



Activity

Booklet

Name:

# How to become a Junior Ranger

## at Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Anyone can be a Jr. Ranger, if they are ready to learn about the park and have fun! Use the chart below to figure out how many activities you need to do to earn your Jr. Ranger certification. The “Just for Fun” pages in the back of the book do not count as activities. Work with others and ask lots of questions to complete the activities. “School rules” do not apply! When you have completed enough activities, bring your book to a Park Ranger at the Travertine Nature Center or the Cold Springs Jr. Ranger Station. There, you will officially become a Jr. Ranger of Chickasaw National Recreation Area and of the National Park Service!



Your Age	Number of Activities
0-5 years	3 activities
6-9 years	6 activities
10+ years	9 activities

My Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Activities Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

# Recreation

The Mendez family has come to Chickasaw Recreation Area to have fun, just like you! Each family member has a different form of recreation in mind.

➡ Draw a line from each person to the gear they will need.

Hunting

Boating

Fishing

Hiking

Swimming

Activity labels: Hunting, Boating, Fishing, Hiking, Swimming

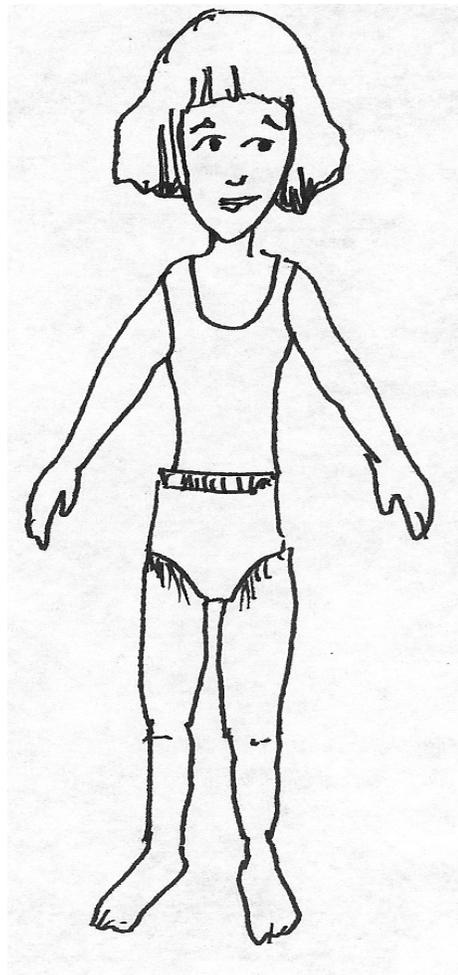
Items: Rifle, Hat, Fishing Rod, Life Vest, Water Bottle, Sleeping Bag

Put a circle around the names of the activities that you have done during your visit here. What other forms of recreation can you think of at Chickasaw National Recreation Area?

# Staying Safe

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is a place to have fun! However, there are safety risks in the park that you may not realize. Getting hurt is not fun at all, so take precautions to ensure your safety. Always be aware of your environment. As a Jr. Ranger, you can protect yourself and others!

 Think about each of the hazards listed below. Can you think of safety gear that would protect a visitor from each hazard? Draw protective equipment and/or clothing on to the visitor below to illustrate how a person can protect him or her self while visiting Chickasaw. Use your imagination!

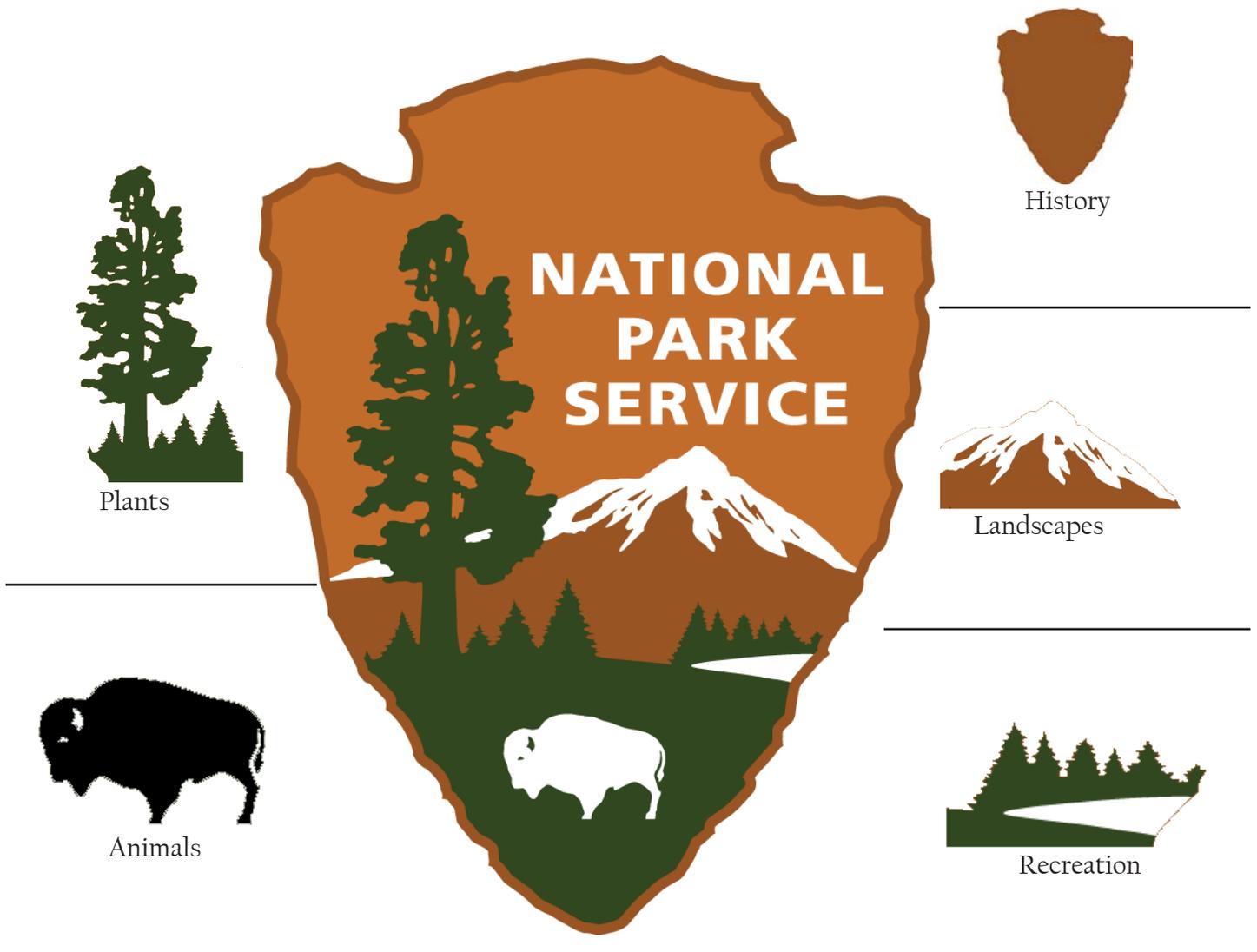


## What to Watch out for at Chickasaw National Recreation

- Poisonous and non-poisonous snakes
- Ticks
- Drowning
- Extreme heat
- Poison Ivy
- Sunburn

# The National Park Service

The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service. Park Rangers wear the arrowhead on their uniforms to show their commitment to protecting all the resources of our National Parks, while helping you, the visitor, enjoy them.



➡ There are over 390 National Parks, and all of them are different! What is it that makes Chickasaw special? Write an important national resource we are protecting here in Chickasaw on each of the lines above. If you need any hints, ask a Park Ranger!

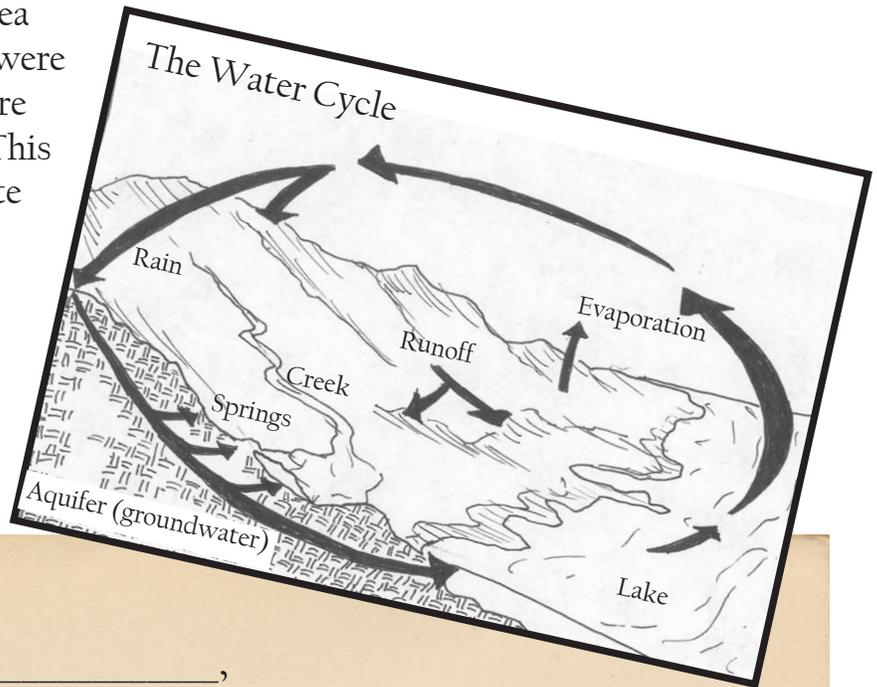
Have you been to any other National Parks? Which ones?

---

# Natural Springs

Chickasaw National Recreation Area has 5 natural springs. Once, there were 35 springs in the park, but now there is not enough water to go around. This is why it is important to never waste water or leave water running.

 Visit one of the springs and complete this letter to someone you want to share your experience with!



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am here at Chickasaw National Recreation Area! The creeks in the Platt Historical District are fed by springs, which means the water comes from underground.

I visited \_\_\_\_\_ spring.

The water felt \_\_\_\_\_.

It smelled like \_\_\_\_\_.

I could hear \_\_\_\_\_.

Looking at the water, I see \_\_\_\_\_.

The water at Flower Park and Pavilion Spring is even safe to drink! Did you know I am soon going to be a Jr. Ranger of the National Park Service?

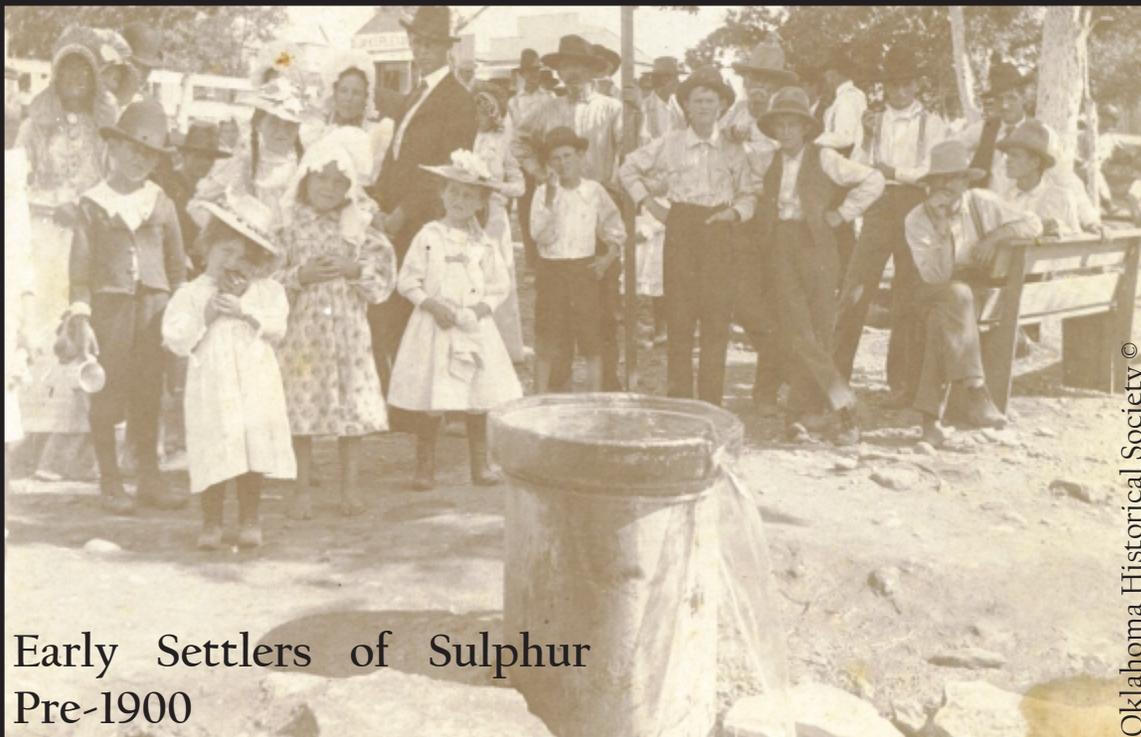
Wish you were here,

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Town of Sulphur

The story of Chickasaw National Recreation Area is linked to the story of the town of Sulphur. The best way to hear this story is to talk to a Park Ranger! Park Rangers are friendly and love to talk to visitors. You can find Park Rangers throughout the park, or at the visitor center.

- ➔ Ask a Park Ranger the 4 questions below. After you have talked, ask the Park Ranger to sign your book to show you have completed this activity and are one step closer to earning your Jr. Ranger Badge!



- Why did town settlers come here?
- Where was the town of Sulphur originally? What happened?
- How do Sulphur and the park help each other?
- What important **traditions** exist between the local people and the park?

Park Ranger Signature

# Platt National Park & the CCC

 Read the following 5 questions. Circle the answers you think are best. It is okay to guess! When you are done, check your answers with the answer box at the bottom of this page.

- Originally known as Sulphur Springs Reservation, the park became Platt National Park in...
  - 1902
  - 1933
  - 1970
- To help people through the Great Depression Franklin D. Roosevelt created the CCC, which stands for...
  - Crazy Chocolate Candies
  - Cross Country Careers
  - Civilian Conservation Corps
- The CCC improved National Parks all over the country. A team of ... ..worked in Platt National Park from 1933-1940.
  - 10 men
  - 200 men
  - 1000 men
- The boys who joined the CCC were very young (18-25 years old) and enrolled for 6 months to 2 years. They worked very hard and every month earned...
  - \$25 for their families and \$5 for themselves
  - \$50 for their families and \$50 for themselves
  - \$150 for their families and \$50 for themselves
- The CCC at Platt National Park built many structures for the park that are still used today! All of the following were built by the CCC, except...
  - The bathrooms
  - The swimming holes along the creek
  - The Nature Center
  - The Jr. Ranger Station
  - Cold Springs campground
  - The stone pavilions
  - Roads and trails
  - Planted 800,000 plants

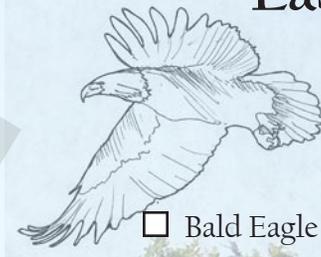
Answers

5. c  
4. a  
3. b  
2. c  
1. a

# Western Prairie

# Eastern Forest

Chickasaw National Recreation Area has a unique blend of plants and animals. This area is an **ecotone**, where plants and animals from Western prairies mix with plants and animals from Eastern forests. As you visit different areas of the park, notice how the nature around you changes.

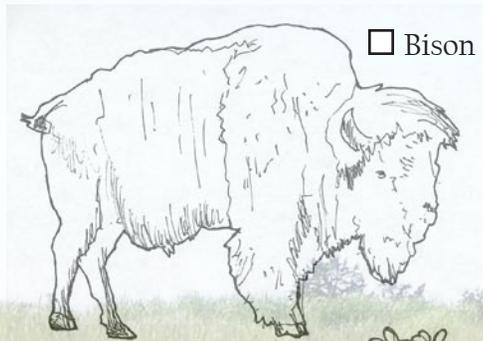


Bald Eagle



Squirrel

Tree with leaves



Bison



White-tailed Deer



Armadillo



Prickly Pear Cactus



Possum

Earth Worm



Raccoon

Scorpion



Yucca



Check off the plants and animals that you have seen. Explore the park to find more!



Leopard Frog



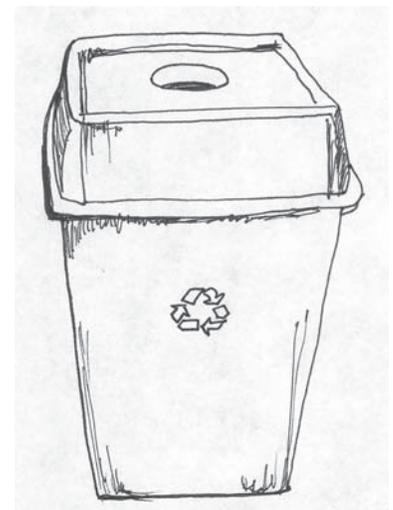
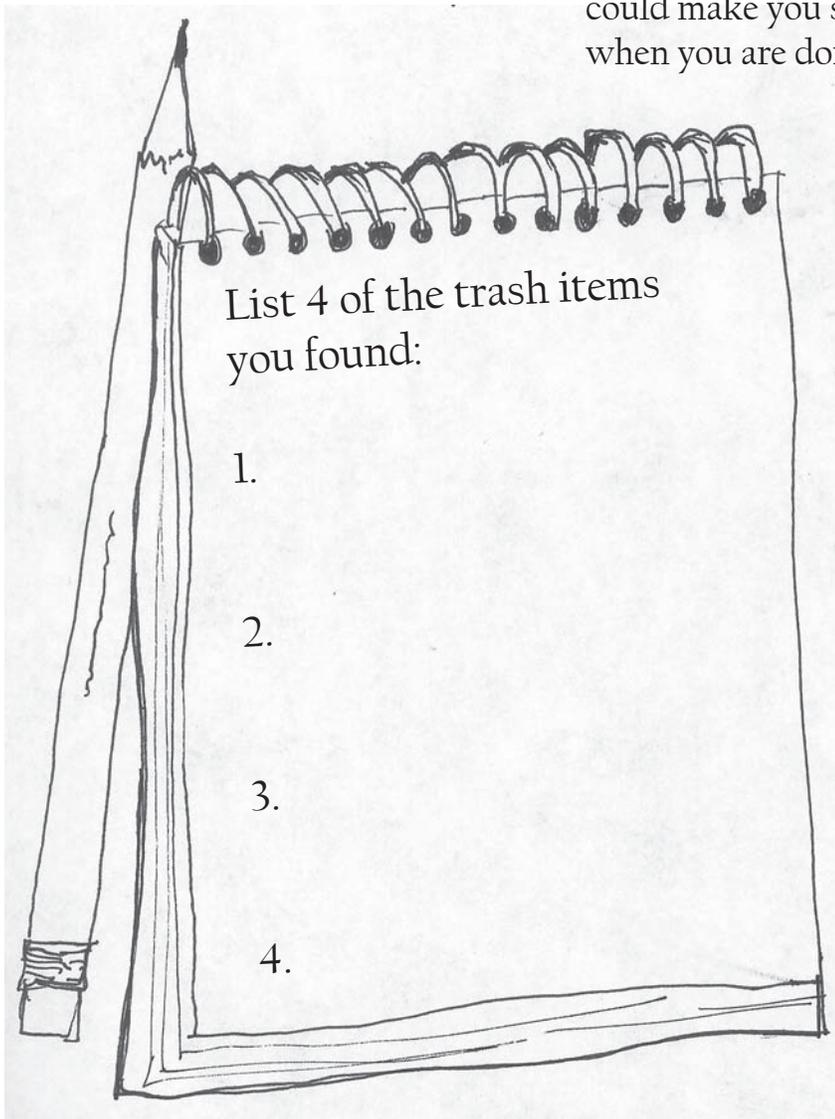
# Pick Up the Park!

Did you know that Chickasaw National Recreation Area gets over one million visitors every year? People who come here love the park, but sometimes they hurt it without knowing. One piece of trash thrown on the ground doesn't seem too bad, but when one million people throw trash on the ground, plants and animals get hurt. As a Jr. Ranger, you have to help other people to protect Chickasaw.

➔ Ask a Park Ranger for a trash bag. With an adult, pick up 10 pieces of trash. Bring your trash bag with you when you turn in your book to the Ranger.



WARNING! Stay away from trash with sharp edges or trash that looks gross (it could make you sick). Wash your hands when you are done.



➔ Draw a line from each of the items you listed to where it belongs.

# Time Travel Tour

 Visit the locations below. Put an X through each box you visit and try to complete a Tic-Tac-Toe three-in-a-row; up, down, across, or diagonal. At each location, consider the connections through time that that place offers.



**Jr. Ranger Challenge:** visit all of the sites below to get a *blackout* Tic-Tac-Toe and the full Chickasaw National Recreation Area experience!



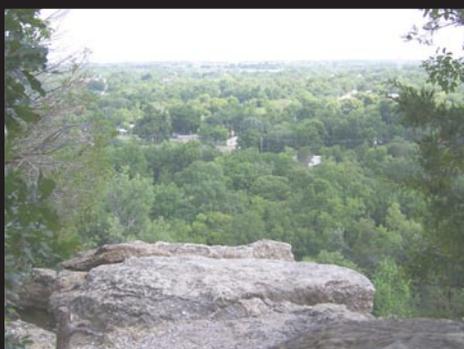
A Park Ranger protects the land for future visitors. They prevent littering and carelessness from destroying the park.



The bison herd is a reminder of the bison that once sustained American Indian tribes.



Vendome Well at Flower Park is a mineral spring. Throughout time this “medicine water” attracted people.



Bromide Hill was once used by American Indians as a place to light signal fires to send messages.



Visitors come here to enjoy the relaxing nature and springs that the Chickasaw Nation preserved.



A **quiet place** can be a good site to sit and soak in the park. How do you feel about this place?



The bison skull in the Travertine Nature Center lies beneath a display of the Chickasaw’s immigration.



Pavilion Spring was the site of the original town of Sulphur. Development threatened the springs and land.



The Lake of the Arbuckles was added in 1976. The park was renamed Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

# In Your Own Words

 What was your favorite part of visiting Chickasaw? Draw a picture and write a letter to a friend describing your adventure here.



My Picture

---

---

---

---

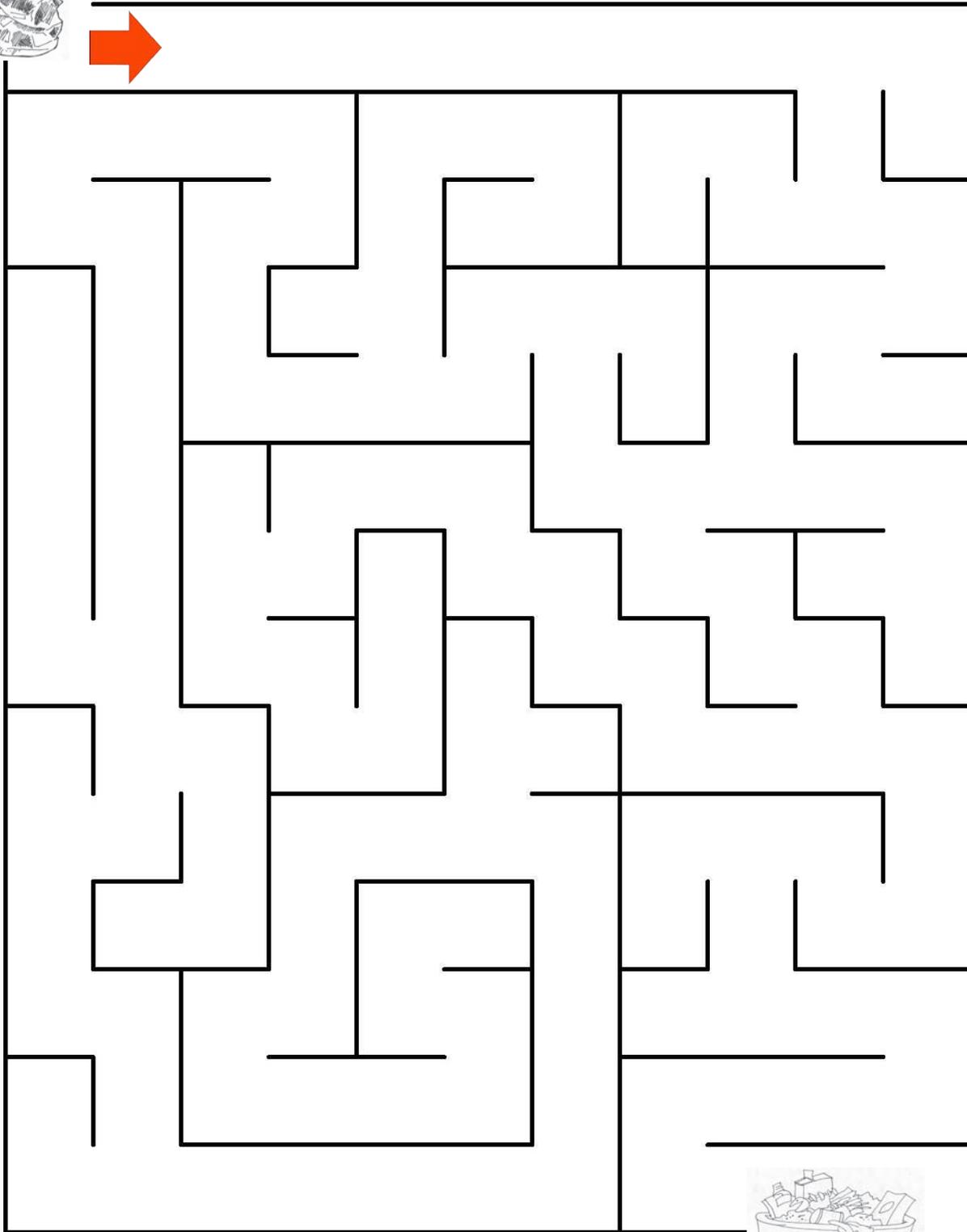
---

---

---

---

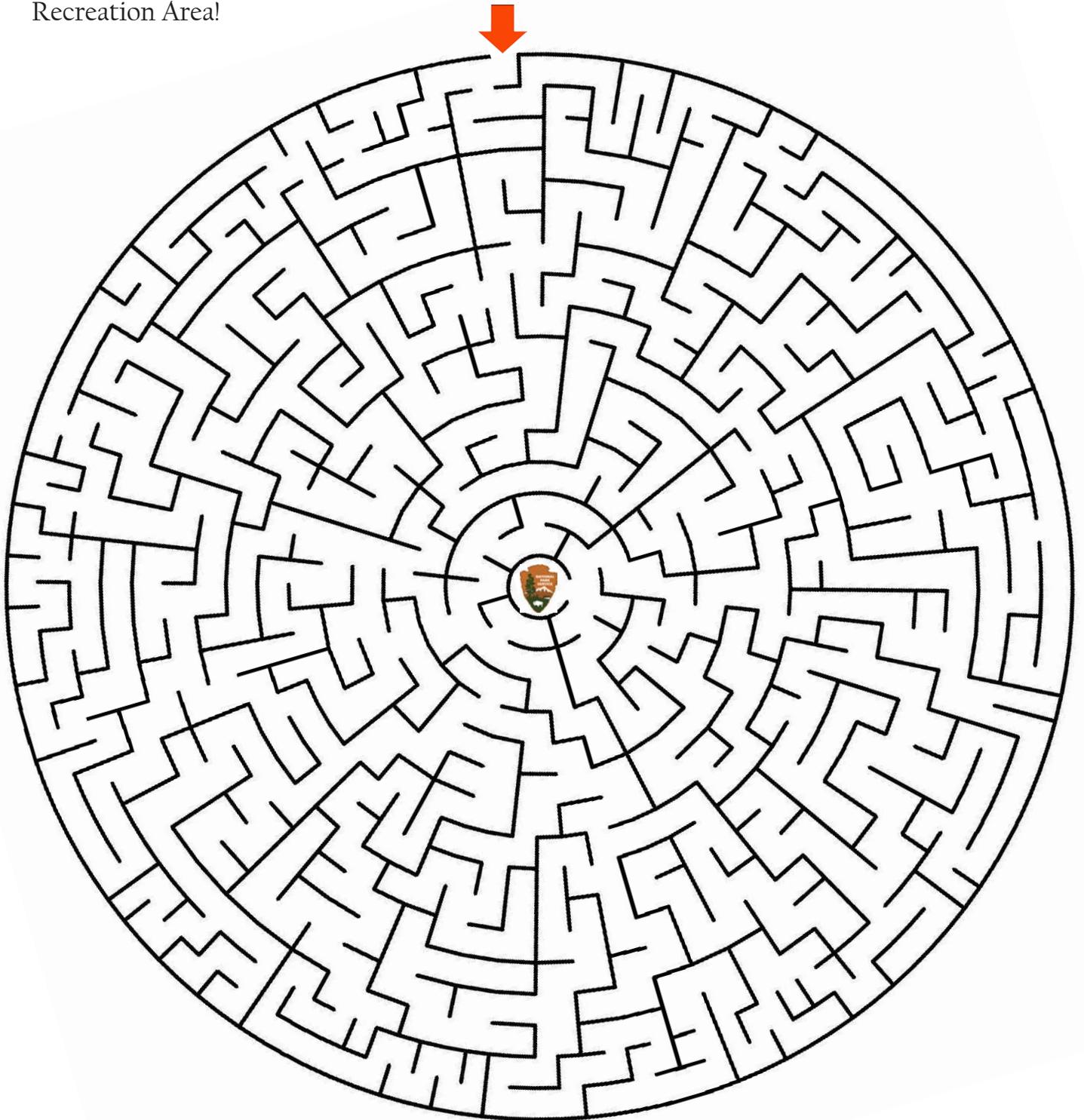
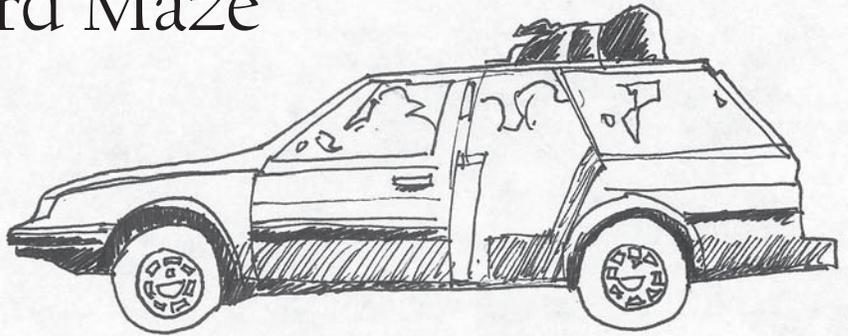
# Just for Fun: Easy Maze



Help get that trash to where it belongs!

# Just for Fun: Hard Maze

Help the car find  
Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area!



# What's Next?



## Visit more National Parks

Most National Parks have a Junior Ranger program of their own. Whenever you visit a National Park, ask how you can become a Junior Ranger there. The activities and prizes will be different at each park! How many can you collect?

### More National Parks in Oklahoma:

- Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith
- Oklahoma City National Memorial, Oklahoma City
- Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

## Become a Web Ranger

You can be a Web Ranger too! If you have access to the internet and your parents' permission, you can create a Web Ranger account and start completing activities today. Customize your Ranger Station and connect with other Junior Rangers across the world.



Visit  
[www.nps.gov/webrangers](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers)  
to get started!

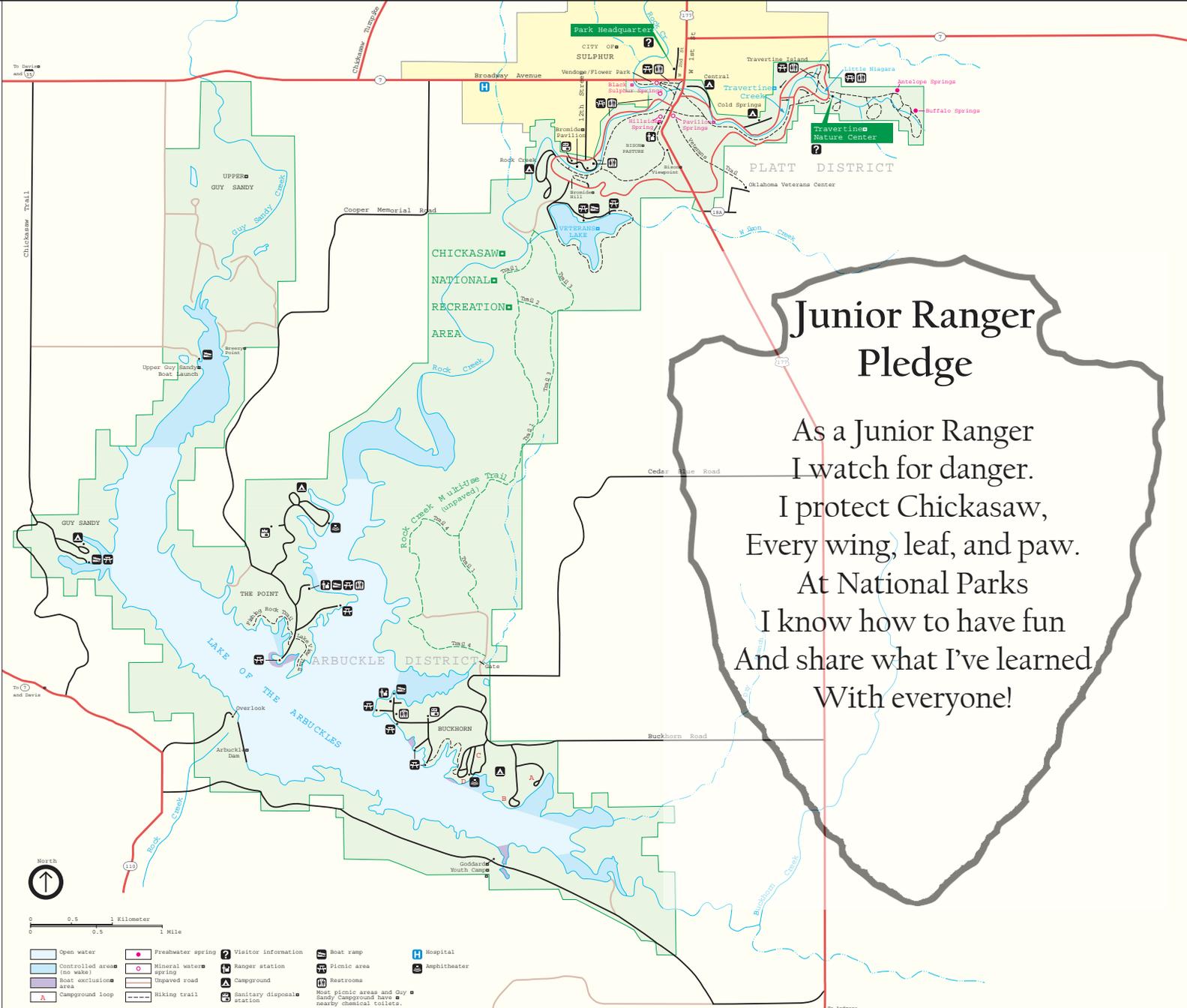
# Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Phone:  
 Travertine Nature Center  
 (580) 622-7234

Park Headquarters  
 (580) 622-3161

Mail:  
 1008 West Second Street  
 Sulphur, OK 73086

Visit us online at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/chic>



## Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger  
 I watch for danger.  
 I protect Chickasaw,  
 Every wing, leaf, and paw.  
 At National Parks  
 I know how to have fun  
 And share what I've learned  
 With everyone!

North ↑

0 0.5 1 Kilometer  
 0 0.5 1 Mile

Open water	FRESHWATER spring	Visitor information	Boat ramp	Hospital
Controlled area (no wake)	MINERAL waters spring	Ranger station	Picnic area	Amphitheater
Boat exclusion area	UNPAVED road	Campground	RESTROOMS	
Campground loop	HIKING trail	Sanitary disposal station		

Written and Designed by  
 SCA Junior Ranger Ambassador Dakota Radford  
 2009

Illustrated by Megan Truebenback

Printed by the National Park Service

This book and its full contents are public property and are reproducible for non-commercial, educational purposes.