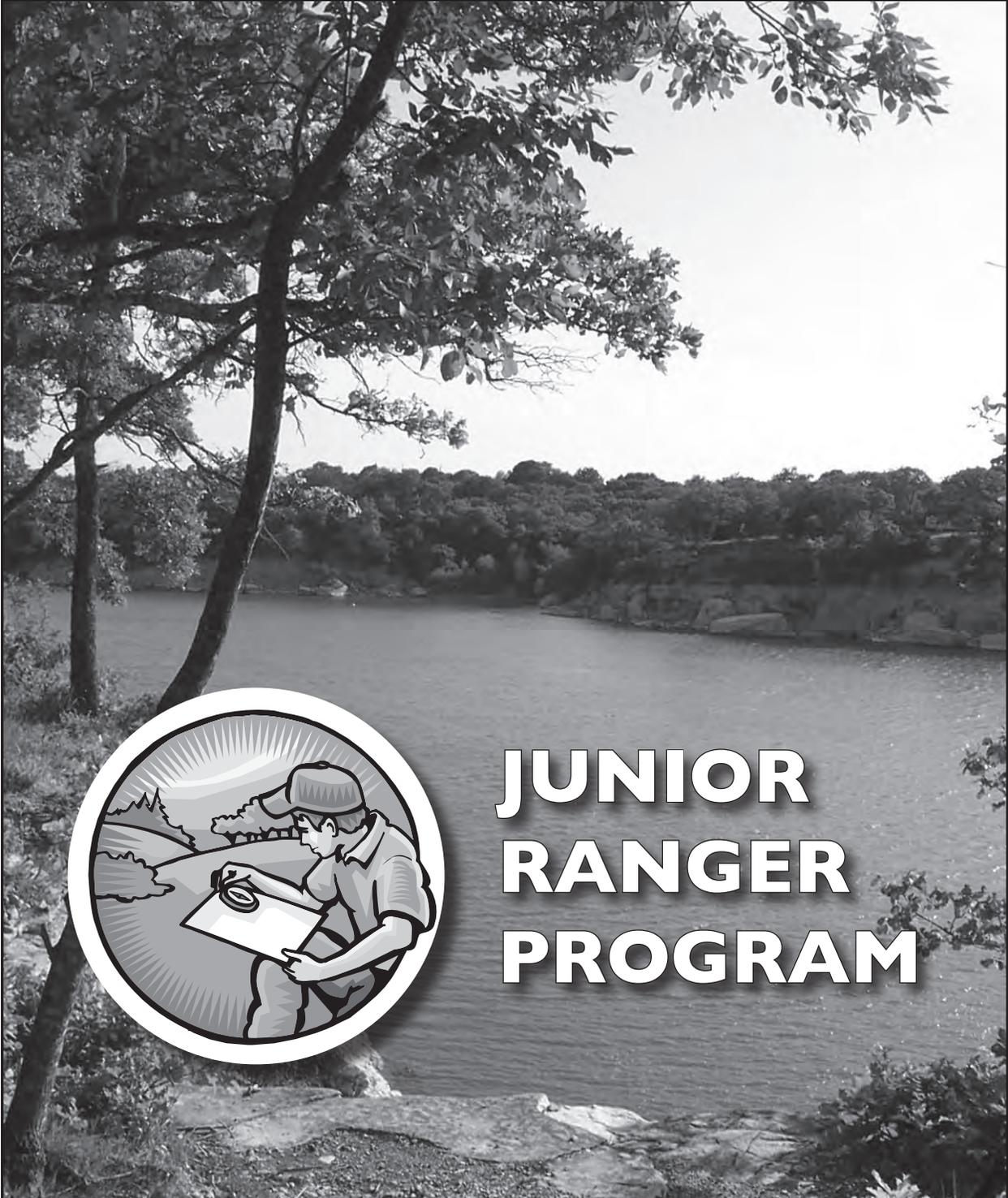
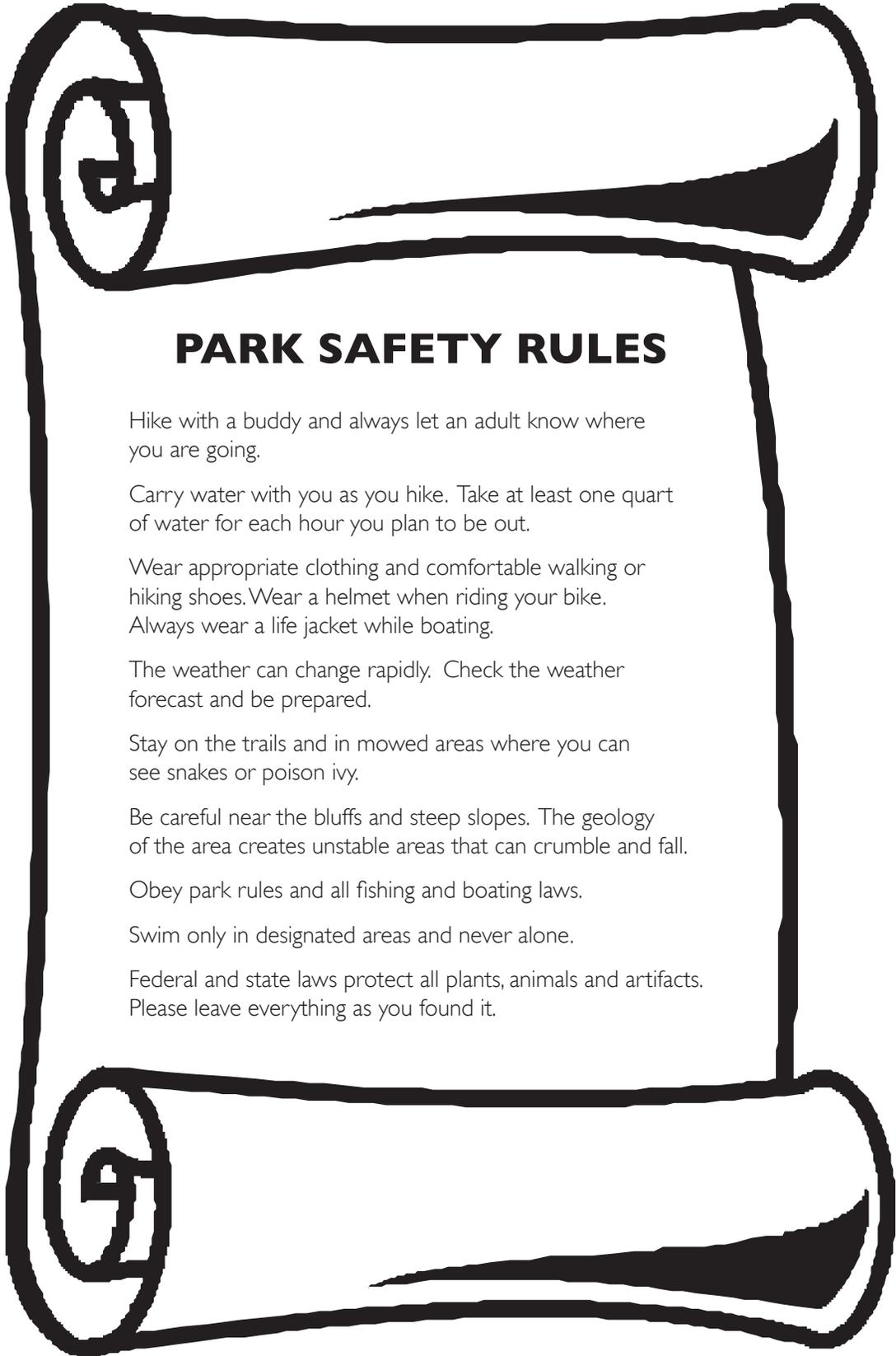


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



# JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

EISENHOWER STATE PARK



## **PARK SAFETY RULES**

Hike with a buddy and always let an adult know where you are going.

Carry water with you as you hike. Take at least one quart of water for each hour you plan to be out.

Wear appropriate clothing and comfortable walking or hiking shoes. Wear a helmet when riding your bike. Always wear a life jacket while boating.

The weather can change rapidly. Check the weather forecast and be prepared.

Stay on the trails and in mowed areas where you can see snakes or poison ivy.

Be careful near the bluffs and steep slopes. The geology of the area creates unstable areas that can crumble and fall.

Obey park rules and all fishing and boating laws.

Swim only in designated areas and never alone.

Federal and state laws protect all plants, animals and artifacts. Please leave everything as you found it.

# JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

## at Eisenhower State Park

Welcome to Eisenhower State Park – where Life's Better Outside! You and your family and friends can explore the nature and history of the park on your visit using this booklet. You may want to take a camera with you to record your discoveries and accomplishments. You will need to complete the following activities to earn your Eisenhower State Park Junior Ranger badge.



### **Nature Discovery**

Ages 7 and younger – pick 2 plus the maze.  
Ages 8 and older – pick 4.

- Use Your Senses Hike
- Track ID
- A to Z on Armadillo Hill Nature Trail
- Interpretive Program
- Bird List
- Maze

### **Be Like Ike**

Ages 7 and younger – pick 2; ages 8 and older – pick 3.

- Historian
- Fisherman
- Outdoor Cook
- Gamer

### **Stewardship**

All ages must do.

- What If?
- Make a Difference

### **Career Exploration**

Ages 8 and older must do.

- Ranger Interview

When you have finished, take your finished booklet to the park office to show to the park staff. Be ready to say the pledge as you are sworn in as an Eisenhower State Park Junior Ranger.

# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 1

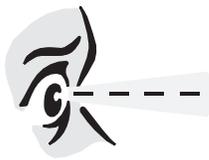
## Use Your Senses Nature Hike

You'll be using your senses to explore Eisenhower State Park. Pick a trail or area around your campsite and find answers to the following questions.

*As you explore, watch out for poison ivy. Remember: "Leaves of three, let it be."*



I am exploring \_\_\_\_\_.



### Sight

Look around you and write down things that you see.

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### Smell

Your nose knows! Use your nose to sniff out an answer. How many smells can you detect?

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### Hearing

Sit down and close your eyes while you listen for sounds. Record the sounds you hear. Your list may include both natural and human-made sounds.

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### Touch

How does nature feel? Find something that feels:

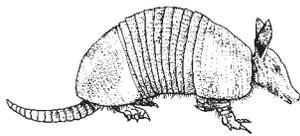
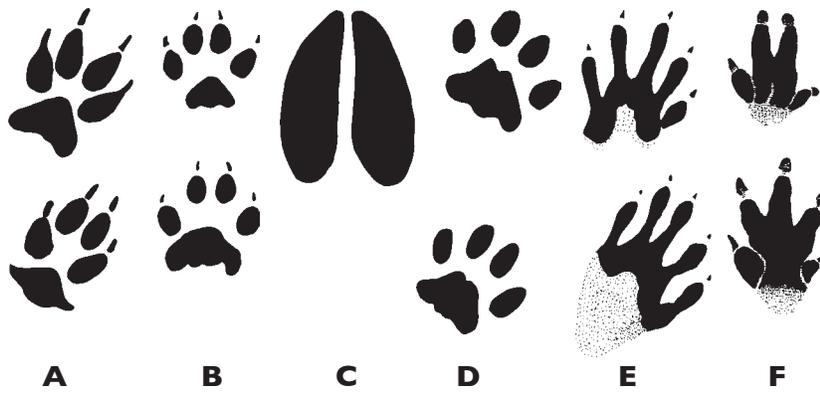
Soft _____	Smooth _____
Rough _____	Squishy _____
Slimy _____	Grainy _____

# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 2

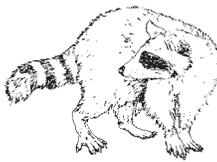
## Track ID

See if you can match the tracks to the animals that made them. Fill in the name of the animal and the letter by the picture.

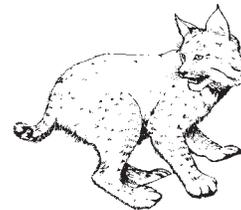
All of these animals are found at Eisenhower State Park, so you might even find these tracks on a trail or around your campsite.



( ) \_\_\_\_\_



( ) \_\_\_\_\_



( ) \_\_\_\_\_



( ) \_\_\_\_\_



( ) \_\_\_\_\_



( ) \_\_\_\_\_

# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 3

## A to Z on the Armadillo Hill Nature Trail

Take a self-guided hike on the Armadillo Hill Nature Trail. Pick up a trail guide at the trailhead (Marker 1) or at the park office. As you hike, try to find things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Your words must describe natural things that you can see, hear, touch or smell.

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

**D** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**F** \_\_\_\_\_

**G** \_\_\_\_\_

**H** \_\_\_\_\_

**I** \_\_\_\_\_

**J** \_\_\_\_\_

**K** \_\_\_\_\_

**L** \_\_\_\_\_

**M** \_\_\_\_\_

**N** \_\_\_\_\_

**O** \_\_\_\_\_

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**T** \_\_\_\_\_

**U** \_\_\_\_\_

**V** \_\_\_\_\_

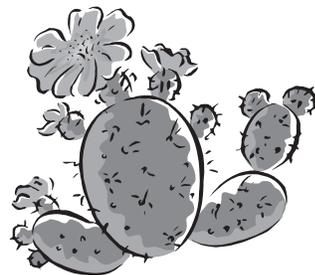
**W** \_\_\_\_\_

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Y** \_\_\_\_\_

**Z** \_\_\_\_\_

Looking for an "X" word? Try "xanthous," a word for a yellow-green color like you might find in leaves. Or maybe use "xeric," a word for a plant or habitat that only needs a small amount of moisture.



# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 4

## Participate in a Ranger Program

Park interpretive programs can help you learn to speak the language of nature. Check the park calendar or ask at the office to see if a park ranger will be giving a campfire program or leading a nature hike during your stay. (Interpretive programs can be requested and scheduled in advance for youth groups camping in the park.)



Now tell us about the program you attended.

The program was about \_\_\_\_\_.

The program was presented by \_\_\_\_\_.

The most awesome thing I learned was \_\_\_\_\_

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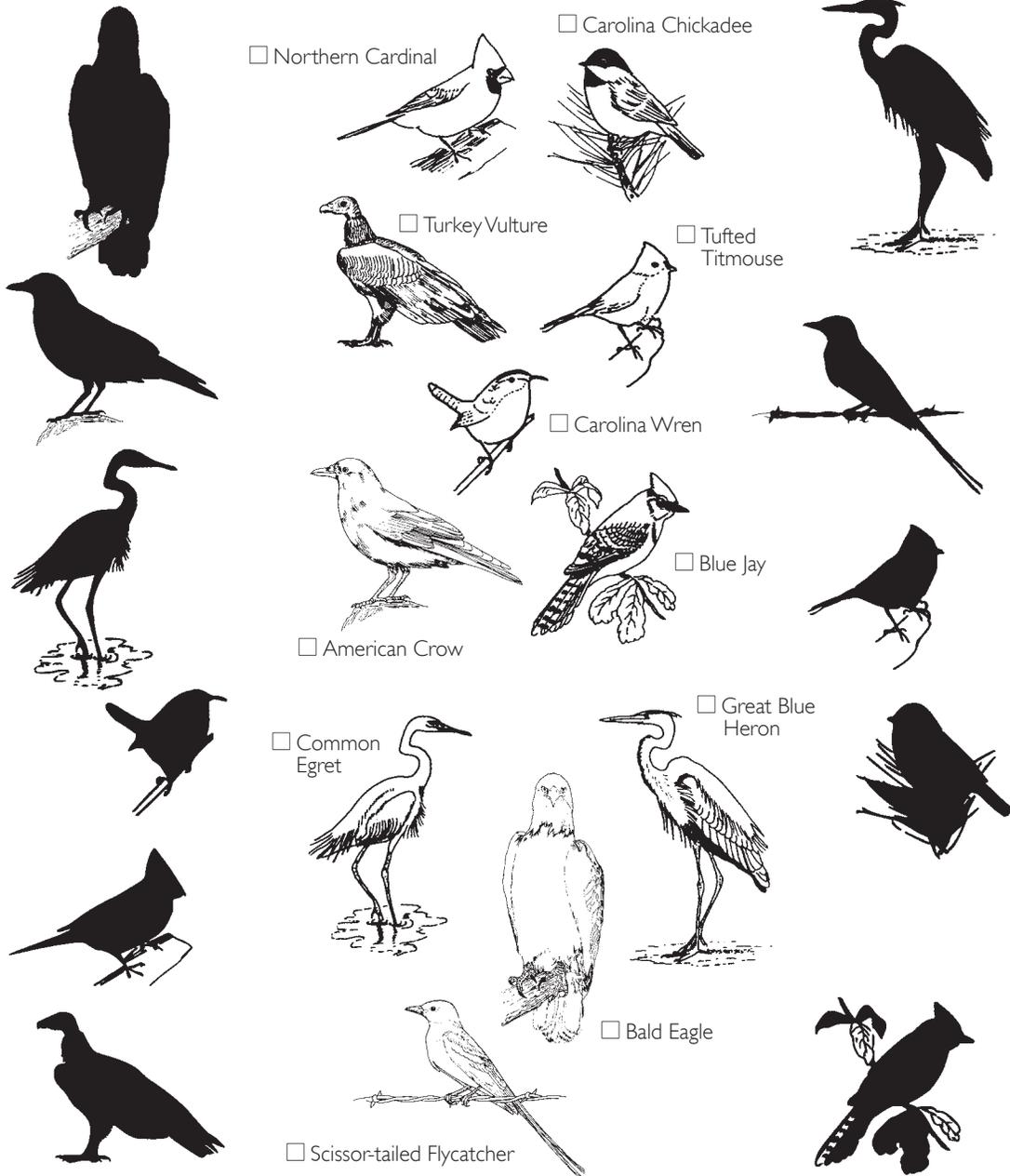
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# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 5

## Red River Birding

Eisenhower State Park is a great place for bird watchers because it has woodlands, grasslands and lakeshore. If you're just learning to recognize birds, it's good to start with their shapes. Draw a line from each bird to its matching shadow. Then see how many birds you can find in the park and check them off.



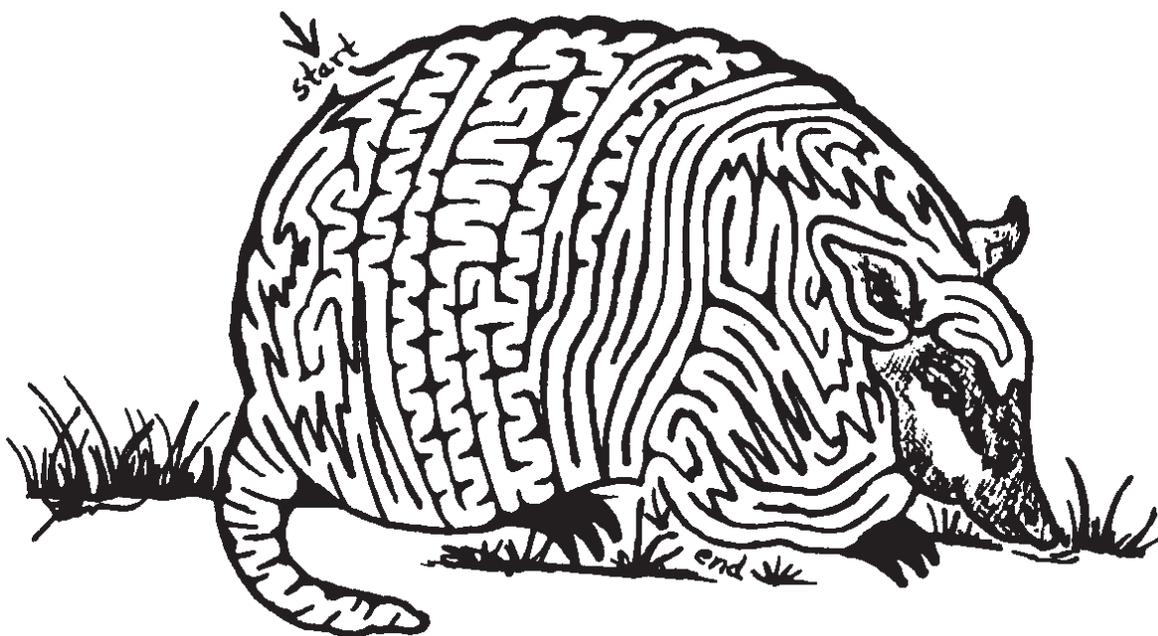
# NATURE DISCOVERY | Activity 6

## Armadillo Maze

Being able to find your way is an important skill as you discover the outdoors.

Staying on trails and following directions help keep you from getting lost as you explore the park.

Test your way-finding skills by completing this maze.



# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 1

## Ike the Historian

Now it's time to be a history detective. Use the decoder to fill in the blanks and discover the history of Eisenhower State Park and the surrounding area. Here's a hint – the man the park is named for liked to read about history.

A=1	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	V=22
B=2	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	W=23
C=3	G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	X=24
D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	Y=25
				U=21	Z=26

Eisenhower State Park was named to honor what famous World War II hero?

\_\_\_\_\_  
4 23 9 7 8 20    4    5 9 19 5 14 8 15 23 5 18

Where was this popular five-star general born in 1890?

\_\_\_\_\_  
4 5 14 9 19 15 14



Where did his father work?

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 20    20 8 5    11 1 20 25    18 1 9 12 18 15 1 4

Although he was born in Texas, the family moved when he was not quite 2 years old. What town did he grow up in and consider to be his home town?

\_\_\_\_\_  
1 2 9 12 5 14 5    11 1 14 19 1 19

What was his job when Eisenhower State Park opened to the public in 1958?

\_\_\_\_\_  
16 18 5 19 9 4 5 14 20    15 6    20 8 5    21 19 1

# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 1

Eisenhower State Park is located on the southern shore of what reservoir?

12 1 11 5      20 5 24 15 13 1

The lake contains the water from what two rivers?

The 18 5 4 River and the 23 1 19 8 9 20 1 River

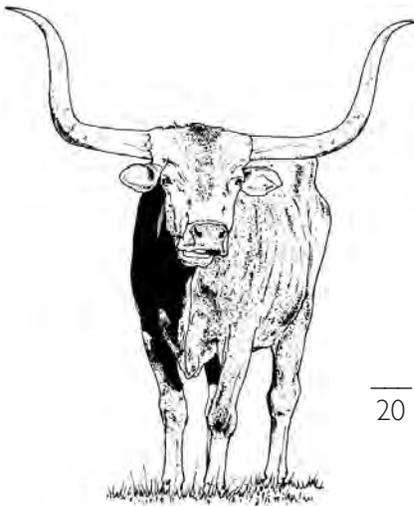
There are several famous historic routes that pass near the park where early settlers found good places to cross the Red River.

People crossed the Red River by using a ferry before bridges were built. What famous ferry crossing is just east of the park near the Texas Welcome Center and transported people between Texas and Indian Territory?

3 15 12 2 5 18 20 19      6 5 18 18 25

What famous stage line that carried mail and passengers used the ferry to cross the Red River to its mail stop at Sherman?

2 21 20 20 5 18 6 9 5 12 4



Trail drovers herded cattle north across the Red River just west of here at Preston Bend, a place now covered by the waters of Lake Texoma. The herds traveled north to Missouri and Illinois on what famous cattle trail?

20 8 5      19 8 1 23 14 5 5      20 18 1 9 12



# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 2

## Ike the Fisherman

Ike and his brothers loved to fish. Ike learned to fish from an outdoorsman named Bob Davis. He learned to catch, clean and cook his fish over an open campfire. He went fishing as often as he could – even during the time he was president of the United States.

You can be like Ike. See if you can catch your own fish here at Eisenhower State Park. Lake Texoma is famous for its largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped bass, crappie and catfish. The largest blue catfish ever caught in Texas came from Lake Texoma. It weighed a whopping 121.6 pounds!

If you catch a fish, take a picture of you with your fish and paste it here.

I caught a \_\_\_\_\_.

My fish weighed \_\_\_\_\_ pound(s), \_\_\_\_\_ ounces.

My fish was \_\_\_\_\_ inches long. (Remember to measure from nose to tail.)  
Ask a ranger for help if you haven't measured a fish before.

If you caught a big one, check the TPWD Web site ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)) to see if you set a Lake Texoma Junior Angler record. If you think you set a new record, talk to a ranger to find out how to report your catch.



# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 2

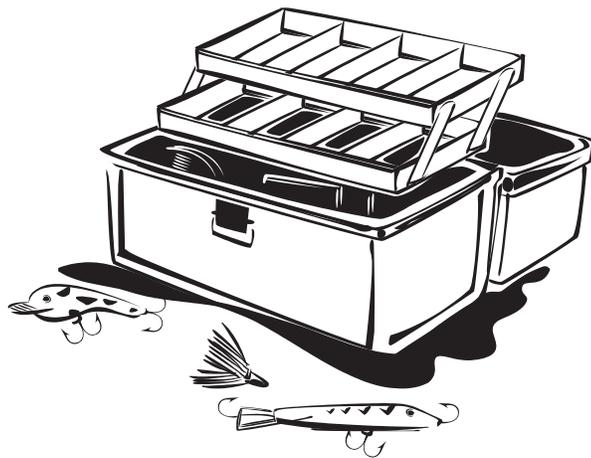
## Ike the Fisherman

Every good fisherman needs a tackle box.

Find the things you need to put in your tackle box in the word search below.

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

BOBBERS  
CLIPPERS  
FIRST AID KIT  
HOOKS  
LURES  
MONOFILAMENT  
PLIERS  
RULES  
SWIVELS  
TACKLEBOX  
TAPE MEASURE  
WEIGHTS



# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 3

## Ike the Cook

When Ike was growing up, he went on camping trips along the Smoky Hill River in Kansas with his friends. He often served as the camp cook, making everything from chili to tamales to squirrel stew. As president of the United States, Ike helped popularize outdoor cooking and recreation. He liked to cook on the grill as well as make chili and vegetable soup.

Now it's your turn to be camp cook. Talk to your parents to figure out what you can cook on your camping trip or picnic. It might be something simple like hot dogs or hobo meals or s'mores. Or you might make your own chili, like Ike. Be sure to work with your parents to pick out something good for your age and skill level. Don't forget to be extra careful around fires and hot coals. Make sure you have an adult with you anytime you are cooking on a fire, grill or campstove.

**What did you cook?**



**Did you like it?**

**Ask your family and friends to rate your cooking:**

1 star – not so hot; 5 stars – outstanding!



# BE LIKE IKE | Activity 4

## Ike the Gamer

Ike liked to play games. In high school he played sports like baseball and football. When he was younger, he played games with his brothers and his friends like “follow-the-leader” and “hide-and-seek.” Grab some friends and try some old-time games that Ike and his brothers would have played.

Pick one of these games we’ve adapted to our Red River location or make up your own game.

### \_\_\_\_\_ **Red River, Red Rover**

Teams form two equal lines, holding hands and facing each other about 15 yards apart.

Teams take turns calling another player to try to break through their line:

“Red River, Red Rover, let [player’s name] come over!”

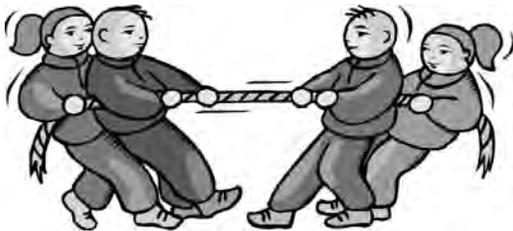
The player runs to the other line, trying to break through the line of the other team. If the handhold breaks, those two players are taken back to the runner’s team. If the handhold doesn’t break, the runner becomes part of the opposing team. The team with most people at the end of a set time period wins!

### \_\_\_\_\_ **Red River Tug-of-War**

Oklahoma and Texas argued so much over where the state boundary line at the Red River should be that it took the Supreme Court to make a decision. In tug-of-war, two teams pull on the same rope, trying to pull the opposing side over a dividing line. Mark your middle line and then mark start lines for each team at the same distance (about 5 yards) on either side. Then line up the team members behind the two team leaders and pull!

\_\_\_\_\_ **My Game’s Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

How to play my game:



# STEWARDSHIP | Protecting Eisenhower SP

Protecting Eisenhower State Park is a big job. Every year over 100,000 people visit this park. The rangers are charged with protecting the park's natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of all Texans and future generations. Think about would happen in the following situations. Then draw or describe what you think would happen to the park.

What would happen to Eisenhower State Park?



If each park visitor fed a squirrel

× 100,000 visitors

If each park visitor walked off the trail



× 100,000 visitors



If each park visitor left a plastic water bottle or aluminum can

× 100,000 visitors

If each park visitor took a rock or fossil



× 100,000 visitors



If each park visitor picked a wildflower

× 100,000 visitors

I will help protect Eisenhower State Park by \_\_\_\_\_

# STEWARDSHIP | Making a Difference

## How long do you think litter lasts?



Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Aluminum can	80-200 years
Plastic grocery bag	20 years
Styrofoam cup	50 years
Plastic beverage bottle	450 years

## How will you make a difference?

Junior Rangers help us take care of Eisenhower State Park. Pick two of the volunteer activities listed below to help us keep the park clean and safe.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Help collect litter in the park by filling a bag and taking it to a dumpster.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles to take to a recycling center.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leave my camping or picnic area cleaner than I found it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ See if your group can help with taking care of a trail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask at the office to see if there are any special service projects.



# INTERVIEW A RANGER

Being a park ranger is an interesting job. No two days are ever alike. Park rangers protect natural habitats and cultural treasures, maintain the landscape and facilities for the safety and enjoyment of visitors, and teach people about what makes the park special. Find a ranger and interview them to find out more about this challenging job.

Name of ranger \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like best about being a park ranger?

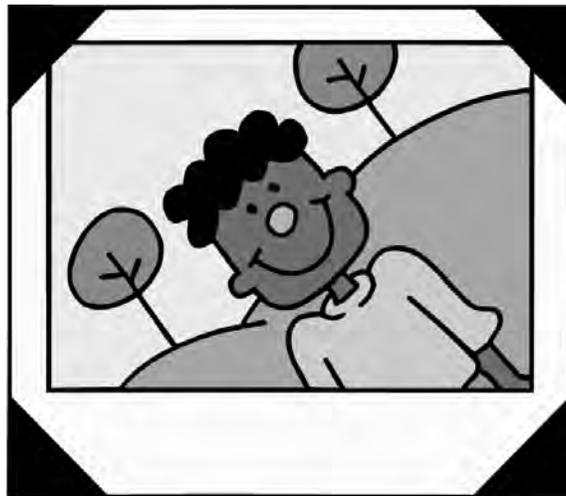
What is the most difficult part of your job?

What is your favorite time of year at the park and why?

What did you have to do to become a park ranger?

Your own question:

Here's a place to paste a picture of you and the ranger you interviewed.



# **JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE**

**As a Junior Ranger,  
I want to be a protector of the parks.**

When I visit the parks, I pledge that:

I will stay on the paths and trails and obey safety rules.

I will help keep the park clean by not littering or polluting.

I will not feed, pet or harass wildlife.

I will leave all plants, animals and artifacts  
in the park for other people to enjoy.

I will learn about nature and the history of Texas.

I will talk to my friends and family and  
encourage them to protect the park, too.



Life's better outside.®



**Life's better outside.®**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)**

**Eisenhower State Park  
Denison, Texas**

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