

# **JUNIOR RANGER GUIDE BOOK**

All the tools you need to become  
an Official Junior Ranger!



# **Guide to Becoming a Junior Ranger**

**This Junior Ranger booklet belongs to:**

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South Suburban Parks and Recreation has over 120 city parks and natural areas with 100 miles of trails.

South Suburban Park Rangers have an important duty to help park visitors stay safe while they are having fun in the parks.

We need your help!

Fill out this booklet and take the pledge at the end to become a SSPRD Junior Park Ranger!

# Who are Park Rangers?

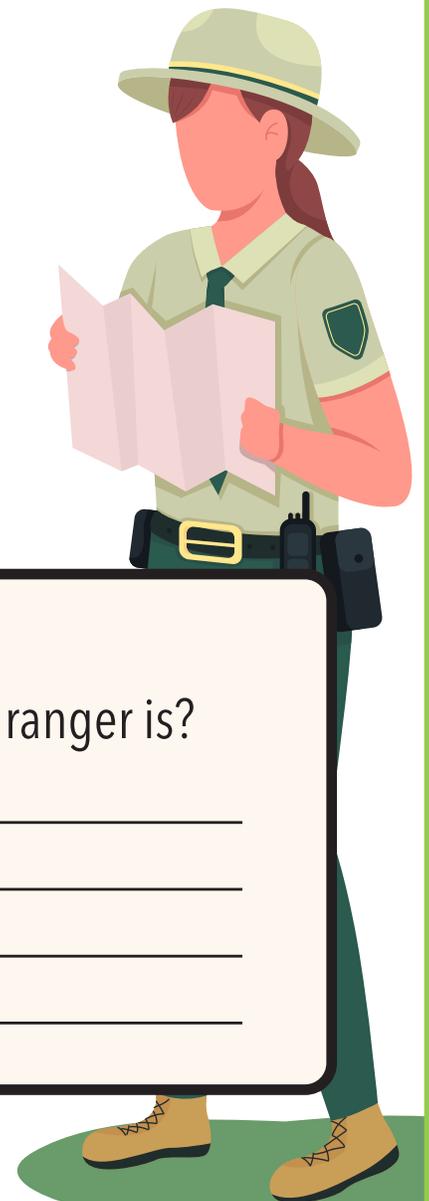
Park rangers have very important jobs. They help keep visitors safe, protect the parks and wildlife, and help educate visitors about park rules!

# Who are the Junior Rangers?

Junior Park Rangers also have a very important job, just like Park Rangers.

They:

- Enjoy nature safely
- Obey all park rules
- Respect wildlife and park visitors
- Share their knowledge with others



## Question

What do you think the most important job of a ranger is?

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# How to Stay Safe Outdoors

- Check the weather before you go. Don't get stuck in the rain!
- Always make sure your parent or guardian knows where you are.
- Bring the right gear. Hiking shoes, sunglasses, water, and bike helmets are all important to keep you safe.
- Do not get too close to wildlife. People can seem scary to animals, so give them plenty of space.

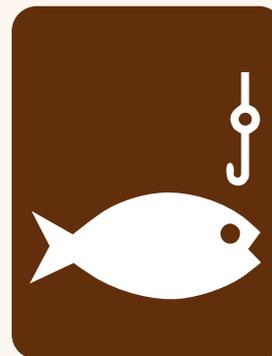
**Write or draw  
what it means to you  
to stay safe in nature.**



# Trail Sign Scavenger Hunt

Trail signs and markers help Junior Rangers learn the rules and know where to go.

Can you find these signs along the trail? What do they mean?



All SSPRD parks, trails and open spaces have rules that help keep you safe, so make sure to learn and follow them. Read the rules on trail signs and at [ssprd.org](http://ssprd.org).

# Leave No Trace

Learn the 7 Leave No Trace principles to keep our parks safe and clean for all!

1. Know Before You Go
2. Choose the Right Path
3. Trash Your Trash
4. Leave What You Find
5. Be Careful With Fire
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Kind to Other Visitors



Be like Big Foot, he's been leaving no trace for years!



# Throw it Away!

Trash that is left in nature can harm animals and plants for a very long time.

How long do you think it will take each of these items to decompose?

*(Answers can be found below)*

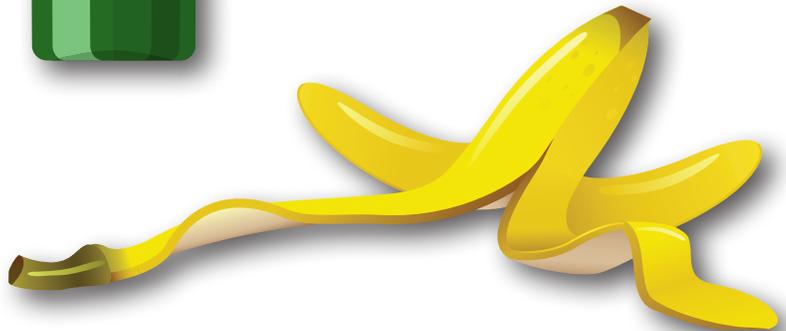
Up to 2 years

1-5 years

5 years

80-100 years

1,000,000 years



# Interview a Ranger

Use the spaces and questions below to interview a Park Ranger

1. Rangers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date and Location of Interview:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you been a ranger?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What's your favorite thing to do as a ranger?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your favorite SSPRD park?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your favorite ranger memory?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is your favorite animal to see in the parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

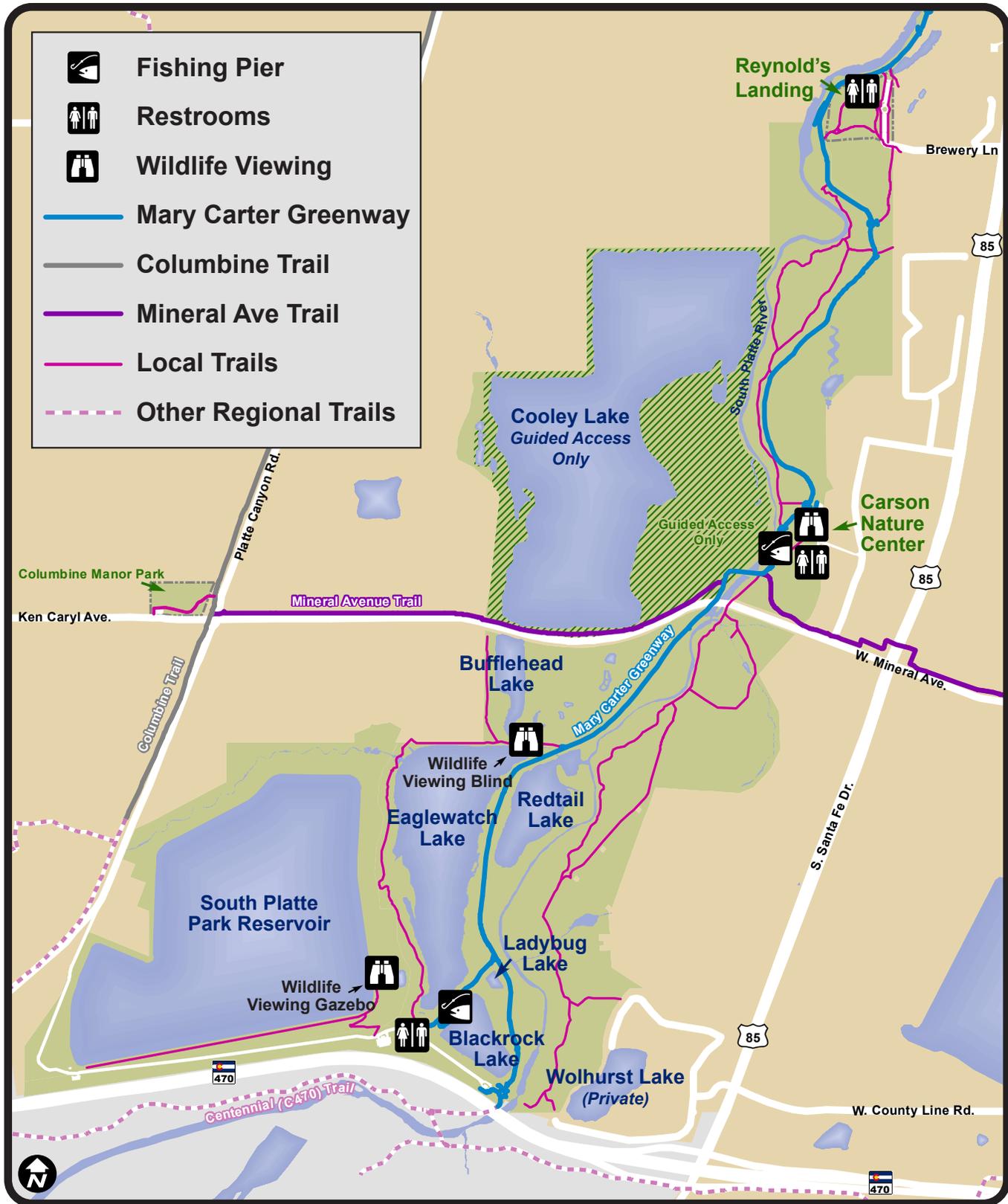
# What is in a Park Ranger's Backpack?

A ranger's backpack is full of important tools.

Let's help a ranger pack their bag! Circle which items you think a ranger should have:



# Map of South Platte Park



# Use the map and map key to answer these questions.

1. Circle a spot on the map where you can go fishing.

2. Am I allowed to hike around Cooley Lake without a guide?

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3. Name one lake with a wildlife viewing area.

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4. Which lake is named after a bug?

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5. Circle the bathrooms on the map.

# Match the Tracks

Match the tracks of these  
common Front Range animals!

*(Answers can be found below)*



Canada  
Goose



Cottontail  
Rabbit



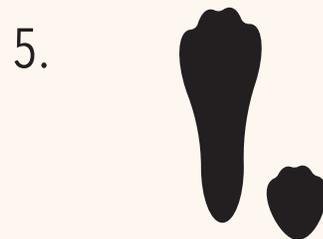
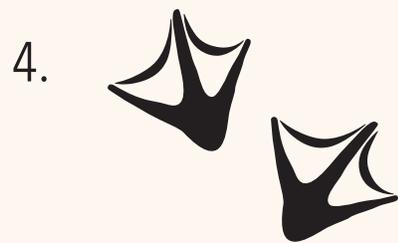
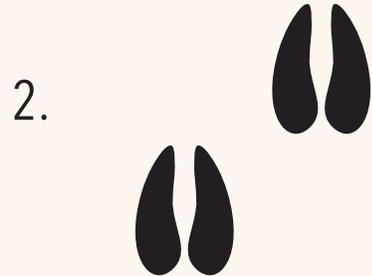
Whitetail  
Deer



Bobcat



Coyote



# Animals in the Park

Can you find all the hidden words?

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

BEAR

CRAYFISH

GOOSE

RABBIT

BOBCAT

DEER

HAWK

RACCOON

COYOTE

EAGLE

PRAIRIEDOG

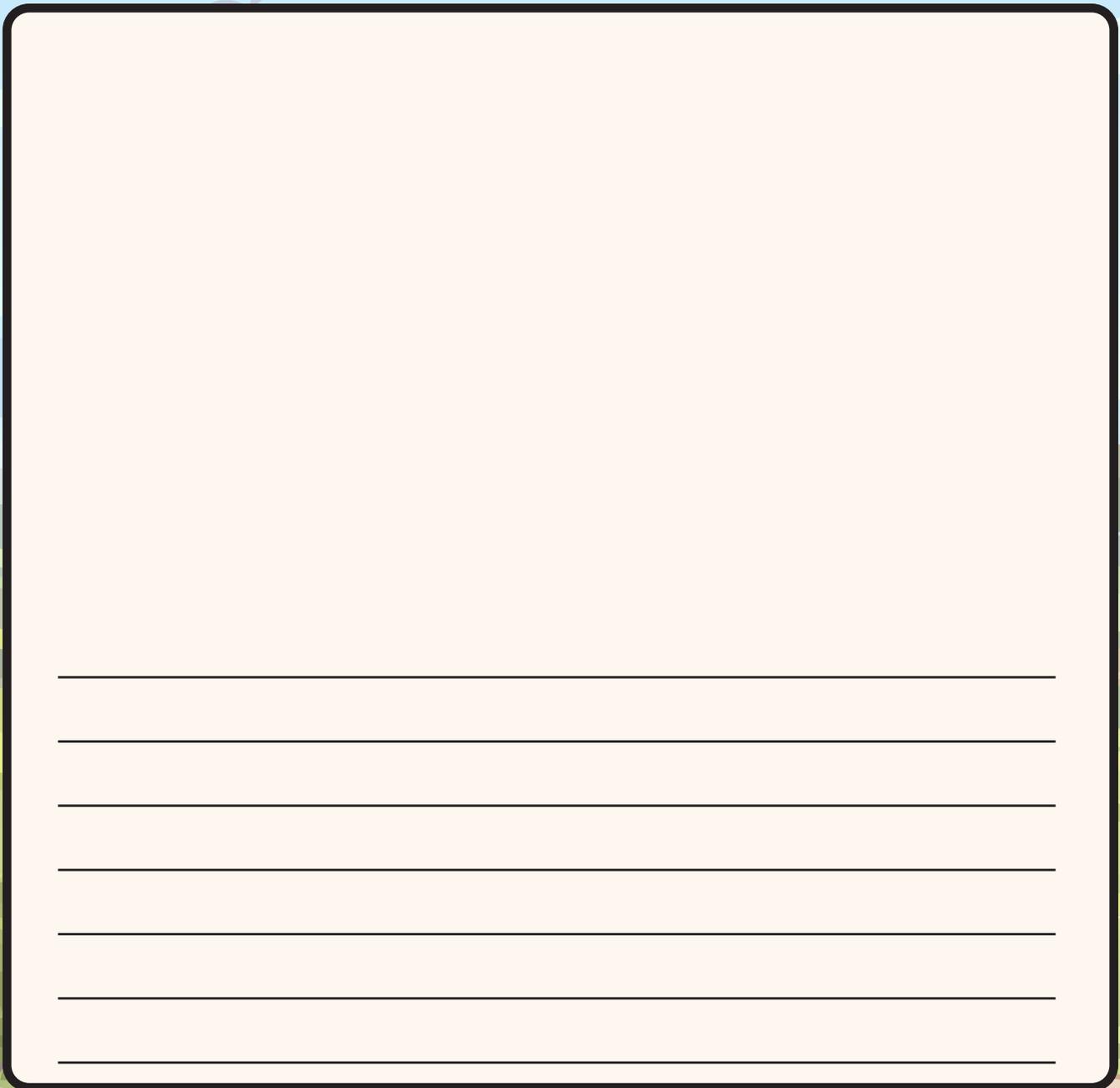
WALLEYE



# Nature Journal/Artist

Tell us about your adventure in nature!

Where did you go? What did you see? What was your favorite part? Draw a picture of your story.



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# **Junior Ranger Pledge**

**As a South Suburban  
Junior Park Ranger,  
I pledge to:**

**Enjoy nature safely**

**Obey all park rules**

**Respect wildlife and park visitors**

**Share my knowledge with others**



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**This certificate acknowledge that**

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**has completed this Junior Ranger booklet  
and has earned their Junior Ranger badge!**

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**SSPRD Ranger Signature**