What’s Next:

1. Take the Junior Ranger Pledge and receive your Member ID Card and Official Junior Ranger Badge.
2. Complete the 6 CORE Activities from the kit.
3. Turn in the 6 CORE Activities to the park staff to receive your Official Junior Ranger Patch!
4. Complete more activities to earn stamps in your PASSPORT.
5. Turn in your completed PASSPORT to receive your Official Junior Ranger Pin!
6. Remember, being a Junior Ranger is more fun with family and friends!

Images are not actual size
Florida Park Service is a family of staff (rangers, biologists and managers), concessionaires, citizen support groups and volunteers like you!

Part of the responsibility of the Florida Park Service is to study, preserve and protect the parks. This way, you and many others can enjoy the diverse natural and cultural resources the parks have to offer, for years to come.

Now that you know a little about us, it is time to Explore ...the Real Florida.
A logo is a symbol which represents an organization or a company.

Florida State Parks are part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection which protects, conserves and manages the state’s natural resources and enforces its laws.

**CORE ACTIVITY #1**

How many times did you spot the Florida State Parks Seal logo in the park you are visiting today? ____________

**The Florida State Parks Seal**

The Florida State Parks Seal illustrates the connection between DEP and the Florida State Park Service. This logo can be found on uniformed park staff and volunteers, state vehicles and equipment, and official documents.

**The Florida State Parks Panther**

The Florida Panther is a recognizable symbol of the state. This logo can be found on posters, event invitations, social media and panels that you may encounter in the park.

How many times did you spot the Florida State Parks Panther logo in the park you are visiting today? ____________
An anagram is a word or phrase made from scrambled up letters of another word or phrase. Answer the questions below by unscrambling all the letters in the anagram. Make sure to put all the letters from the anagram above a blank space and cross out each letter from the word bank as you write it in your answer.

If you have a question about the park, what should you do?
anagram: **PRANK GEAR**
answer: Ask a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ r

What is the official state tree of Florida?
anagram: **SPAM LAB**
answer: The ___ ___ ___ ___ L ___ a ___ ___

What is the place where an animal naturally lives?
anagram: **BAIT HAT**
answer: Its ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

When you visit a Florida State Park, what do you experience?
anagram: **RAILROAD ELF**
answer: The ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
The Florida Park Service supports more than 170 parks with nearly 800,000 acres and 100 miles of white sandy beaches.

Examine the map of Florida on the next page. You will find the state of Florida separated into 8 regions: the Northwest, North Central, Northeast, Central West, Central, Central East, Southwest and Southeast.

Since state parks are scattered around the state, they represent the many different environments of Florida. If these parks were all grouped together, they would almost cover the entire state of Rhode Island!

Use the map provided on the next page to answer these questions:
1. Find and circle the park you are visiting.
2. According to the map, which region of the state are you visiting today?

3. Find and draw a triangle around the city closest to where you live or where you are staying while in Florida.
4. What are the names of three parks closest to where you live or are staying?
5. Just how long would it take to travel from one end of the state to the other?

Big Lagoon State Park (#2) is in West Florida near Pensacola. Find the number on the map and place your finger on the number.

Now look for Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park (#175) all the way down in Key West. Use your finger to trace the route you would drive to reach this southernmost city. This distance is almost 800 miles!

If you were to drive at 60 miles an hour without stopping, how many hours would it take you to get from Big Lagoon State Park to Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park?

A. 1/2 a School Day  
B. 1 School Day  
C. 2 or More School Days

This is a long time to sit in the car without taking a break! Luckily there are plenty of other state parks where you can stop along the way.
Here is a list of all 175 Florida State Parks!

**Northwest**

1. Perdido Key State Park
2. Big Lagoon State Park
3. Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park
4. Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park
5. Blackwater Heritage State Trail*
6. Blackwater River State Park
7. Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park
8. Henderson Beach State Park
9. Topsail Hill Preserve State Park
10. Grayton Beach State Park
11. Deer Lake State Park
12. Camp Helen State Park
13. Eden Gardens State Park
14. Ponce de Leon Springs State Park
15. Falling Waters State Park
16. Florida Caverns State Park
17. Three Rivers State Park
18. Torreya State Park
19. St. Andrews State Park
21. Constitution Convention Museum State Park
22. Orman House Historic State Park
23. John Gorrie Museum State Park
24. Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park
25. Bald Point State Park

**North Central**

26. Ochlockonee River State Park
27. Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park
28. Lake Talquin State Park
29. Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park
30. Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
31. Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park
32. St. Marks River Preserve State Park
33. Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail
34. Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park
35. San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park
36. Econfina River State Park
37. Forest Capital Museum State Park
38. Madison Blue Spring State Park
39. Suwannee River State Park
40. Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park
41. Big Shoals State Park
42. Lafayette Blue Springs State Park
43. Suwannee River Wilderness State Trail
44. Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park
45. Troy Spring State Park

**Central West**

46. Nature Coast State Trail
47. Ichetucknee Springs State Park
48. Ichetucknee Trace*
49. O’Leno State Park
50. Ruth B. Kirby Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park
51. River Rise Preserve State Park
52. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park
53. Devil’s Millhopper Geological State Park
54. Dudley Farm Historic State Park
55. Fanning Springs State Park
56. Manatee Springs State Park
57. Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve
58. Cedar Key Museum State Park
59. Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park
60. Gainesville-to-Hawthorne State Trail
61. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park
62. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park
63. Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park
64. Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park
65. Fort Clinch State Park
66. Amelia Island State Park
67. George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park
68. Big Talbot Island State Park
69. Little Talbot Island State Park
70. Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park
71. Fort George Island Cultural State Park
72. Yellow Bluff Fort Historic State Park
73. Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park
74. Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail
75. Palatka-to-St. Augustine State Trail
76. Fort Mose Historic State Park
77. Anastasia State Park
78. Anastasia State Park
79. Ravine Gardens State Park

**Northeast**

80. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway
81. Crystal River Preserve State Park
82. Crystal River Archaeological State Park
83. Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park
84. Fort Cooper State Park
85. Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park
86. Withlacoochee State Trail
87. Weeki Wachee Springs State Park
88. Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park
89. Anclote Key Preserve State Park
90. Hillsborough River State Park
91. Honeymoon Island State Park
WHERE ARE WE?

CORE ACTIVITY #2

Central

Rainbow Springs State Park
Price's Scrub
Dunns Creek State Park
Silver Springs State Park
Hontoon Island State Park
Blue Spring State Park
Lake Griffin State Park
Rock Springs Run State Reserve
Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park
Wekiwa Springs State Park
Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
General James A. Van Fleet State Trail
Colt Creek State Park
Lake Louisa State Park
Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park*
Lake Kissimmee State Park
Paynes Creek Historic State Park
Highlands Hammock State Park
Lake June-in-Winter Scrub State Park

Central East

Haw Creek Preserve State Park*
Faver-Dykes State Park
Washington Oaks Gardens State Park
Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach
Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park
North Peninsula State Park
Bulow Creek State Park
Tomoka State Park
Addison Blockhouse Historic State Park*
De Leon Springs State Park
Indian River Lagoon Preserve State Park*
Sebastian Inlet State Park
St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
Avalon State Park
Fort Pierce Inlet State Park
Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park*

Southeast

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
Hugh Taylor Birch State Park
Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park
Oleta River State Park
The Barnacle Historic State Park
Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park
Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park
Indian Key Historic State Park
San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve State Park
Long Key State Park
Curry Hammock State Park
Bahia Honda State Park
Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Southwest

Terra Ceia Preserve State Park
South Fork State Park
Madira Bickel Mound State Archaeological Site
Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park
Lake Manatee State Park
Wingate Creek State Park
Myakka River State Park
Oscar Scherer State Park
Stump Pass Beach State Park
Don Pedro Island State Park
Gasparilla Island State Park
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
Cayo Costa State Park
Estero Bay Preserve State Park
Mound Key Archaeological State Park*
Koreshan State Park
Lovers Key State Park
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Collier-Seminole State Park
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
Based on our mission, our job is to give people the best chance to access and enjoy natural Florida while protecting these unique places and educating people about what makes them so special.

**Mission:**
Provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Some important words in the mission are highlighted below. Keep reading to find out what each word means.

- **Recreation** includes leisure time activities or things you do when not working or at school.
- **Natural Resources** are features of the environment such as plant communities, geological elements, habitats and the animals living there.
- **Cultural Resources** are parts of the park influenced or shaped by people. These are places where people lived and practiced traditions over time, where they fought a battle or where they built an archaeological mound or historic building.
- **Resource-based Recreation** is when leisure time activities depend on the resources of the park. For example, walking on a trail instead of a track, sidewalk or treadmill.
WHAT DO WE DO?

Match a natural community to the animal you are most likely to see while in the habitat. Pick the recreation you would most likely do while visiting the various natural communities. Draw lines to connect each grouping. One example has been done for you.

**Wildlife**
- Florida Scrub Jay
- Gopher Tortoise
- Parrot Fish
- Barred Owl
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle

**Activity**
- Shelling
- Wildlife Viewing
- Biking
- Snorkeling
- Hiking

- Hydric Hammock
- Beach
- Scrub
- Sandhill
- Coral Reef
People who are excited to learn about and protect our parks often make it their job by becoming Park Rangers.

As part of the Florida Park Service family, these people are passionate about caring for the parks and use a variety of tools in order to help manage and protect these special places.

**ADMINISTRATION**

A. Computer  B. Calendar

**VISITOR SERVICE**

C. Kayak and Paddle  D. Binoculars and Field Guide

**MAINTENANCE**

E. Chainsaw  F. Litter Stick

**PROTECTION**

G. GPS Unit  H. Radio

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

I. Camera  J. Drip Torch

There is more this way!
I use these items when taking a group of people on a guided beach walk to help identify animals without getting too close to the wildlife.

I use this tool to help maintain a clear path down the nature trail, making it easier for visitors to follow and view nature.

I use this piece of equipment during a prescribed fire to ignite the leaf litter in a habitat where fire is needed to help maintain a balanced ecosystem.

I use this tool to collect litter visitors accidentally leave behind in the picnic area.

I use software with this tool to know which campsites are rented each night.

I use this device to confirm the location of the park boundary, in order to improve safety and protection for the park and visitors.

I use this piece of equipment to capture images, in order to interpret and protect an archaeological resource which may change over time.

I use this set of items to take visitors out on the lake and interpret how to safely enjoy a new skill.

I use this device to communicate with other park staff and volunteers to help ensure visitor safety.

I use this item to schedule when volunteers can perform service projects such as exotic plant removal in the park.

Park Rangers do all of this and so much more! Think of at least three more tools a Park Ranger uses at this park. Write the name of the tool and describe the job on the lines below.

____________________  ____________________

____________________  ____________________

____________________  ____________________
As a Junior Ranger, you will be joining together with other young people and the rest of the Florida Park Service family. As a team we will learn, share and serve the park visitors and the parks’ natural and cultural resources!

A Junior Ranger is someone who is...
- Very Important
- Excited About Parks
- Interested in Learning
- Willing to Help
- Always Prepared and Safe

This sounds like you!

Draw yourself as a Florida State Parks Junior Ranger!
WHAT IS A JUNIOR RANGER?

You know about us, what about you? Share a little bit about you and your interests so we can get to know you as a new member of the Florida Park Service family.

1. Why do you want to be a Junior Ranger?

2. What is the first thing you want to learn more about?

3. How do you plan to Explore... the Real Florida™ in this park?

4. How do you plan to help this park during your visit?

5. What can you do to spread the word about Florida State Parks?
Just as Park Rangers plan their work days, Junior Rangers need to plan their visits. To help you be prepared and stay safe, write or draw answers for today’s visit in the boxes below.

**WHERE?** Where are you going?

**WHO?** Who are you going with?

**WHEN?** When are you going?

**WHAT?** What activities do you plan to do?

**HOW?** How will you prepare to be safe?
Now that you have planned your visit, review these safety tips. **Check the boxes next to the safety tips which helped you prepare for today.** Be sure to review these safety tips before each park visit.

**Weather Safety** - Protect yourself from the weather elements.
- [ ] Check the weather forecast for today.
- [ ] Bring lots of water to drink in order to prevent dehydration.
- [ ] Block the sun by wearing a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen even if it is cloudy.
- [ ] Bring a raincoat if the weather is calling for rain.

**Insect Safety** - Protect yourself from ticks and other biting insects.
- [ ] Use insect repellant on clothing.
- [ ] Tuck pant legs into socks or shoes and wear long sleeves.
- [ ] Check yourself for ticks after spending time outside.

**Animal Safety** - Use caution near wildlife.
- [ ] Keep a safe distance while watching wildlife.
- [ ] Avoid feeding animals in the park.
- [ ] Remember to put food away when you are not eating.

**Plant Safety** - Use caution around poisonous plants.
- [ ] Walk on marked trails and boardwalks.
- [ ] Steer clear of leaves and vines.
- [ ] Do not eat leaves or berries.
Please fill out this card and give it back to Park Staff so we can update you about new Junior Ranger events and activities in our parks!

**JUNIOR RANGER SURVEY**

1. Who brought you to the park today? Circle One:
   - A. Parent or Guardian
   - B. Family Member or a Friend
   - C. Teacher
   - D. Group Leader
   - E. Other

2. What is your favorite subject in school? Circle One:
   - A. Language Arts
   - B. History
   - C. Math
   - D. Science
   - E. Art

3. How many minutes do you play outside each day? Circle One:
   - A. 0 to 30 minutes
   - B. 30 to 60 minutes
   - C. 60 to 120 minutes
   - D. 120 minutes or more
   - E. Other

**JUNIOR RANGER INFORMATION**

---------------------------
Name

Member Number

---------------------------
Birth Month and Year - Let us help you celebrate your birthday!

**GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

---------------------------
Parent or Guardian Name(s)

---------------------------
Address

City, State

Zip

Country

Email Address

☐ Check this box to receive periodic updates about the Junior Ranger Program including news and activities! We promise never to share your e-mail address with anyone outside the Florida Park Service without your permission.