

“Jamming on the Job”

Episode 9: Park Ranger

[PBS KIDS music]

PBS KIDS Announcer: From your friends at PBS KIDS.

[a tour bus zooming down the open road]

Andrés: Vamos amigos, it's time to go.

Christina: Get ready BoomBox, we have a show.

[Music: Jamming on the Job theme song]

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

Jamming on the Job

Ja, Jamming

Jamming on the Job

Wooh Ooh

I'm Christina,

Y yo soy Andrés

And we play music

All over the states

We jam and learn

With people who

Work in jobs

They love to do!

If we get stuck

Or something goes wrong
An expert helps us
And we write a song!

[BoomBox beats]
Hey...Go BoomBox...¡Vamos!

Jamming on the Job
Ja, Jamming
Jamming on the Job
Wooh Ooh

[bus parking, breeze, animals]

Andrés: Hola, Jam Fam! We have a super exciting podcast for you today in South Dakota!

BoomBox: SOUTH SOUTH SOUTH DAKOTAAA, YEAH!

Christina: ¡Es verdad! We just parked our tour bus, and we're out here on the prairie, visiting Wind Cave National Park.

BoomBox: WIND CAVE!

Christina: There's lots of cool stuff to see here! There are rolling hills covered in prairie grasses, and really interesting animals.

[bison sounds]

Andrés: Like bison! Bison are huge, furry animals that are related to cows. ¡Muy interesantes!

[prairie winds]

Christina: And did you catch the winds blowing over the prairie,

BoomBox?

BoomBox: (remixing the prairie wind sounds) WIND BLOWS OVER THE PRAIRIE, LIKE...

Christina: Love it! It's sunny and gorgeous here on the prairie above the ground.

Andrés: But *under* the ground, there's a famous cave. With even more wind! That's where Wind Cave Park gets its name!

Christina: Later tonight, we're playing a concert outdoors. And it's a very special concert, because we'll be playing most of it in the dark, so the audience can look at the stars while we jam!

Andrés: I have to admit, estoy un poco nervioso. I'm not really comfortable being in the dark, but playing music in the dark makes me extra nervous. Jam Fam, do you ever feel nervous or scared in the dark?

Christina: Well, good news everyone! That's part of why we're going into the cave: so we can help Andrés practice being in the dark. You brought your guitar with you, right?

Andrés: Sí, aquí tengo mi guitarra. [guitar strum] I hear it's really, really, really dark down there. If I can play in the cave in the dark and not get too nervous, I should be able to play at the concert in the dark just fine. [guitar strum]

Christina: Now, if we could just find the cave...

[map shuffling]

Andrés: What do you mean?

Christina: Well the map says it should be right around here, uh, but... Do

you see anything?

Andrés: Wait... ¿Estamos perdidos? Are we *lost*?! Ayyy!

Christina: Oh, I wouldn't say that we're *lost*, Andrés.

Andrés: Uuf, ¡qué bien!

Christina: It's just that I don't know where we are.

Andrés: Christina! That's the same thing as being lost! ¡Ay, no!

[BoomBox remixes prairie sounds, and "Are we lost?"]

BoomBox: ARE WE LOST?

[footsteps quietly approaching]

Chaske: Hi, there. Can I help you all find something?

Christina: (gasps) [Andrés: Ahh!] Oh! Hello! We didn't see you there.

Andrés: We were a little distracted, trying not to be lost.

Chaske: Sorry to startle you. I'm Ranger Chaske.

Christina: Nice to meet you, Ranger Chaske! I'm Christina.

Andrés: Y yo soy Andrés.

Christina: And this is BoomBox, our magical music machine!

BoomBox: BOOMBOX IS BOOMBOX.

Andrés: And we also have our Jam Fam with us, friends listening to our

podcast.

Chaske: It's great to meet you all!

Christina: Oh, I like all the cool badges on your shirt!

Chaske: Thank you! I'm a Park Ranger here at Wind Cave.

Christina: Oh, then maybe you can help us! We're looking for the entrance to the Wind Cave.

Chaske: Hm. You say you were *looking* for the cave. [Christina: Uh-huh!] But have you tried... *listening* for the cave?

Andrés: Listening?! ¿Tenemos que escuchar?

Chaske: Yes! Stopping to listen is super helpful. [Christina: Huh!] In fact, I have a little trick to help me out, when I'm starting to feel nervous or unsure. It helps me calm down, and notice what's around me, and think before I decide what to do next. I call it, "pause, listen and wonder."

BoomBox: PAUSE, LISTEN AND WONDER!

Christina: Oh, that sounds great! Can we try it?

Chaske: Sure. Come stand over here with me, next to this rock. [Andrés: Okay.] Just pause, listen, and wonder.

BoomBox: PAUSE, LISTEN AND WONDER!

[deep breaths in and out, then, a new kind of wind]

Christina: (gasps) Wow! Where'd that wind come from?

Andrés: I wonder, did it come out of... that little hole in the rock, right

there?

Chaske: Yes! Inside this hole is Wind Cave!

[BoomBox samples and records the wind noises]

Christina: Wow!

Chaske: That's just *one* of the incredible things about Wind Cave: it breathes!

Andrés: You mean... it's alive?! ¡Ay!

BoomBox: IT'S ALIVE, IT'S ALIVE!

Chaske: Eh, not exactly. [Andrés: Phew!] You see, the cave has so much space inside that it has its own air pressure system. So it's always drawing air in or blowing air out.

Christina: Whoa!

Chaske: Cool, right? [Andrés: Mm-hmm.] So I'm a member of the Native American Nation called the Oglala Lakota. [Christina: Uh-huh!] And one of the Lakota terms for this cave is "Makoche Ohloka," which means "Homeland that Breathes."

Andrés: So cool!

Chaske: The Lakota people have known about this cave's breathing for a long time. It's part of our traditions and our stories. And part of my job as a Park Ranger is to interpret. [Andrés: Oh.] That means sharing stories with visitors like you, so you understand what you're seeing and hearing!

Christina: Aw, ¡gracias!

Chaske: No problem! We call this little hole here the “natural entrance” to the cave.

Andrés: Entrance? But that hole... ¿ese hueco es muy pequeño!

Chaske: Yeah, it’s super small, only around 10 inches wide. But we Lakota people tell a story that it used to be much bigger – big enough for people to walk in and out of.

Andrés: Whoa!

Chaske: If you want, I can tell you all about it while I show you around.

Christina: Oh yeah! Wow, we would love that!

Chaske: Excellent! Follow me to the other entrance, which you’ll see is much bigger and easier to get through.

Andrés: That’s a relief!

Christina: (gasps) I can’t wait to see the cave!

[footsteps on gravel, guitar strums]

Andrés: (singing)
Strumming my guitar
Walking, not too far
Going to practice in the dark
Going to play under the stars!

Chaske: That’s wonderful!

Andrés: Aw, thanks!

[footsteps echoing]

Chaske: Okay, here we are.

Christina: Whooa. This is *huge*!

BoomBox: THIS IS HUUUUUGE.

Chaske: That's right, it's one of the largest mapped caves in the world.

Andrés: Uuf... ¡Mira esto! (gasps)

Christina: Jam Fam, we are standing in a big round room. The walls and floor and ceiling are all made of rock. On the other side, there's a giant flight of stairs, that go down and down and down, deeper into the cave.

Andrés: And it looks very dark down there, but the stairs are lit up by little electric lights. Is that where we're going?

Chaske: Yes, that's where I usually take my tour groups. Follow me!

[footsteps on stairs]

Andrés: So many steps. This place is enormous!

Chaske: It sure is! There are over 150 miles of tunnels here, and most of it is still unexplored. [Andrés: No way!] The cave has thousands of rooms and passages, all packed together in a maze. Like a really, really full bowl of cave spaghetti.

Christina: Mmm. (laughs) Cave spaghetti!

Andrés: Yummy! [Chaske laughs] So your job is kind of like being an explorer!

Chaske: Some of the time it is. But most of the time, my job is to talk to

people, and give tours.

Andrés: Christina, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Christina: Oh, I think so, Andrés! Ranger Chaske, what would you think about us writing a song about your job as a Park Ranger?

BoomBox: PARK RANGER! PARK RANGER!

Chaske: That would be kind of awesome!

Andrés: Great! Well, we're playing a show nearby later. We'd love to have you come by!

Chaske: Oooh, okay, sure!

Christina: Excellent! Sounds like we've got a job to jam on!

Andrés: Oh yeah!

BoomBox: WE'VE GOT A JOB TO JAM ON! WE'VE GOT A JOB, JAM! ...
OHHH...

Andrés: It's gonna be a great song. And since I brought my guitar, we can start jamming on it right now. [guitar strums] Hey! It's pretty dark down here, and I can still play just fine!

Christina: That's great, Andrés! [Chaske: Mm-hmm!]

[footsteps]

Christina: Ranger Chaske, it sounds like to be a park ranger, you need to be an expert on rocks!

Andrés: And caves!

Christina: And exploring!

Andrés: And history!

Christina: And plants!

Andrés: And animals!

Christina: And stories!

Chaske: Yup! And different parks require different kinds of skills and knowledge. It helps if you love to learn.

Andrés: Ranger Chaske, did you decide to work here because you love exploring caves?

Chaske: I actually became a park ranger because I love being outdoors. When I was a kid, I loved playing outside and exploring on my bike.

Christina: Huh!

Andrés: Me too! Uh, so when did you decide to work in a National Park?

Chaske: It was the first time I visited this park. I was on a field trip with my school. I thought it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. [Christina: Oh, I bet!] So I signed up for the Junior Ranger program, so I could always be out in the sunshine. (laughs) And now I spend a lot of the time on the job in the dark under the ground. [Andrés laughs] But I love exploring down here too.

[footsteps come to a halt]

Chaske: Ooh, and we've reached my favorite part of the cave. It's just on the other side of this tunnel.

Andrés: You mean we're going through there? Through *that* very dark tunnel?

BoomBox: V-V-V-VERY DARK TUNNEL!

Chaske: Yep. But don't worry, I'll turn on my flashlight to light our way. Safety first!

[flashlight clicking on]

Andrés: Oh, I'm glad. Okay, here we go...

Christina: You got it Andrés. Vamos, step by step.

Chaske: Oh! Watch your head. (gasps)

Andrés: Let me hand you my guitar.

Christina: Okay I got it.

Chaske: Guitar, yep. Okay.

Andrés: I'll go first.

Chaske: Going through here... [Christina: Mmm...] There's a little bit of a thing here, so watch your step.

Christina: BoomBox, watch out!

BoomBox: WHOA WHOA WHOA...

Andrés: We got you BoomBox

BoomBox: THANK YOU!

Christina: Eww...

Chaske: Yeah, it feels wet, doesn't it? The rocks.

Christina: Yeah!

Chaske: Oh you're doing so well!

Andrés: ¡Gracias!

Christina: Alright, we made it!

Andrés: Phew, finally!

Chaske: Wow, isn't this cool?

Andrés: Whooaa. It's *really* dark in here. The only light I see is coming from your flashlight, Ranger Chaske! Ah.

Chaske: Yep, it's really dark in here for sure, and it's also my favorite part of Wind Cave. Remember earlier, when I told you that my people, the Oglala Lakota, have a story about this cave?

Andrés: Oh yeah! ¡Recuerdo!

Chaske: Well, this is the spot where I love to tell that story. And the best way to tell it is in total darkness [Andrés: ¡Ay!...]... without any lights at all.

Andrés: Oh dear. Total darkness? I have to admit, that makes me really nervous.

Chaske: Well how about we try that little trick again? Pause, listen and wonder.

BoomBox: PAUSE, LISTEN AND WONDER.

Andrés: Uh. Sure. Okay. Will you try it with me, Jam Fam?

Christina: You can even close your eyes while we do it. Here we go.

[deep breathing]

Andrés: Ok, voy a pausar... I'm pausing...

[wind and heartbeat sounds]

Christina: Y voy a escuchar... I'm listening to the wind, and our breathing (takes a deep breath), and my heartbeat.

Andrés: Sí. I'm wondering, what will this total darkness be like? And I'm hoping it can help me get ready for our show. Alright, Ranger Chaske. Let's do it!

Chaske: Okay then. Here we go. Turning my flashlight off... now.

[flashlight clicking off, deep breathing]

Andrés: Wow. Christina, will you hold my hand?

Christina: Ok.

Chaske: Here in the deep, total darkness of Wind Cave, I will share with you the Lakota story of the first people ever to see the Earth. The Lakota believe that before people lived above ground, like you and I do, they lived underground, in the dark, in what they called the Spirit Lodge. The Creator was getting the Earth ready for them. So they had to wait before they could go above ground.

Andrés: Waiting is hard!

Chaske: It is. And some people didn't want to wait. They got impatient, and they traveled through the passages of this very cave to the surface of the Earth. But once they arrived on the surface, on the land, they didn't know how to take care of themselves. So the Creator turned them into the first herd of bison.

Christina: Whooooa. I remember seeing some bison when we got here! So the people, they grew all big and furry like that, and transformed into bison?

Chaske: Exactly. But not all the people went to the surface and got turned into bison. [Christina: Huh!] Some people were more patient, and they waited like they were told. And eventually, when the Earth was ready for them, the Creator told them it was time to come up.

Andrés: Through these dark tunnels?

Chaske: That's right. They followed the twisting passages, and heard the cave breathing, just like we're hearing it now.

Christina: Ooooooh...

Chaske: The people were a little scared, because the surface of the Earth was a strange and new place, and they didn't know what to expect.

Andrés: Well, I can understand that.

Chaske: But when they reached the surface, it was the most beautiful place they'd ever seen. And the bison-who-used-to-be-people showed them where to find water, and how to survive.

Andrés: Wow. So even if they were scared, they would always have some help.

Chaske: Exactly. And after the people emerged onto the Earth, the Creator

shrank the cave entrance down to a little hole. So people couldn't wander in and out anymore, but they'd always remember the story of where they came from.

Andrés: That. Was. Amazing. ¡Gracias! Thank you so much for sharing that story with us, Ranger Chaske.

Chaske: Of course! It's my great pleasure.

Christina: Andrés, this might be a good time to try playing your guitar again.

Andrés: But it's so dark! I can't even see my guitar! (sighs) But wait... I can, I can, I can *feel* it with my hands!

[guitar playing]

Andrés: Whooo!

Chaske: Great!

Christina: You did it!

BoomBox: YOU DID IT!

Andrés: Hey, I did! When it's *this* totally dark, I cannot *look* for what chord to play next, but I can *listen* for it!

[guitar playing]

Chaske: Okay, that was great! [Andrés: Thanks!] Ready to make our way back up?

Christina: Yes!

BoomBox: MAKE OUR WAY BACK UP. MAKE OUR WAY BACK UP!

Chaske: Okay, here's the elevator that will take us back up to the surface.

[BoomBox remixes the elevator sounds]

Chaske: Going up!

Andrés: Thanks for helping me find my way in the dark, Ranger Chaske.

Christina: And thanks again for sharing that story!

Chaske: Of course. I learned it from my friend Sina, and she learned it from her grandparents. That story has been passed down for such a long time, and it's one of the things that makes me who I am.

Andrés: Then it must be very important to share it.

Chaske: It is. A lot of Native American stories got lost as this land became part of the United States. But now, I get to share our stories and bring them to life.

BoomBox: SHARE OUR STORIES! SHARE OUR STORIES!

Chaske: Okay, we're almost at the top, and when the elevator doors open, the sunlight is going to look really, really bright.

Christina: Just like when the first people emerged from the Spirit Lodge.

Chaske: Mm-hmm. Exactly!

[elevator doors opening, sounds of the park above ground]

Christina and Andrés: Wooooooooooooooooowwww.

Christina: Wow, everything looks... stunning!

Andrés: It's the most beautiful place I've ever seen.

[deep breathing, footsteps]

Andrés: ¿Sabes qué, Christina? [Christina: ¿Ah?] Do you know what I'm noticing as I admire this beautiful place?

Christina: ¿Qué ves, Andrés?

Andrés: ¡Veo el sol! The sun, it's getting low in the sky. [Chaske: Mmm-hmm!] That means it's getting late! We need to head back and get ready for the show!

Christina: Ay sí, ¡tienes razón! We'd better get going. Ranger Chaske, we'll see you at the show later tonight!

Chaske: Okay, see you then!

Andrés: ¡Vamos Jam Fam!

Christina: ¡Gracias! ¡Hasta luego!

Chaske: Thank you!

Andrés: ¡Adiós Ranger Chaskeeeeeeeee!

[bus zooming off, music, crowd cheering]

Christina: Thank you, everyone! [Andrés: Whoo!] It's so wonderful to be with you here in South Dakota.

BoomBox: SOUTH SOUTH SOUTH DAKOTA!

Christina: We want to introduce you to a new friend we made today.

Andrés: ¡Hola Ranger Chaske!

[applause]

Chaske: Hi, everybody. I'm so glad you visited Wind Cave today, and learned about what park rangers like me do. Our job is to tell America's story, and the story of the people who have been here for a long, long time. Now what do you say we make some music together under the stars?

Andrés: Yeah! It's gonna be so cool. Ok, ready? And... lights out!

[lights powering down, audience gasping]

Andrés: Wow. [Christina laughs] The stars are so beautiful.

Chaske: Yes they are. And just think, they're the same stars that people have looked up at here for thousands of years.

Christina: I know, it's incredible. (laughs) It makes me want to sing! Hit it, BoomBox!

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

Park Ranger...

We met a storyteller in South Dakota
Part teacher, interpreter and explorer
He told us about the science and rock formations
And what this land means to the Lakota Nation

For sure we met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger

We met a storyteller who pauses and listens
Who thinks and wonders before making decisions
Who can receive the lessons and the vision
Inside the caves, the wind and tunnels is the wisdom

For sure we met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger

We met a park ranger who explores the cave
Pause, listen and wonder how (pause listen and wonder how)
We met a park ranger who showed us the way
And guided us up from underground (guided us up from underground)
Yeah!

For sure we met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger
We met a park ranger, a park ranger

[applause]

Andrés: Whoo! ¡Muy bien! Yay!

Christina: Let's hear it for Ranger Chaske!

[applause]

Chaske: Aww, thank you, thank you, thank you everyone! And hey, Jam Fam, this is for you, too. National Parks are for everyone, and I'd love for you to visit them. To me, Wind Cave is more than just a place to visit. It's where I come from. I wonder if your family has stories about where *you* come from. Maybe you can share some of those stories together.

Christina: That's a wonderful idea, Ranger Chaske. And now that we're all here under the stars together, it's giving me a chance to pause, listen and wonder.

BoomBox: PAUSE, LISTEN AND WONDER!

[deep breathing]

Christina: I wonder about all the stories that our listeners out there have to tell.

Andrés: And I wonder... what cave spaghetti tastes like.

[audience laughing]

Christina: (laughs) Andrés!

Andrés: Just kidding. I wonder about all the stories that Christina, BoomBox and I will keep telling with our songs!

BoomBox: KEEP TELLING STORIES!

Christina: Well, that's our story for now. [Andrés: Mm-hmm!] We'll catch you next time on Jamming on the Job!

Andrés: Hit it, BoomBox!

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

Jamming on the Job

Ja, Jamming

Jamming on the Job

Wooh Ooh

BoomBox / Pierce Freelon: (singing and rapping)

Jamming on the Job is hosted by

Christina Sanabria and Andrés Salguero
The GRAMMY-winning duo
Known as 123 Andrés
And just so you know
My name is Pierce Freelon
BoomBox is my pseudonym
Chaske was played by Mato Wayuhi
Michal Richardson wrote this episode beautifully
Terence Bernardo mixed with
Aaron Keane editing and
Daniel Rinaldi and Isaac Klein on the production team
Executive Produced by David Huppert
With support from PBS and PRX
We send you greetings here from Durham, North Carolina
We thank y'all for listening friends
Visit PBSkids.org to jam with us again

Christina: Jamming on the Job is made possible by a Ready To Learn grant...

Andrés: ...from the U.S Department of Education through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Christina and Andrés: ¡Hasta Pronto!

[Music fades]

Original Production Funding for Jamming on the Job is provided by a Ready To Learn Grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The contents of this podcast were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. The project was funded by a Ready To Learn grant [PR/Award No. S295A200004, CFDA No. 84.295A] provided by the Department of Education to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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