adopted standard operating procedures such as; a training and mentoring process, chain of command, division of labour and rules and regulations. Responding to the ever-changing environment, Rangers address situations within their Community that might otherwise require outside intervention. By encouraging and facilitating communication, Rangers promote awareness of potential hazards, from sunstroke to tent fires. Through their radios and shift briefings, Rangers carry the latest information to the citizens of Jilakin Rock City. The Rangers' primary concern is the safety of people, not property.

Rangers work with all participants, other departments, on-site security, Jilakin Rock Medical, emergency services and law enforcement agencies, to help facilitate a positive experience. When needed, Rangers support the tenets of the Community and help participants remember their obligation to each other by enforcing its principles. Rangers use non-confrontational communication whenever possible to encourage cooperation and help create a safe, collaborative environment.

# The 11 Points of Rangering

Jilakin Rock Rangers are sanctioned by the Burning Man organisation. They form part of the wider, regional Burning Man Community. This Training Guide is a comprehensive list of skills and information that is based on the Black Rock Ranger Training Guide.

1. Rangers are participants in their regional Community, and in some cases more than one Community.
2. Rangers attend training, wear a visual RANGER designation and while volunteering agree that “It is not about the Ranger, it’s about the participant.”
3. Rangers are primarily concerned with life safety issues, maintaining the Community’s standards, and resolving conflicts.
4. Rangers spend most of their time interacting with participants, but also act as a liaison between the Community, event organisers and external agencies.
5. The default action of a Ranger is to do nothing.
6. One of the Ranger’s greatest skills is being a generous listener.
7. Rangers help participants solve their own problems using non-confrontational mediation.
8. Rangers F.L.A.M.E. situations: Find Out, Listen, Analyse, Mediate (or move along), and Explain.
9. Rangers are neither cops, enforcers, nor security guards, they are participants who have agreed to help as participants in the Community.
10. Rangers rise out of the dust/shadows/crowd when needed and recede when things can be left to ride the edge of chaos on their own.
11. Rangers ride the edge of chaos.









## Ranger Community

Becoming a Jilakin Rock Ranger won't just connect you to the wonderful Community here, it will also connect you to the global ranger Community. Once you've rangered at one regional burn, you can normally ranger any regional burn. Many regionals will even offer to take care of your food and camping if you're an experienced ranger who's willing to travel to them and put in enough hours.

Jilakin Rock Rangers also have preferential access to becoming a Black Rock Ranger once they meet Burning Man's attendance requirements (see **Further Information** at the end of this document).

## Unrangerly Behaviour

Because Rangering relies so heavily on having Community trust, there are certain actions which cannot be tolerated for fear of damaging that trust. We're all volunteers, we're all human, and everyone makes mistakes. But the following actions, whether on or off duty, will be dealt with very seriously, and run the risk of you being removed or barred from Ranger duty.

- **Any act of violence;**
- **Sexual harassment of other Rangers or participants;**
- **Knowingly neglecting Ranger responsibilities;**
- **Failing to report a must-report situation;**
- **Being intoxicated while on duty;**
- **Misusing the Community trust;**
- **Losing self-control;**
- **Knowingly misleading participants, staff or law enforcement;**
- **Failing to keep confidential information confidential and**
- **Abusing special privileges.**







































































## **Un-Rangerly Behavior**

The Head Ranger and Blazing Swan Committee takes seriously incidents of un-Rangerly behavior while identifiable as a Ranger (coming on or off shift, while at HQ, anytime you are in uniform or wearing a Ranger laminate). Black Swan or the Head Ranger will follow up on any reported incidents.

## **Removal from a Shift (De-Shifting)**

There are a variety of reasons to remove a Ranger from shift duty. Being relieved from duty can occur when a Ranger is told to take a break and take care of themselves (“compassionate de-shifting”). This is not a disciplinary situation, but a health and safety one.

Un-Rangerly or questionable behavior may also result in a Ranger being removed from shift duty.

De-shifting can also happen when an incident has occurred that Black Swan, or the Ranger Lead feels the need for further inquiry and believe that allowing the Ranger to stay on duty is not in the best interest of that inquiry.

## **Removal from the Rangers (De-Lamming)**

De-lamming can be the result of a series of incidents or as a result of the seriousness of a single incident. De-lamming requires the consensus of the Ranger Lead or Ranger Ops Team and at least two Blazing Swan Committee members.











## Post-Blaze Ranger Community

Jilakin Rock Rangers are kept up to date through 'Ranger Reflux', an email newsletter published by the Head Ranger approximately 8 times a year. You can opt-in by sending a request to [Rangers@blazingswan.com.au](mailto:Rangers@blazingswan.com.au)

Advanced Ranger Training (ART) is held throughout the year. Information about these events is published in the newsletter and on the website.

Blazing Swan may also hold Community events in the default world at which a Ranger presence is required. Currently trained Rangers are encouraged to sign-up for a shift at these.

Other Regional Burning Man events actively encourage trained Rangers to volunteer with them. Keep your ear to the ground and you will hear the call to arms!

# Document history

1.9 (2022)

Factotum

Ranger structure, readability, formatting, drones, HQ changes, Committee history

Governor

Updates to language and organisation, inline with changes to the Blazing Swan Org, and inline with submitted event plan documents.

1.8 (2021) - Factotum

Link updates, formatting glitches, organisation definition updates, naming conventions, revision history, drive organisation

1.7 (2020) - Factotum, with tweaks by Governor

Shiny new images, fixed links, formatting

1.6 - Pommie

No details on changes between 1.0 and 1.6 recorded, presumed most of the work done by Pommie.

1.0 - Pommie

The original training manual.