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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **State Park Rangers Graduate from Law Enforcement Training Academies**

**SANTA FE, NM:** The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, State Parks Division proudly announces recent law enforcement cadet graduations across the state.

State Park Rangers Charles Alcon and Leigh Kirkeeide graduated on Friday, December 13 from the San Juan County Criminal Justice Training Authority in Farmington. Both are stationed at Navajo Lake State Park. Ranger Kirkeeide received the top honor of valedictorian during the 24-week Academy.

State Park Ranger David Paz graduated from the Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Hobbs on December 6. He works at Elephant Butte Lake State Park.

State Park Ranger Nick Apodaca graduated from the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Santa Fe in October 2019 and is assigned to Santa Rosa Lake State Park.

“The Division is proud to have upcoming Rangers join the teams at Navajo Lake, Santa Rosa Lake, and Elephant Butte Lake State Parks,” said Christy Tafoya, State Parks Director. She added, “All four staff are perfect examples of the next generation of dedicated and professional Park Rangers.”

“I would like to thank the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department for the support during the academy,” said Ranger Kirkeeide. “We look forward to getting to work supporting our fellow Rangers in the field, as well as our dedicated park staff and volunteers.”



Charles Alcon and class valedictorian Leigh Kirkeeide,  
with Christy Tafoya, Director of NM State Parks at the graduation ceremony.



*David Paz is assigned  
to Elephant Butte Lake State Park.*



*Nick Apodaca is assigned to  
Santa Rosa Lake State Park.*

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