

# N.C. State Parks Junior Ranger Program

# OUTDOOR ART MAKER



Finish the 3 steps to earn the Outdoor Art Maker badge and cache 6 Junior Ranger acorns.



**What you'll need:** Colorful clothes or paint color swatches from a paint store.  
Your favorite thing to color or draw with and paper.

## STEP 1 - COLOR RACE

North Carolina State parks are teeming with beautifully colored plants, mushrooms, birds, and insects. Before going out on the trails and exploring, either dress up in rainbow colored clothes or visit a local paint shop and select your favorite color swatches. Then head to a park trail and race to see how many of those colors you can find. For a bigger challenge, time yourself for 10 minutes and see if you can find them all!

## STEP 2 - SOUND SEARCH

After familiarizing yourself with the park, find a special place to sit for the next activity. Remember not to walk off the trails as there may be poison ivy or other hazards. A good place could be on a trail bridge, along a creek, or at an overlook. The more nature that surrounds you the better!

Sit down and close your eyes and see how many of the following sounds you can hear:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> insects buzzing or humming | <input type="checkbox"/> frog croaking                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> car driving or honking     | <input type="checkbox"/> leaves blowing                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bird singing               | <input type="checkbox"/> squirrel or chipmunk chattering |



Can you hear anything else? What does it sound like? Which sounds are man-made and which are from nature?

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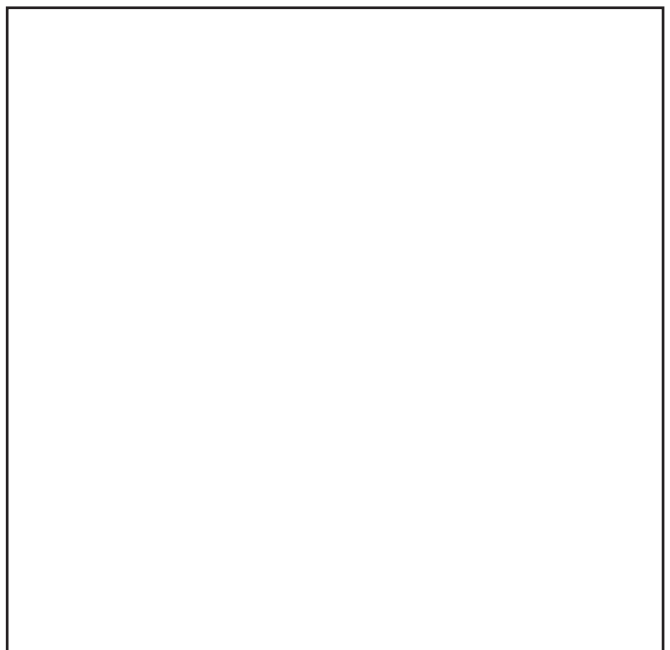
## STEP 3 - LEAVE-NO TRACE PICTURE

N.C. State Parks exists to help protect the habitat, or home, of local plants and animals. It's the ranger's job to help. As a Junior Ranger you can play your part too. Leave-no Trace teaches us how we can enjoy the park without hurting the habitat.

Here are 7 ways that you can help as a Girl Scout Junior Ranger:

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Know before you go    | 5. Be careful with fire      |
| 2. Choose the right path | 6. Respect wildlife          |
| 3. Trash your trash      | 7. Be kind to other visitors |
| 4. Leave what you find   |                              |

Using the 7 ways listed above, pick one and draw yourself helping in that way. Be sure you include some of the park scenery. For a bigger challenge, try to make the scenery recognizable – for example, draw Pilot Mountain in the background.



# N.C. State Parks Junior Ranger Program

# ECO-LEARNER



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

**What you'll need:** Drawing supplies, a string about 3 feet long, magnifying glass (optional), gloves and a trash bag.

## STEP 1- WILDLIFE OR PET?

Draw a picture of 4 pets, then draw 4 animals that either you saw or think you may find in a N.C. State Park.

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How are wild animals and pets different? \_\_\_\_\_

Park rangers are responsible to protect all of the wild animals in the park, but do you think that means that they feed them?

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\_\_\_\_\_

As a Girl Scout Junior Ranger do you think you should feed wildlife? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2 - NATURE CIRCLE

Using about 3 feet of string, find a spot next to a trail and make a circle around it. If you have a magnifying lens, use it to look up close at everything inside the circle. Count how many living things can you find (plants and animals). \_\_\_\_\_

We ask park visitors to stay on the paths to protect them. What do you think would happen to them if we didn't stay on the paths? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 3 - TRASH TRAIL

Pick a trail to walk and look for litter to clean up. Be sure to wear gloves before picking up any trash. If you don't have any, talk to park staff, they may have some you could borrow.

When you're done hiking the trail, come up with a story about why it's important not to leave trash in nature. Share your story with friends and family. It could be a story about how a bear found food trash at a campsite and ate all of it. Or about a flower that was surrounded by trash and couldn't grow. For even more of a challenge, draw pictures for your story.

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