



Junior Ranger Handbook

Blue Ridge Parkway

A Junior Ranger is someone like you who cares for and learns about America's national parks so that others in the future may enjoy them. It is a very important duty!

As you travel the Blue Ridge Parkway with your family or friends, you can have fun learning more about this national park and what makes it special while earning your own certificate and Junior Ranger badge.

**Look inside for how to get started!
Have fun, be safe and learn
about your national park!**



Junior Ranger Pledge

"I, _____,
am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger. I promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all national park areas. I also promise to continue learning about the landscape, plants, animals and history of these special places. I will share what I learn with my friends and family."



The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service and you will see it many places, including on our uniform. It reminds us of the importance of national parks and the things we're taking care of. The sequoia tree and bison represent the plants and animals. The mountains and lake remind us of the scenery, and the arrowhead reminds us of the historic objects and places in the parks. *Write one thing you see on your trip along the Parkway that represents each of these parts of the arrowhead:*

An Animal: _____

A Plant: _____

Some Scenery: _____

Historic Place or Object: _____

This Junior Ranger Handbook belongs to:

How to Become a Jr. Ranger!

You'll Need: This Folder, the Official Parkway Map and one Activity Sheet.

To Receive Your Badge, Certificate & Sticker:

- Complete all activities on the folder (Parkway Map has many answers!)
- Complete at least 3 activities on your Activity Sheet
- Bring your completed Folder and Activity Sheet to any park Visitor Center for a Ranger to check your answers and you'll become a Blue Ridge Parkway Jr. Ranger. Congratulations!

To Earn the Patch:

Complete Activity Sheets for at least 4 different areas. There are 10 sheets in all; each one is for a different part of this big park. You'll receive a new sticker for your folder as you complete each sheet. When you finish the 4th sheet, bring your Folder and completed Activity Sheets to any park Visitor Center to receive your patch. Congratulations, we hope you have enjoyed your visit!

A special award is available for Jr. Rangers who complete all ten activity sheets!



While walking any Parkway Trail...

What unique or special things did you see? _____

What was the most challenging thing about this walk? _____

Why is this place important to you? _____

What trail did you walk? _____

While riding along the Parkway...

List two things pictured on the official Parkway Map that you have seen: _____

How is the Parkway different from other roads you often travel? _____

Looking at the Parkway map and guide, list all the major river crossings: _____

History and Nature Along the Parkway

5. Town near Milepost 290 named for this famous back country explorer.
6. Someone like you who learns to "Explore, Learn and Protect" special NPS places.
8. A lizard-like animal that lives in wet spots; one is named for the Peaks of Otter.
11. Often cooler than other spots, it's the highest point on the Parkway motor road.
12. Often called a "woodchuck," this mammal is often seen near the road edge.

DOWN

1. The most visited of the nearly 400 sites in the National Park Service.
2. The symbol of the National Park Service.
4. Used by mountain families for food & shelter, this once common tree was wiped out by disease.
6. Often warmer than other spots, it's the lowest elevation along the Parkway.
7. Large bird commonly seen along the Parkway and on the table at Thanksgiving.
9. This swift mammal with a flash of white on its tail sometimes darts out in front of cars.
10. Masked mammal; loves to raid campers' food.

ACROSS

1. The Parkway's largest mammal.
3. He lived near Meadows of Dan, VA and ran a gristmill, sawmill & blacksmith shop.

Doing Your Part

Use the following words to fill in the blanks about the pictures below, indentifying what's wrong with the behavior you see: *Animals, Leash, Writing, Pets, Fires, Flowers, Feeding, Picking, Climbing, Litter*

- Keep _____ wild by not _____ them.
- Protect _____ by not _____ them so that others may enjoy their beauty.
- Protect yourself by not _____ on rocks, trees or fences.
- Keep wildlife and other visitors safe by keeping your _____ on a _____.
- Only make _____ in park picnic grills or campground fire rings.
- Keep the park beautiful by not _____ on buildings, trees, or rocks.
- Put _____ in its place



Become a Web Ranger at www.nps.gov/webrangers
Learn more about the Blue Ridge Parkway at
www.nps.gov/blri

Preparing for Changing Weather

Weather can change in a hurry on the Parkway! Higher elevations almost always bring cooler temperatures. It is important to take the right items when going for a hike and be aware of the weather forecast. Which items would you take on walks of different lengths? Use an S (short) and L (long) or both, beside each item. Why did you choose these items?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ___ first aid kit | ___ candy | ___ rain gear | ___ bug repellent |
| ___ sun screen | ___ water | ___ phone | ___ video game |
| ___ hat | ___ food | ___ flashlight | ___ magazine |
| ___ umbrella | ___ jacket | ___ gloves | ___ binoculars |
| ___ boots | ___ radio | ___ journal | ___ sunglasses |
| ___ book | ___ camera | ___ map | ___ energy snacks |

For a short hike: _____

For a long hike: _____

Parkway Bingo

Circle scenes below that are similar to (or exactly like) ones you have seen on the Parkway.