

JUNIOR RANGER



VOLUME TWO
SUMMER 2007

GAZETTE

A publication of the National Park Service,
the National Park Foundation and Unilever,
a Proud Partner of America's National Parks.

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April 28, 2007

Proclaimed to be Junior Ranger Day by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary Bomar. More than one million kids and families are expected to take part in Junior Ranger activities during National Park Week 2007 (April 21-29) in parks, in schools and on the web.

The National Park Junior Ranger program connects children and families to America's history, culture, lands and landscapes while fostering a greater appreciation for the preservation and protection of these iconic resources. National Park Junior Ranger Programs encourage kids and families to Explore, Learn and Discover these special places.

Starting during National Park Week 2007 the first official Junior Ranger Day celebration will connect millions of kids to National Parks through in-park, in-school and online activities. Building to a national commemoration and celebration of National Parks, Junior Ranger Day intends to increase participation and interest in National Parks while fostering the next generation of stewards.

Watch for Junior Ranger Day activities in your area and in your favorite National Parks.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

"Explore. Learn. Protect."

The National Park Junior Ranger Motto is "Explore. Learn. Protect." These three words capture much of the history of the National Park Service. Exploration of our country spurred discovery of its wonders and an interest to learn more.

The Beginning With the advent of space travel and a new global awareness in the 1960s, the concept of the "Junior Park Ranger" was born in California's State Parks. Soon after, the National Park Service adopted the program and began to develop Junior Ranger programs of its own in order to engage young people in the stories embodied in their National Parks.

Today, there are Junior Ranger programs in 260 of our National Parks.

Explore. Learn. Protect. Explore. Interest and caring lead kids and families to discover places they want to learn about. **Learn.** Families learning together about special places like National Parks fosters a connection and a bond. **Protect.** By exploring and learning about National Parks, people gain an appreciation for these special places and feel a personal responsibility to protect them today for tomorrow.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NEW UNIFORMS
- OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK
- PADRE ISLAND
- MEET THE NPS
- EVERGLADES
- A DAY IN THE PARKS
- KIDS FOR NATIONAL PARKS
- WEBRANGERS

The ARROWHEAD

The official emblem of the National Park Service.



The arrowhead is the official emblem of the National Park Service and is proudly displayed in National Parks. From building entrances to official vehicles and on the Rangers' uniforms, the Arrowhead proudly identifies National Park Service people and places. The emblem is designed to represent the plants, animals, land formations, waters and history protected and preserved throughout the National Park system. Can you find each of these things on the arrowhead?



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EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT



National Park Volunteer Opportunities for Families



Everyone can help! Check for volunteer job listings at www.volunteer.gov or follow the VOLUNTEER link on your favorite National Park's web page. You'll find all the parks at www.nps.gov. Volunteers can make a difference by guiding visitors and giving demonstrations from maintaining trails to helping care for historic buildings. Are plants and animals your interest? Find a park that needs help with natural resource programs. Whatever your skills, you can find a way to help take care of YOUR National Parks.

If you're a Boy or Girl Scout looking for a service project, check with park staff to see if volunteer work in the park is a possibility.

National Parks America Tour

The National Parks America Tour is designed to provide National Parks with the much-needed manpower resources for important projects while engaging communities in their National Parks. The National Parks America Tour hosts 25 events each year which enable the parks to complete projects ranging from clean-up and painting to trail restoration and installation of sustainable boardwalks. To date, more than 250,000 manpower hours have been donated to National Parks; an in-kind donation of more than \$4.25 million.

Volunteers can see that their work is making a real difference in National Parks. Over the course of three years at Pea Ridge National Military Park, a total of 750

volunteers worked annual Tour events restoring historically accurate worm-rail fencing. The three events at Pea Ridge resulted in more than \$90,000 in taxpayer savings on work that would have taken the park personnel more than 45 days to complete.

When the work is complete, the Tour salutes America's Best — its volunteers — at the Great American Picnic!

For more information, visit the National Park Foundation website at: www.nationalparks.org. The National Parks America Tour is sponsored by Unilever, National Park Foundation, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Take Pride In America.

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EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

NATIONAL PARKS TRIVIA

Arches National Park

Arches National Park serves as the setting for parts of George Lucas's Star Wars movies as well as the site where a young Indiana Jones snatched the cross of Coronado from greedy treasure hunters

Point Reyes National Seashore

During his circumnavigation of the globe, it is believed that Sir Francis Drake came ashore at Point Reyes for repairs in the summer of 1579.

Statue of Liberty National Monument

The weight of copper used in the Statue of Liberty is 179,200 pounds. The thickness of the copper sheeting is 3/32" thick, the same as two pennies compressed together.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Spanning 275 feet across, Rainbow Bridge in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is the largest known natural arch in the world. Rainbow Bridge is a sacred Native American site.

Yellowstone National Park

Old Faithful erupts 18 to 20 times every day with two patterns of eruption – short ones that last up to two minutes and long ones that last three to five minutes. On average, 3,700 to 8,400 gallons of water are discharged each time.

Grand Canyon National Park

To travel the Grand Canyon, end to end, means a 277 mile journey, about equal the distance from Chicago to Louisville, KY or from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

Boston National Historical Park

At nearly 300 years old, the historic U.S.S. Constitution, in berth at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston National Historical Park, is the oldest active commissioned ship in the United States Navy.

Mount Rainier National Park

Mount Rainier is an active volcano reaching nearly three miles above sea level. The sulfurous fumes emitted from its summit vents are reminders that its internal fires continue to smolder. The last major eruption occurred approximately 2,000 years ago.

Yosemite National Park

The giant sequoia trees in Yosemite National Park grow to towering heights of 300 feet above the ground. They do not die of old age, they die by toppling over.

Grand Teton National Park

Bison are the largest mammal living in Grand Teton National Park, many standing more than six feet tall and weighing 2,000 pounds.

Saguaro National Park

Saguaro Cacti, like those found in Saguaro National Park, serve as desert hotel and snack bars, providing sweet fruit to hungry desert animals and shelter to birds, reptiles and small animals.

Petroglyph National Monument

Petroglyph National Monument is home to two resident species of millipedes that are extremely important to the desert environment. Millipedes are nature's recyclers, eating almost anything dead, or alive.

Muir Woods National Monument

Muir Woods National Monument is named for noted conservationist John Muir who proclaimed this spot, "The best tree-lovers monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world."

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Alcatraz Island located in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, not only was a military prison from 1859 to 1934, but it also served as a federal penitentiary as well as a holding site for the Hopi American Indian tribe.

Everglades National Park

The Anhinga, or snake bird, looks more reptilian than avian. After eating a fish or small snake, the S-necked bird will climb and perch on a dry elevated spot and expand its glossy black feathers. This is not just for show. The Anhinga lacks a protective covering of oil so its feathers get water-logged and must dry-out before they can fly.

Cape Cod National Seashore

The Cape is a glacial deposit that is constantly undergoing changes as winds and water move sand along the shorelines. Great Island, where whalers used to congregate, is now connected to the peninsula.

Acadia National Park

Acadia's Cadillac Mountain is the highest point on the Atlantic, north of Brazil, which makes it the first place on the east coast of the United States to be touched by the rising sun from October 7 to March 6.

Channel Islands National Park

During the Ice Ages, standing 14-feet tall, Mammoths spent time along the highlands now known as the California coast. Mammoths swam to nearby Channel Islands adapting to their new smaller habitats lacking predators by becoming small. Before the Mammoths died out they were pygmies, only five-feet tall.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

The landscape of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho has a volcanic landscape so otherworldly that in 1969, preparing for their walk on the moon, Apollo 14 astronauts visited the park to explore the area's unique geography.

Fort Sumter National Monument

The first shot of the Civil War didn't hit anything. It was a 10-inch mortar shell that exploded above Fort Sumter, which is now a National Monument in South Carolina, as a signal for Confederate artillery to open fire on the Union-held fort.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

There were approximately 400 workers that carved Mount Rushmore from October 1927 to October 1941. Even though the process of building the monument was extremely dangerous, no lives were lost.

Canaveral National Seashore

Playalinda on Canaveral National Seashore is so close to the Kennedy Space Center that the area will close 3 days prior and reopen the day after a successful shuttle launch.

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JUNIOR RANGER GAZETTE

EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

Dog Days at Denali



1. What do the dogs eat?

The dogs at the Denali National Park Kennels eat approximately one pound of dry dog food very high in protein and fat that's specially formulated for working dogs. Protein gives them the energy they need to work, and fat helps keep them warm. In winter they receive fat and a dietary supplement which add vitamins and minerals to their diet.

2. How fast do the dogs go?

If the conditions are right, the dogs may sprint out of here at 17 mph and settling into a traveling pace of 8 mph on good trails. Sled dogs trained for short, sprint races can average well over 20 mph; distance racers average over 10 mph; freight dogs may only go 2 or 3 mph.

3. Do you ever fall off of the sled and crash?

The first rule of mushing is to never let go of your sled! If you do, it will go on without you!

4. How far can a dog team go?

This depends on many factors such as the condition of the trail, the temperature, the dogs' conditioning, the weight of the load in the sled. Fifty to sixty miles is not unrealistic for a long day with ideal conditions; but we seldom travel more than 37 miles in a day.

5. How do the dogs know to run?

They want to run! They are excited about hitting the trail. We attach them to the sled [each dog has jobs they are best at — not all dogs can be the lead] and then say "Hike!" or "Let's Go!" and they're off!

6. What do you like best about your job?

The sled dog patrols began in Denali to help protect park animals from poachers. It feels good to be part of the tradition of the sled dog patrols, protecting the wilderness.

7. How could I get a job like yours?

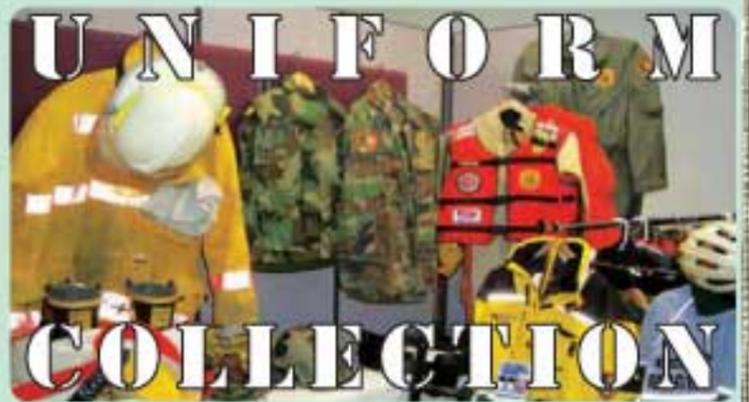
Denali National Park hires kennel assistants in the summer and two volunteers in the winter to help do patrols.

1. Why do you save old uniforms? What parts do you save?

We save uniforms to help teach people about National Parks; about the people that care for them and the many jobs they do. We like to collect as many things as we can so we can tell the story. A ranger's job has many requirements; each piece of the uniform gets the job done.

2. Where do you keep the uniforms?

In a large room designed to store clothing and accessories. We wear gloves so that they're not harmed or stained by the oils in our hands. We keep the uniforms safe from mold, mildew, dust and moths. They have served their Rangers well, so now they are treated with respect.



3. What's the funniest thing in the collection?

A 1960's mini skirt that is very short when compared to today's regulated length.

4. What is your favorite thing?

NPS's first Director, Stephen T. Mather's feather pillow that he took with him on camping trips. I love to show-it-off as it's very personal and rare.

5. What do you feel when you wear the ranger uniform?

I feel myself standing tall, straight and proud. When I wear the uniform I am a symbol of pride in our nation's stories and land.

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Padre Island National Seashore, encompassing 130,434 acres, is the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of barrier island in the world protecting a rare coastal prairie; a complex, dynamic dune system; and the Laguna Madre, one of the few remaining saltwater lagoon environments. Padre Island and surrounding waters provide an important home for sea and land plants and animals, including rare, threatened, and endangered species. More than 350 bird species come to the seashore to winter, to breed, or to simply pass over in transit as they pass along the Central Flyway, one of four major bird migration routes through North America.



The Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, *Lepidochelys kempii*, is the smallest of the five species of sea turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico and is the only sea turtle with an almost circular upper shell. [other species are the loggerhead, green, hawksbill, and leatherback]. In 1978, the United States and Mexico re-established a nesting colony of Kemp's Ridley turtles to help insure their survival. Nearly sixty-percent of all Kemp's Ridley sea turtles in the United States nest at Padre Island National Seashore making it the most important Kemp's Ridley nesting beach in America.

In 2006, 64 nests were documented at the seashore producing 7,292 eggs and a release of 5,412 hatchlings that entered the Gulf of Mexico from the beaches at Padre Island. Padre Island National Seashore's Sea Turtle Science and Recovery Program is successfully re-establishing a nesting colony with the help of a staff and volunteer corps of 140 people. Gaining community interest and national recognition, the Kemp's Ridley hatchling releases attracted more than 2,000 park visitors in 2006.



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JUNIOR RANGER GAZETTE EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

MEET SOME OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICES' MOST INTERESTING PEOPLE



Stacy Humphreys, Park Ranger/Historian
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP

- 1. What do you do and how did you prepare for your job?** I'm in the Interpretation Division, which means that I get to greet visitors, give tours, supervise summer interns and seasonal rangers and lead programs at the battlefields. Any time there is a living history program or demonstration in the park, where guns or artillery are fired, I'm there to help supervise the program. In college I did a summer internship at Gettysburg National Military Park.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?** I love that I work at a Civil War park that is rich in history.
- 3. What do you like least about your job?** I don't have a least favorite part of my job. I have always admired rangers and I worked very hard to have the job that I have today.
- 4. What should I do if I want a job like yours?**
You can begin visiting the National Parks near you. Many parks have Junior Ranger programs that allow you to explore and learn.



Interview with Dorothy Howard, Youth Programs Coordinator
National Park Service

- 1. What do you do and how did you prepare for your job?** I coordinate Youth Programs for the National Park Service. My entire career has been in youth programs and for nine years I have been at the NPS.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?** Visiting our various sites and interacting with youth out of the office and getting involved in work or fun projects such as teaching classes and working on building projects.
- 3. What do you like least about your job?** I thoroughly enjoy all aspects of my job. It's been great getting to do everything from being a counselor and teacher to my current management position.
- 4. What should I do if I want a job like yours?** You can get involved in one of the many programs designed specifically for young people such as programs with: Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, Public Land Corps and the Student Conservation Association.



Tina Boehle, Fire Communications and Education Specialist
Fire Management Program Center, National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho

- 1. What do you do and how did you prepare for your job?** I teach people that fire is not good or bad – it is a force of nature like an earthquake or a flood. It's a necessary part of most ecosystems – the land evolved with fire on it, and needs fire to continue to thrive. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and Spanish.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?** Variety. On a daily basis I could do anything from being interviewed by a newspaper or television station to meeting with people and talking with them about fire in the National Parks. Every day is different.
- 3. What do you like least about your job?** I miss working in a National Park setting.
- 4. What should I do if I want a job like yours?** It's important to be a good public speaker and writer. You can start building experience by volunteering or through an internship.



Gonty Kita, Mountaineering Ranger
Denali National Park and Preserve

- 1. What do you do and how did you prepare for your job?**
I've climbed since I was nine and really enjoy it. Before I got this job, I worked for more than ten years as a mountain climbing guide in Denali (McKinley) and other locations in South America and Europe. I'm an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and have taken avalanche training courses provided by local area experts.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?** The satisfaction I get from protecting one of our nation's most beautiful national treasures so that future generations can enjoy a place that has shaped my life and also sunny days spent in the mountains.
- 3. What do you like least about your job?** Having to go look for and rescue friends and to clean up after people.
- 4. What should I do if I want a job like yours?** Get involved with an outdoor club in your area or volunteer for a local search and rescue team doing anything that they may need help with.



Seth P. D. Riley, PhD, Wildlife Ecologist, National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

- 1. What do you do and how did you prepare for your job?** I work with the National Park Service and California state parks studying and conserving the puma (mountain lion) populations. I have always been interested wildlife taking science and biology classes in school and spending a lot of time observing and enjoying nature. I've also worked with many different types of animals like deer, foxes, raccoons and bobcats.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?** I love being able to work outside in beautiful places working with amazing animals. I like to educate people about conserving wildlife, protecting animals and ecosystems.
- 3. What do you like least about your job?** The constant battle to fund wildlife research projects.
- 4. What should I do if I want a job like yours?** Study hard in school, particularly in science and biology classes; spend time outdoors - looking for and watching wild animals, identifying plants, and just observing and enjoying nature.



Need a Job?

Wanted: RoadKill Collector

Must be able to work long hours outdoors in all conditions, braving oncoming traffic while picking up creatures of various size, breed and in various states of decay. Benefits include working outdoors. Strong stomachs a plus.

In the National Park Service, we encounter many different occupational duties that deal with the great outdoors, but it's not all picnics and parades. If you're like us, you'll gain a new understanding and appreciation for all the often-unpleasant functions someone performs to make your everyday life easier and safer.

Meet Sherman Moore and Rick Budge, two members of the George Washington Memorial Parkway Maintenance Crew. On a typical day, there are between two to 20 plus dead animals along the Parkway and Sherman Moore and Rick Budge give their all despite dealing with inclement weather, crawling into small spaces, facing oncoming traffic or facing situations that are just plain disgusting.

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JUNIOR RANGER GAZETTE EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

By Sam Maslow

A few summers ago I completed my first Junior Ranger program at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (MO) and since I've been participating in Junior Ranger National Park Service sites building a large collection of Junior Ranger badges and patches. My family plans trips so I can earn badges and patches at parks we haven't visited yet.

Because I like the Junior Ranger program so much, I decided to create my own Web site about it: www.juniorranger.info where I display my badges and patches.

The Junior Ranger activity booklets are great at teaching me interesting stuff I never knew before.

At Saguaro National Park (AZ), the Junior Ranger program taught me about American deserts and desert animals. For example, I learned that the jackrabbit has tall ears to reflect the sun; Saguaro Cactus grow from tiny seeds up to about 40 feet living to be 150 or 200 years old.

Fascinated with the Civil War, I enjoyed Petersburg National Battlefield (VA) while learning about Ulysses Grant's army, military



strategy, soldiers' clothes, guns, and flag signaling. I pretended that I was a soldier and wrote a letter home.

Right now, I have more than 250 badges and patches with plans to keep visiting and collecting until I get one from every National Park.



WebRangers

Stuck at home on a rainy day? You can still be a part of the National Park Junior Ranger Program through WebRangers – the online junior ranger program. Visit the site, and become a member of a quickly growing community of young people interested in the world around them and involved with their nation's natural, cultural and historical resources – WebRangers!

Just visit www.nps.gov/webrangers to play games and learn about the National Parks. The real fun begins when you sign up to become a WebRanger. Print out a personalized membership card, select your own ranger station (even pick the view from your window!) to your base of operations. Use the tools in the ranger station to search for activities, send postcards to your friends, and share your own park photos and stories with other WebRangers.

As you complete activities, your ranger station allows you to track your achievements and earn rewards.

You can:

- * Help a baby turtle reach the sea
- * Be a spy during the Revolutionary War
- * Build a train and travel through time and space to solve National Park mysteries
- * Or even, experience life as a puma.

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EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

JUNIOR RANGERS AND THE WANDERING WATTS



Hello, we are the Watts family from North Carolina. When our children were small, we made annual visits to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park building family traditions of camping, Jr. Ranger activities, horseback riding and biking the eleven-mile loop around Cades Cove.

When the children grew older, we began planning trips about the United States, visiting National Parks and experiencing the Junior Ranger Programs. To date, we have visited 69 National Parks – a marvelous experience for the entire family.

Through the years we've collected many family stories and favorite adventures. We climbed through the Fiery Furnace in Arches, enjoyed the cool air of the blowhole at Wupatki, survived a mule trip down into Bryce Canyon, were awed by the beauty of Crater Lake, woke up surrounded by buffalo in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, saw the sun rise on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia, struggled up the Great Sand Dunes and enclosed ourselves in the ride to the top of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Perhaps our most memorable experience occurred while visiting the Everglades National Park. We decided to take bikes on the 15-mile loop around Shark Valley. It had been dry and the alligators were in bunches in the moist canal along the bike/tram path with about eight to ten alligators per mile. While admiring a pile of baby alligators, we realized the "mama" was about four feet from our bikes! We hurriedly made it to the observation tower and were enjoying the view, when we realized a terrible storm was coming. We quickly headed for the bikes and began the eight mile return trip to the visitor's center as the storm strengthened creating giant raindrops that hurt, causing my son to call it "pain rain".

Next, hail began to fall along with a marked increase in wind speed. The alligators began moving onto the road – up to 133 at last count: an adventuresome bike ride that we will never forget!

As a family, the Junior Ranger Program has been a life-enriching experience. By participating in this program, we have gained knowledge, learning opportunities and we are convinced that the program is exceptional in aiding the development of well-rounded individuals. We feel a special attachment to the National Parks believing that we could not be the people and family we are without the experiences we have shared in the parks.

Submitted by
Larry, Louanne, Sarah, Stephanie and Emory Watts
Statesville, NC



How We

Our names are Anton and Aleksei Sorensen and we're 10 years old, in 5th grade at Lake Bluff School in Shorewood, Wisconsin. We raised \$158 for the National Parks Junior Ranger program. Just before our fundraising campaign, we visited National Parks in Utah and Colorado earning Junior Ranger badges at Mesa Verde, Hovenweep, Natural Bridges, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, and Arches.

Our dad thought of the idea after reading about First Lady Laura Bush encouraging donations for the National Park Junior Ranger programs. Our idea was to sell popcorn and soda from a wagon and mom made popcorn. It was great as lots of people bought one item and told us to "keep the change."

We want other kids to get involved in the Junior Ranger Program and learn about nature and history. We've earned Junior Ranger badges in every National Park we visit. Anton's favorite National Parks are Dinosaur National Monument and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Aleksei's favorite National Parks are Death Valley and Yellowstone.

Anton and Aleksei Sorensen

Made a Difference



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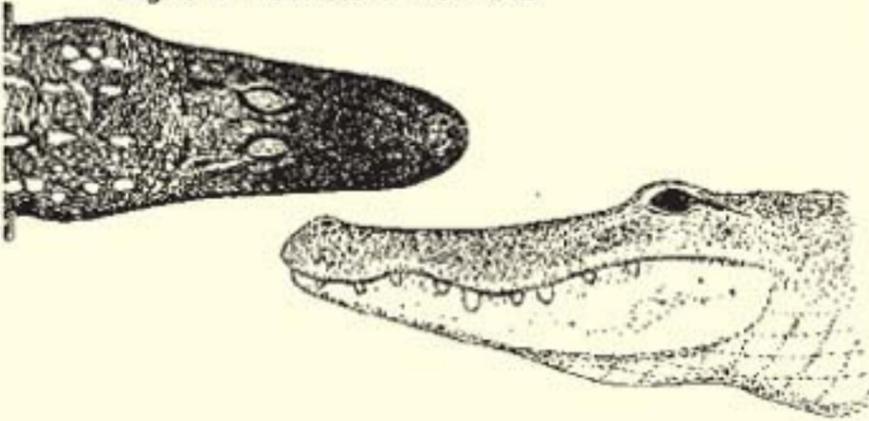
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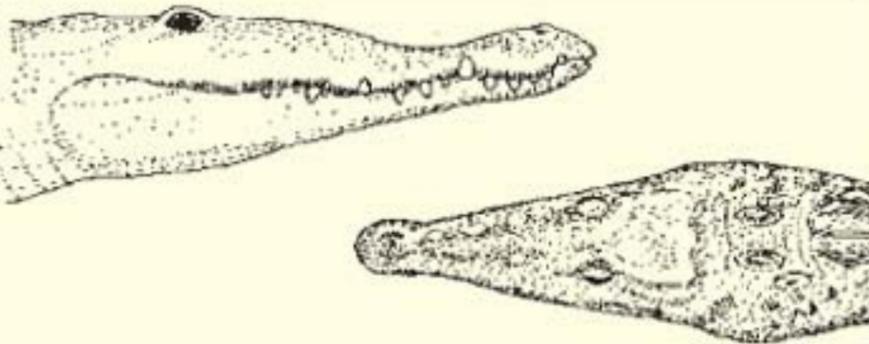
ALLIGATOR

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR (Alligator mississippiensis)

- Broad Snout
- Blackish coloration in adults
- Only teeth of the upper jaw visible when jaws are closed
- Range: Southeastern United States
- Nesting: Nest is a mound of vegetation, constructed by the female alligator in freshwater environments.



VS



AMERICAN CROCODILE (Crocodilus acutus)

- Narrow Snout
- Olive brown coloration
- Teeth of both jaws visible when jaws are closed
- Range: In the U.S. found only in the southern tip of Florida. Also the Caribbean, Central and South America. The American Crocodile is an Endangered Species. Only a few hundred remain in the U.S.
- Nesting: Lays eggs in a mud or sand nest in brackish or saltwater environments.

CROCODILE

The Everglades

The Everglades can be described as a nine-million acre "river of grass." Early colonial settlers thought the swampland was useless and decided to drain it to build canals and roads. The Central and South Florida Project in 1948 allowed more people to live throughout South Florida and visit the Everglades, but it severely damaged the natural structure of the area. Today, 50% of South Florida's original wetland areas no longer exist and many plant and animal species are at risk of becoming extinct.

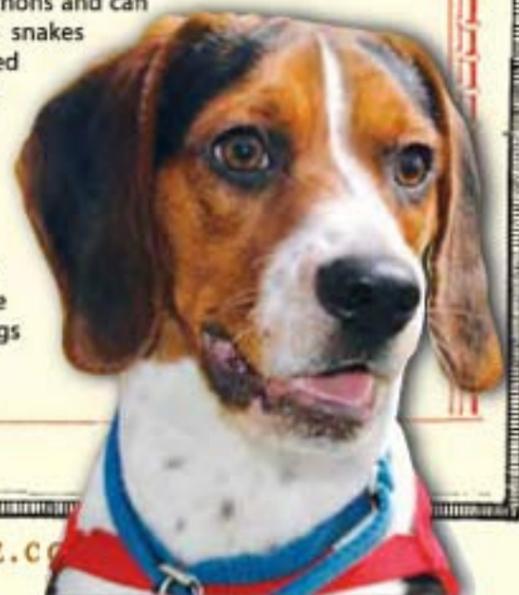
The National Park Service is working hard to restore the ecosystem in the Everglades. Officials and engineers came up with a plan that directs unused water that normally flows into the ocean to areas of the park that need it most. Over time, this water will increase plant and animal life, improve habitat quality, expand the overall area of the swampland and reduce flood damage.



Python Pete

Pythons are a growing problem in Everglades National Park. Not naturally found in South Florida, many people buy pythons as pets and later decide that they get too big and are too difficult to care for. What do they do with them? Release them into the wild. Discarded pythons multiply and kill wildlife such as: wild cats, squirrels, birds and even alligators! Trappers have caught 156 pythons in the park; even as long as 13 feet in length.

What are park officials doing to combat the python problem? Lori Oberhofer, Everglades wildlife technician, came up with a solution named Python Pete. Python Pete is a beagle puppy who is being trained to sniff out the scent of these snakes so that they can be caught and relocated to a more suitable environment. Pete is learning the scent of the pythons and can already track down captive snakes that Lori has placed throughout the park. Pete has a special red "work leash" that Lori trains him with to keep him safe from the pythons. If Pete is able to help the Everglades with their python population, the park hopes to expand the program and train more dogs just like Python Pete.



JUNIOR RANGER



VOLUME TWO
SUMMER 2007

GAZETTE

A publication of the National Park Service,
the National Park Foundation and Unilever,
a Proud Partner of America's National Parks.

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JUNIOR RANGER GAZETTE EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

ALL TRAILS LEAD TO ADVENTURE!

Did you know that the National Park Service helps care for 20 National Scenic and Historic Trails (more than 30,000 miles!) with partners at the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management? In the last 10 years, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) helped local partners and communities to develop their own trails. There are also trails in the parks – between 13–15,000 miles of trail. Park trails include hiking and biking trails, trails for horseback riding and backpacking – even water trails for canoes or kayaks.

Using a trail is the best way to find adventure. How many trails are there near your home? Find the trails near you and hike, bike, paddle or boat your way to adventure!

COULD YOU WALK 2,175 MILES IN THEIR SHOES?

The Appalachian Trail is a long, skinny National Park. It's 2,175 miles long and runs from Maine to Georgia – passing through six National Parks along the way. It follows the Appalachian Mountains through wild, wooded lands, farm country and towns. Because it wanders so far, it is within a day's driving distance for two-thirds of the population of the United States with about four million people each year driving the trail.

You can hike a mile or two in one of the 14 states the trail touches, or hike the whole trail. Every year, some people go for it...and they're not all adults! People of all ages and abilities enjoy short walks, day hikes, and long-distance backpacking journeys, viewing spectacular scenery, exploring, adventuring, and exercising.

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

Did you know that some of the trails in National Parks are built and maintained by kids? There's a group called the Student Conservation Association (SCA) that helps young people get a feel for what it would be like to work in a National Park. Many of their interns are college age, but each summer they also send out many crews made up of high school students to work in parks and forests near where they live. They sleep under the stars and use cool tools and only have two adults around! Check out the SCA website at www.thesca.org.

TRAVELING IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

Traveling on trails through the backcountry is a great way to explore and learn more about your National Parks. If you're prepared for the Backcountry, you're in for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Always check with a Ranger in the park before beginning your trip, and remember tips to:

- Try to avoid traveling alone.
- Check-in with the rangers and leave written plans describing how many people are in your group, where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Bring extra food, water, and clothing in case climate conditions change or you're delayed.
- Bring a first-aid kit and know how to use it.
- Weather can change quickly in all seasons, dress in layers.
- Wear sturdy shoes with ankle support when hiking.
- Bring a map, compass, and other orienteering equipment. Remember that GPS navigation devices and cellular phones will not work in many park areas.
- Bring an insect repellent or headnet during the warm season in case biting insects are active.
- You must filter, boil, or treat water before drinking it or using it to prepare food.
- Store your food properly. Use bear-resistant food lockers when available, and always check with park rangers for the best food storage methods in your area.
- Do not feed wild animals. It's not good for them and could mean injury [a kick, scratch or bite] to you. Let wild animals stay wild.



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EXPLORE • LEARN • PROTECT

R E C I P E S ★ R E C I P E S

Cocoa Mounds

Mix and boil 2 minutes:	Remove and stir in:
2 cups sugar	3 cups oatmeal
1/3 c cocoa	2 t vanilla
1/2 c milk	
1/4 c butter	Drop by teaspoonfuls
	onto waxed paper and
Optional stir-ins:	let cool.
1/2 c raisins	Pack these along on your
1/2 c granola	next visit to your favorite park.
1/2 c coconut	

Betty Berrett, Petrified Forest NP
From: *What's Cooking in Our National Parks*,
National Park Service, Western Region 1972

National Park Ranger Cookies

1 cup shortening	1 t baking soda	Mix all of the ingredients together well. You may need to use your hands! When everything is well mixed, drop the dough by teaspoonfuls onto a cookie sheet and flatten each blob slightly with a fork.
1 cup brown sugar	1/4 t salt	
1 cup white sugar	2 cup uncooked oats	
2 eggs, well beaten	2 cup corn flakes	
1t vanilla	1 cup coconut	
2 cup sifted flour	1 cup chopped nuts	
1/2 t baking powder	1 cup raisins	

Mary Patterson, Pinnacles NM
From: *What's Cooking in Our National Parks*, National Park Service, Western Region 1972

Apple, Nut, & Honey Club

1/4 cup Skippy® Natural Super Chunk® Peanut Butter Spread
3 slices whole grain bread, toasted, if desired
1/4 cup thinly sliced apple
1 Tbsp. honey

Instructions:
Evenly spread Skippy® Natural Super Chunk Peanut Butter Spread on 2 bread slices, then top once slice with apple. Evenly spread honey on remaining bread slice.
Assemble sandwich, then cut into quarters.

Serves: 1
Preparation Time: 10 minutes

The National Park Foundation believes it is critical that all children have the opportunity to experience America through their National Parks. As the future stewards of these special places, it is important that our children understand their significance of these places and develop a sense of pride in their heritage. Programs like Junior Rangers encourage kids to explore the natural world around them, learn about the history and diverse culture of America and protect these places for future generations. To find out how you can help support Junior Rangers visit: www.nationalparks.org



As the longest-standing corporate partner of the National Park Foundation and a Proud Partner of America's National Parks, Unilever's commitment to preserve and protect America's National Parks spans thirteen years and by 2008, \$50 million in donations to the National Park Foundation.

Unilever A global consumer product goods company with more than 300 home, personal care and food brands in the United States and with more than 150 million people around the world each day using a Unilever product. Unilever's global mission is to add vitality to life, to make people look good, feel good and get the most out of life while acting sustainably and giving back in the communities where we live and work.

Unilever adds vitality to America's National Parks in priority areas including volunteerism through the National Parks America Tour; sustainability through the Recycling at Work Sustainable Grants program; children and families through the National Parks Junior Ranger Program; health and wellness through the Healthy Parks-Healthy Living Program supported by Lipton® Tea and enhancing the National Park visitor experience through education and outreach programs.

Join Unilever in preserving America's National Parks for future generations by supporting the National Park Foundation and by engaging in the National Park experience with your family and friends through Junior Ranger Programs in America's National Parks.



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TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION IS HELPING CONNECT OUR KIDS TO THEIR NATIONAL PARKS AND TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, VISIT

www.nationalparks.org