

N.C. State Parks Junior Ranger Program

OUTDOOR ART CREATOR



Finish the 5 steps to earn the Outdoor Art Creator badge and cache 6 Junior Ranger acorns.

What you'll need: Paper, crayons with the paper peeled off, index cards, drawing supplies

STEP 1 - DETECTIVE NATURE WALK

While in the park, try to find at least three things from this list:

- An animal
- A plant not colored green
- A tree with flowers
- An insect
- A bird (do you know what kind it is?) _____
- A fallen leaf with a pattern that you like
- A rock with an unusual shape
- A bush as tall as you are
- A pinecone or acorn
- Colored moss growing on a rock or tree
- More fun stuff you find (write what it is) _____



STEP 2 - NATURE RUBBING

While exploring the park find leaves or bark with interesting textures. Place a piece of paper over the top and use the side of the crayon to make a rubbing. For an even bigger challenge, you can use a field guide or find a ranger to help you identify what type of tree the leaf came from.

STEP 3 - NATURE DANCE GAME

Explore the park and see if you can find any animals or insects. Observe how they're moving.

Write the names or draw a picture of the critters you found, or any other critters that you think might make the park their home on index cards. When you're done, find a partner, mix up the cards and take turns picking a card and acting out the animal movements. For extra fun, dance like the animal while walking down a trail. See how many animals you can dance before reaching the end of the trail.

STEP 4 - MINI WORLD DRAWING

Take a close look at something you've found while exploring the park. It could be a flower, a bug, or a shell. Pretend you shrunk yourself into a fairy size and draw it as if it were bigger than you. Remember, everything that's in the park needs to stay in the park. Please don't take any of the small items home with you. We want to make sure the next park visitor will be able to enjoy it too!



STEP 5- BUILD A FAIRY HOUSE

Some people like to believe that fairies live in the park to help the park rangers protect the plants and animal's habitat, or home. To thank the fairies for protecting their home, you can build them a tiny little fairy house of their own. You can use mud, rocks, leaves, twigs, feathers, dry grass, pinecones, shells, and anything else you find. Make sure to only use items that have fallen and be careful not to disturb critters or living trees, plants, and flowers.



N.C. State Parks Junior Ranger Program

ECO-FRIEND



Finish the 3 steps to earn the Eco Friend badge and cache 6 Junior Ranger acorns.

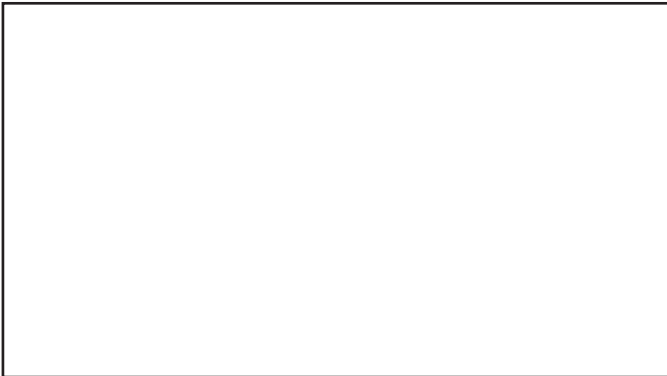
What you'll need: Drawing supplies

STEP 1 - TAKE A HIKE

Good planning is key to having a good time hiking. Before heading to the park, visit the website of the park you plan on visiting: www.ncparks.gov. Look for any trail closures and if possible, print out a copy park map. Next, use your favorite weather website or app to make sure you're dressed correctly for the weather. Wear comfortable closed-toed shoes and bring plenty of water. If you plan on being out for more than a couple hours, it's always a good idea to pack a snack too. Then, when you're on your hike, practice different ways of caring for the environment: stay on walking paths or hiking trails, and leave no trash behind. Can you think of more?

STEP 2- FINDING HABITATS

N.C. State Parks provide a home, or habitat, to many different plants and animals. There are 5 things needed to make a habitat: food, water, shelter, air, and space. If a plant or animals has all 5 of those then it makes a good habitat for them. Take a hike on one of the park trails and see if you can spot all 5. What type of animals do you think live here? Pick one animal and draw a picture showing all 5 elements of their habitat that you found. What do you think would happen to their habitat if the park wasn't here?



STEP 3 - FIRE BUILDING

Fires need three things to burn properly: oxygen, fuel, and heat. When you have all three, you'll be able to make a great fire. In a campfire your fuel is wood, and the heat is added with matches or a lighter. To make sure it gets enough oxygen set the wood up into a teepee shape with the smallest sticks in the middle and the larger pieces on the outside. You can use paper or bark that burn quickly and hot to get the small sticks lit and then the small sticks will help the larger sticks to catch and so on. Make sure you're using wood that's been purchased at the park. If you bring wood from other places you could introduce pest bugs that live in the wood to the park. With the help of an adult build a campfire. Be sure not to use any wood that's still alive. If you're not camping, ask park staff for permission to use an empty campsite to make it.

STEP 4 - BE THE BEST GUEST

Can you imagine what it would feel like to have a guest in your home who ate all your food, broke all your toys, and left trash all over the living room? Now imagine your favorite wild animal, and think of ways that humans can be disrespectful of its living space. (Maybe there are no flowers left for a rabbit to eat because people picked them all, or a deer is afraid to come to its favorite place in the woods because it hears loud music playing.) Draw or paint a picture of your animal and talk to your friends or family about how humans can treat its living space kindly when they are outside

STEP 5 - INTERVIEW A RANGER

Find a park ranger and ask them a few questions. Why did they decide to become a park ranger? What kind of problems do they see when people do not respect the environment? What advice can they give to people who want to be kinder to outdoor spaces?
