

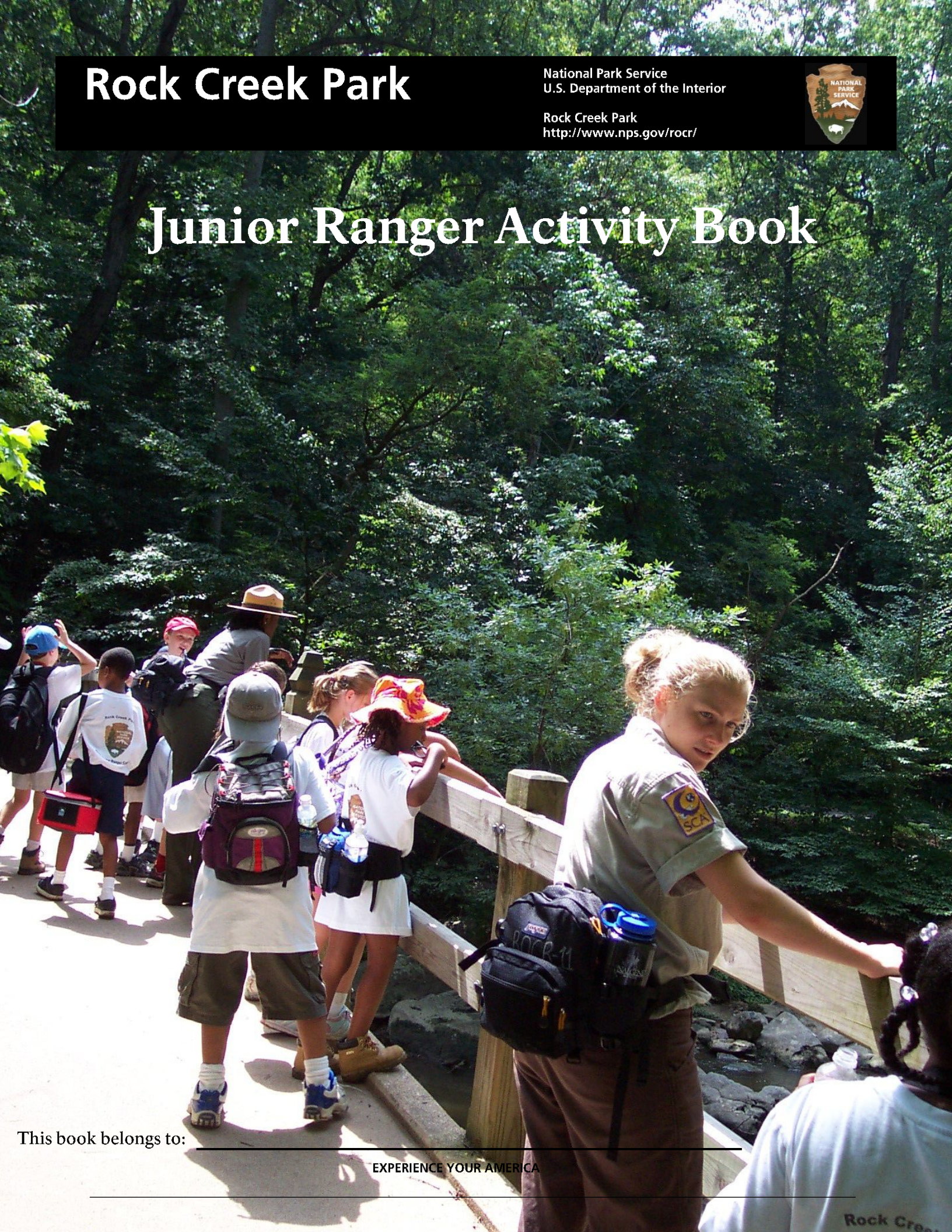
Rock Creek Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rock Creek Park
<http://www.nps.gov/rocr/>



Junior Ranger Activity Book



This book belongs to: _____

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Rock Creek

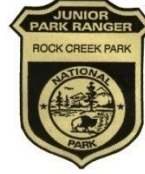


Welcome to Rock Creek Park



Rock Creek Park is one of the oldest and largest urban parks in the National Park system. Rock Creek Park preserves and protects many important natural and cultural resources, but we need your help!

Become a Junior Ranger!

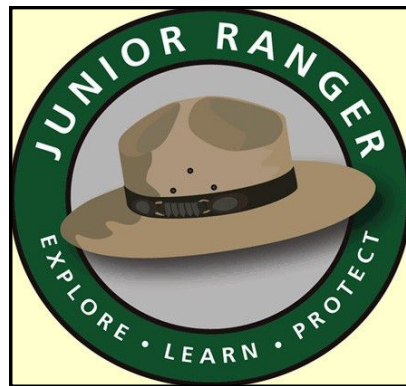


If you are between the ages of 6 and 8 years old, you can earn a Junior Ranger badge when you help protect Rock Creek Park. Protection of natural and cultural resources is known as stewardship. All park rangers are stewards of the park. You can become a Junior Ranger by completing these three easy steps:

1. Read, understand, and sign the Junior Ranger Pledge.
2. Help keep Rock Creek Park clean by picking up at least 5 pieces of litter as you visit different locations in the park.
3. Complete the activity pages in this book that correspond to your age.
 - If you are 6 years old complete 6 activity pages.
 - If you are 7 years old complete 7 activity pages.
 - If you are 8 years old complete 8 activity pages.

If you need help please ask a ranger.

After you have finished the activity book, review your activities with a Rock Creek Park ranger. Discuss how you can continue to be a steward of the park and your community. A park ranger will sign your certificate and award you an official Rock Creek Park Junior Ranger badge.

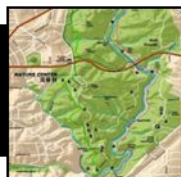


Ranger Note



Hello future Junior Rangers! My name is Ranger Roberta. I will be helping you along the way to becoming a Junior Ranger at Rock Creek Park. If I don't answer your questions about an activity, please ask another Rock Creek Park ranger. Thanks for wanting to help protect Rock Creek Park by becoming a Junior Ranger.





Rock Creek Park Map



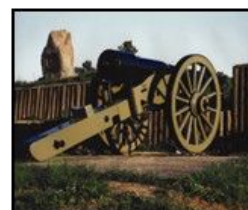
Use the map below of Rock Creek Park and its outlying areas to find park sites and it will help you complete your Junior Ranger activities.



Nature Center



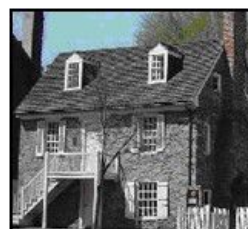
Planetarium



Fort Stevens



Peirce Mill



Old Stone House



National Park Service Mission



You know you are in a national park when you see the arrowhead symbol. What does the symbol represent? Each figure on the arrowhead and the arrowhead itself represent different resources that the park service protects. Match the symbols to what they represent to the park service's mission.

Sequoia Tree _____

Bison _____

Mountains _____

Water _____

Arrowhead _____

A. Save history

B. Provide Recreation

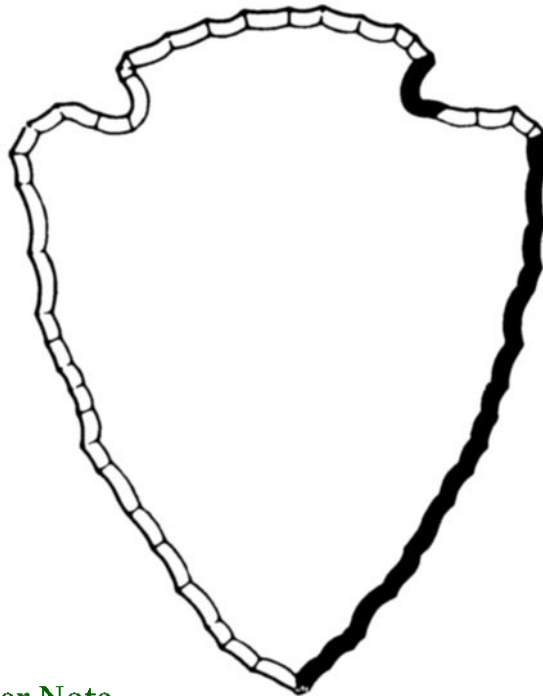
C. Preserve Plants

D. Save Scenery

E. Protect Animals



Draw the symbols on the arrowhead to represent the mission of the National Park Service.



Ranger Note



The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect the natural beauty and history of our country. Rangers want to make sure that future generations will be able to enjoy our national parks like you do today.



The Many Hats of a Ranger



It takes many different people to protect National Parks. Some of the different jobs are listed below. Draw a line to match the pictures and job descriptions to their job titles.



We give programs to park visitors.

Park Volunteers

Interpretive Rangers



We help park rangers and have fun!



We help park visitors stay safe.

Junior Rangers

Park Police



We protect park wildlife.

Natural and Cultural Resource Rangers



We help park visitors.

Ranger Note



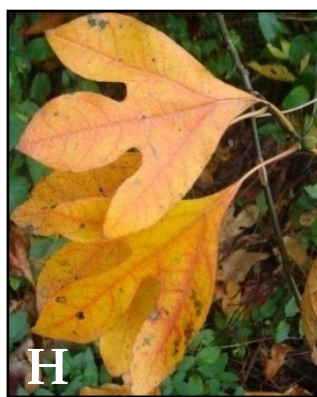
National Parks are run by Rangers and park volunteers. Park employees perform all types of jobs to preserve and protect these wonderful places. But we always need the help of a Junior Ranger!



Take a Hike!



Take a hike on the Edge of the Woods Trail and discover the many different trees you can find in Rock Creek Park. Match the leaves, bark, or fruit on the left, to the trees they belong to, on the right. Ask a ranger if you need help.



1. _____ 

2. _____ 

3. _____ 

4. _____ 

5. _____ 

6. _____ 

7. _____ 

8. _____ 

Ranger Note



As you venture throughout the trails, remember not to take home anything from the park. A Junior Ranger is a steward of the park and should practice the phrase: "If you care, leave it there."



Where Do We Live?



Help the animals of Rock Creek Park find their way home. Match the animals to their habitats in Rock Creek Park by drawing a line to connect them to each other. Use the exhibit “Discover Rock Creek Park,” and other exhibits throughout the Nature Center.

Animals



Wood Duck

Grey Fox

Raccoon

Squirrel

Deer

Coyote

Painted Turtle

Habitats



Meadow



Creek

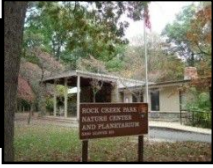


Forest

Ranger Note!



Animals, like people, need water, food, and shelter to survive. Animals that live in Rock Creek Park find what they need in the park’s three habitats: the meadow, creek, and forest.



Nature Center Scavenger Hunt



Discover what plants, animals, and other resources Rock Creek Park protects. Explore the Nature Center's exhibit hall to find plants and animals that answer the questions. Use the space below to write in your answers.

1. Find an animal that is smaller than you.

2. Find something that is soft.

3. Find something that swims.

4. Find an animal that is an herbivore.

5. Find an animal that has a shell.

6. Find something that flies.

7. Describe an insect.

8. Find an animal that lives in a meadow.

9. Find something that has leaves.

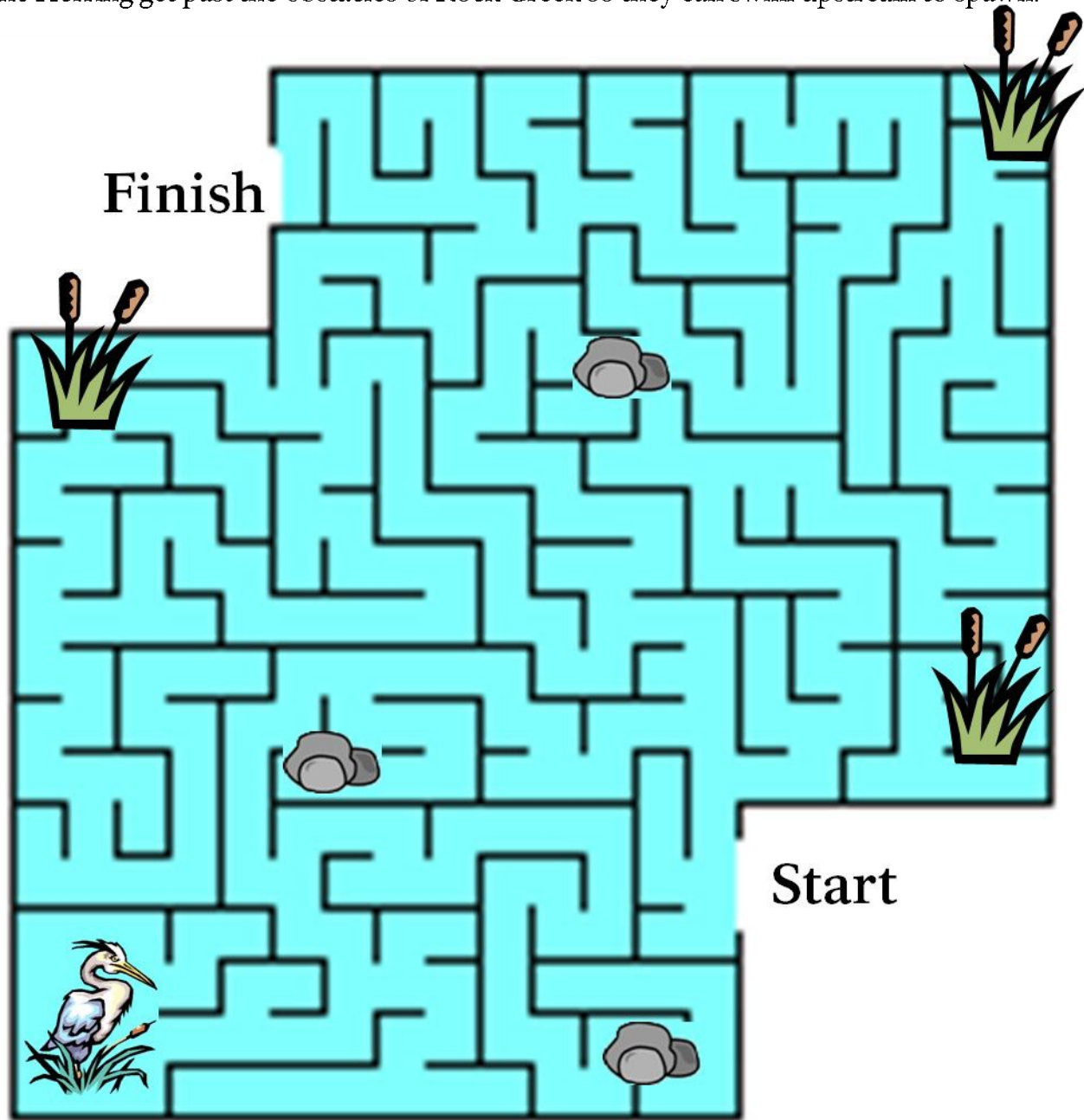
10. Find a plant with a beautiful flower.



The Herring Highway



Help the Herring get past the obstacles of Rock Creek so they can swim upstream to spawn.



Ranger Note



Historically, herring (a type of fish) freely swam up Rock Creek to lay their eggs. Over the years, however, dams and roads were built over the creek, blocking their way. So Rock Creek Park built a fish ladder at Peirce Mill which allows the herring to “climb” over the dam to continue the trip up Rock Creek, just like their ancestors did many years ago.



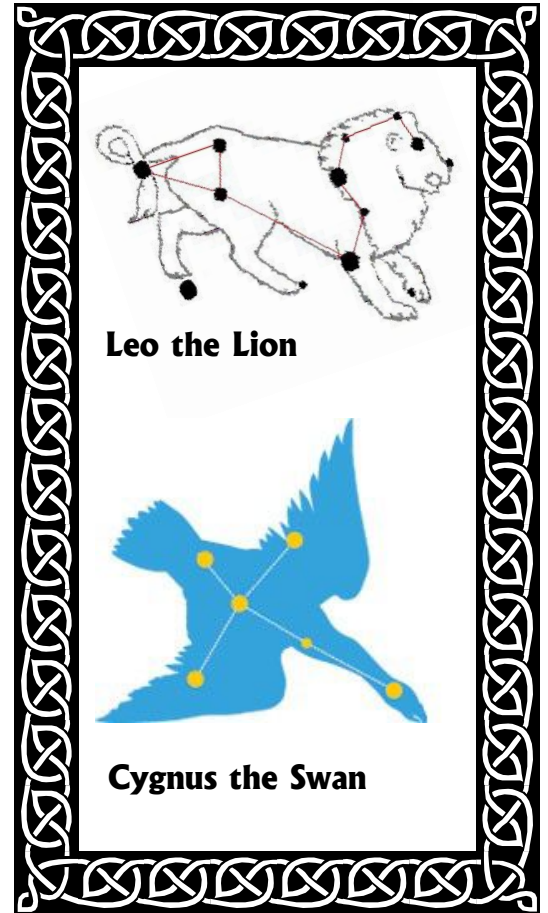
Create Your Own Constellation



Draw a picture using the stars and create your own constellation. Make up a story or myth about your constellation.



What is your Constellation Myth?



Ranger Note



People have used the night sky to tell stories illustrated by pictures in the stars called **constellations**. Today it is sometimes hard to see the constellations of the night sky because of light pollution. Help protect the visibility of the night sky by turning off any light not in use. Visit the Rock Creek Park planetarium to see the night sky without light pollution.



Fort Stevens Word Search



Find the important people and places involved with the Battle of Fort Stevens in the word search.

C I V I L W A R D Z A P T S R
 Q F Y N X L S O O H X N B N I
 R T W S A G P C D D A R Q E C
 J Q N C S N R K D R E Y P V H
 G C H C E U L C G C Y L E E M
 I V V C E I R R K T N L J T O
 C X P R N N Q E T R Y I O S N
 C Q D C Z K N E D F Y B Z T D
 H K O J K R B K J T F V I R Y
 A L H O I T R P R A R A A O A
 N P I D N B L A C Q Y O Q F J
 O P G U Z Y I R L H J L F Z Q
 M E A U Y G I K T E P A R A P
 C D N O T G N I H S A W T A D
 Z R I T H F K T W D E C A G E

Words

Aunt Betty	Lee	Billy	Lincoln
Breckenridge	Parapet	Civil War	Richmond
Early	Rock Creek Park	Fort DeRussy	Fort Stevens
Washington DC	Grant		

Ranger Note



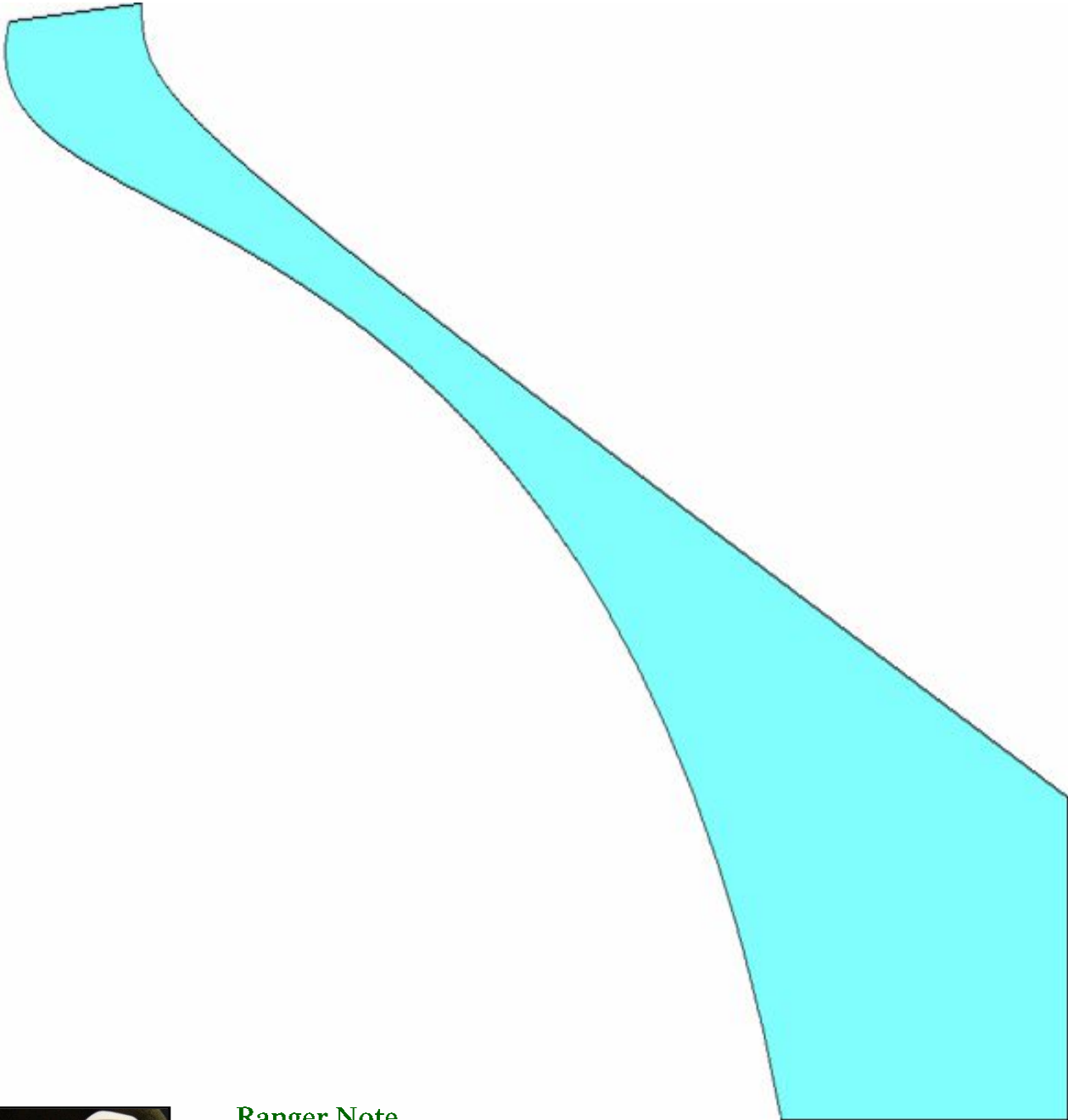
During the Civil War Washington D.C. was protected by many forts that surrounded the city. Today, Rock Creek Park protects the forts that remain. It is our turn to protect these places and tell the stories of the men that once protected the capital city.



The Mills of Rock Creek



Visit Peirce Barn to learn more about milling along the creek. Draw a picture of Peirce Mill and other mills that at one time used the creek for power. The “Mills of Rock Creek” exhibit in Peirce Barn, can help show you what the other mills looked like.



Ranger Note


























In the 19th century, Rock Creek was a power source for mills. However, there is only one mill that remains along Rock Creek, Peirce Mill.



Old Stone House Bingo



Visit the Old Stone House in Georgetown. Explore the rooms and the garden of the Old Stone House to locate colonial objects. Check off each box as you go. If you complete a row going across, up, down, or diagonally, you have an Old Stone House Bingo!

Hat 	Yarn Swift 	Trivet 	Shoes 	Barrels 
Adams Style Mantle 	Insect Trap 	Six Plate Stove 	Clock 	Dutch Oven 
Tulip Vase 	Decanter 	Old Stone House 	Candle Mold 	Children's Bed 
Crown 	Spinning Wheel 	Kick Toaster 	Quill Pen 	Tea Pot 
Children's Toys 	Candle 	Rose 	Music Stand 	Tin Kitchen 

Ranger Note



The Old Stone House is one of the oldest buildings in Washington D.C. Rangers preserve and protect the Old Stone House so we can learn what everyday life was like in Colonial America. Some colonial artifacts in the Old Stone House have similar uses to what we use in our homes today.



Artist in the Park



Take a hike on one of Rock Creek Park's many hiking trails. What did you see along the way? Draw a picture of what you encountered on a trail in Rock Creek Park.



Junior Ranger Pledge



Humans have been inspired by national parks since they were created. Below are some quotes about national parks by famous and not-so-famous people. Pretend you are a famous person (you can decide what you are famous for). Were you inspired by your visit to Rock Creek Park? What would you say to the world? Write it on the lines below.

“It is all very beautiful and magical here - a quality which cannot be described. You have to live it and breathe it, let the sun bake it into you.” (Ansel Adams about Yosemite National Park)

“My generation will all be very environmentally conscious, because, the way it is going now, we will desperately need to save our forests.” (Jacob Hoffman, age 12)

“...It is critically important that Americans know that what once was abundant is now almost gone, and the parks are refuges for certain species.”

(Mia Monroe, National Park Ranger)

“May all your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view where something strange and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you.”

(Edward Abbey, Environmental author)

Your quote here:

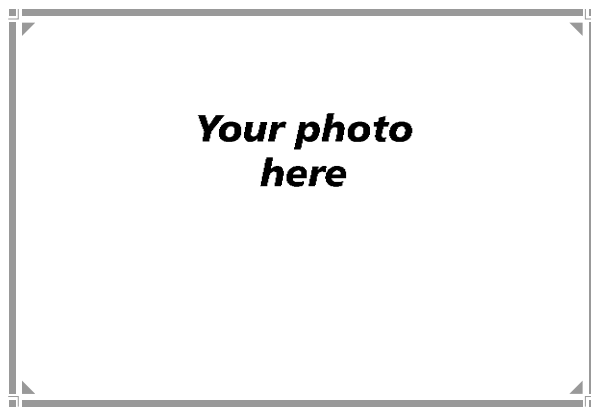
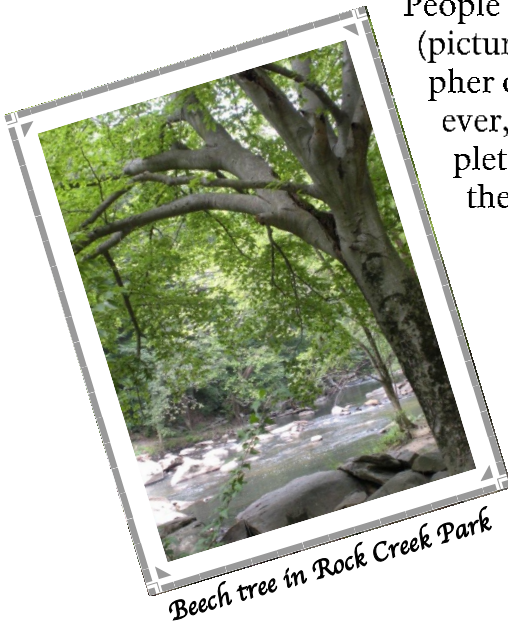
(Your name and job here)



Junior Ranger Pledge



People also love to take photographs of national parks. Ansel Adams (pictured above) is, perhaps, the most famous national park photographer of all time. You don't have to be as talented as Mr. Adams, however, to have fun with your camera and learn to see nature in a completely new way. We have placed a sample photo here, use the rest of the space for your own.





Junior Ranger Pledge



As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help protect Rock Creek Park, my community, and the earth by being an active and responsible steward of the environment.

I will pick up trash in my neighborhood and I will not litter.

I will not feed wildlife, pick plants, or disturb any living thing.

I will respect all historical buildings and ruins.

I will continue to explore nature safely and be a good example to others.

Your Signature

ROCK CREEK PARK

Junior Ranger



Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that _____ has agreed to uphold the Junior Ranger Pledge and has completed the necessary activities to become a Junior Ranger at Rock Creek Park.

Witness: _____ *Date:* _____
Park Ranger



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA
