

To learn more about the Junior Ranger Program  
throughout the National Park Service, please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/kids/jrangers.cfm>



*Junior Ranger*



This book was created and designed by Park Ranger Rachel Post  
with input from Congaree National Park Staff.

Illustrations by Park Ranger Rachel Post and VIP Carol Gist.

Cover by Stephen Chesley (photograph of a watercolor)

*This book belongs to:*





Welcome to Congaree National Park! You are on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger! Now is your chance to explore the plants, animals, and water that make up the old-growth bottomland hardwood forest at Congaree.

To become a Junior Ranger:

1. Complete the number of activities for your age:

Under 7      Complete any 3 activities

Ages 8-10    Complete any 6 activities

Ages 11+     Complete any 8 activities

2. Have a ranger or park volunteer review your book and sign your certificate.
3. Be sworn in as a Junior Ranger and receive your patch or badge
4. Help protect Congaree for future visitors and Junior Rangers.

If you do not complete your book while at Congaree, mail it to: 100 National Park Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 and we will send you your badge.



## Congaree National Park

is proud to bestow upon

---

the title of

### Junior Ranger



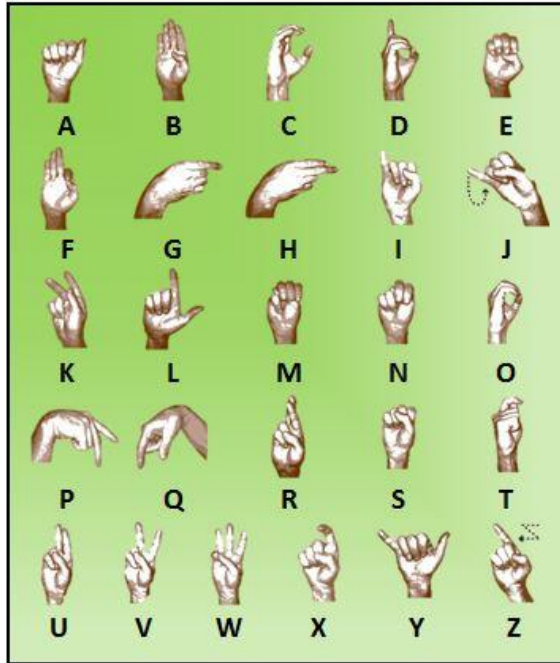
Pledge: As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect and preserve every animal and tree, and the history of Congaree for all to see.

---

Park Ranger/Volunteer

## Enjoy and Protect your Park

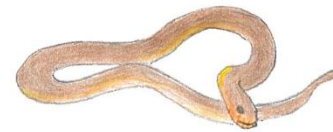
Our National Parks are here for all people to enjoy now and in the future. So that we can all have the best and safest experience, it's important to follow certain guidelines. Use the sign language symbols in the box to break the code and find out how you can help.



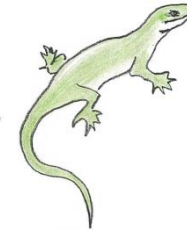
- Always carry a
- Dress appropriately for the and
- plenty of
- Do not the
- of
- Leave and where you find them.

## Scavenger Hunt

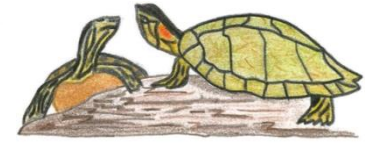
As you explore Congaree, observe what you see around you. Circle the pictures of the things you see.



Snake



Anole



Turtle



Owl



Hawk



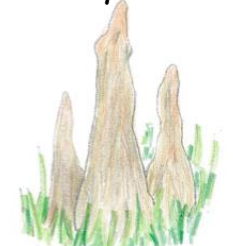
Woodpecker



Spider



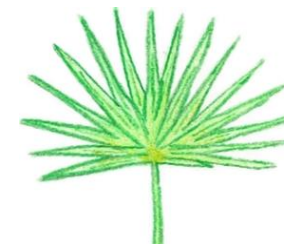
Butterfly



Cypress Knee



Snag



Dwarf  
Palmetto



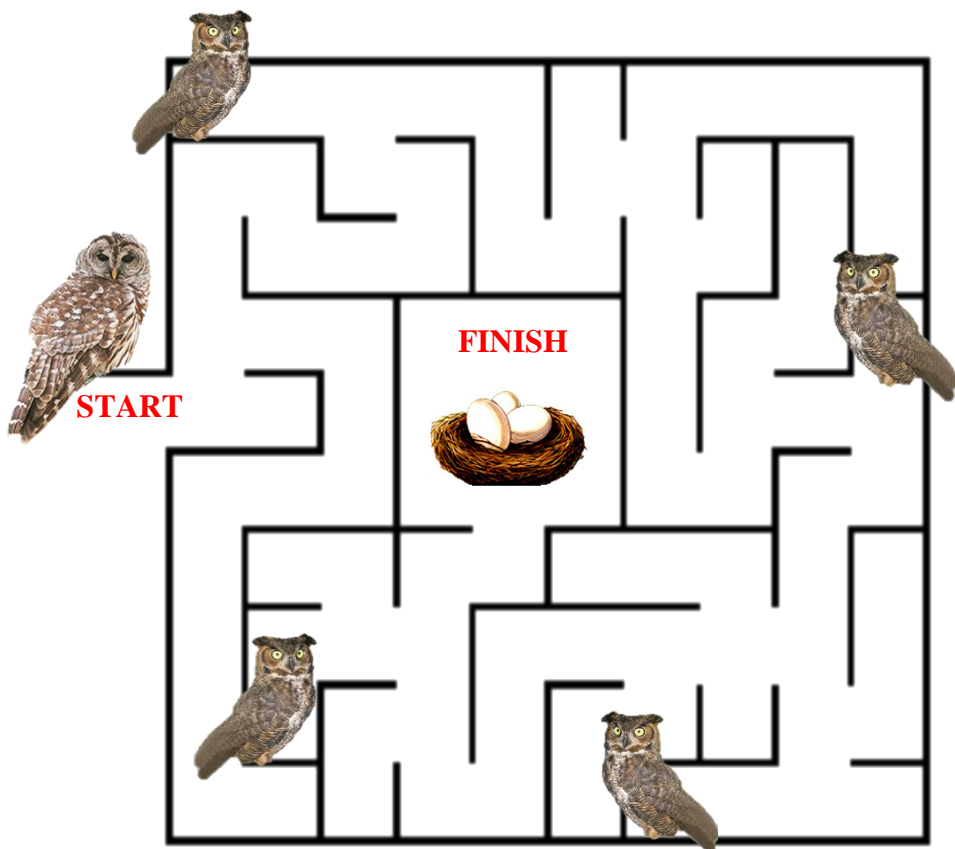
Crawfish  
Chimney

## Owl Maze

Betty the Barred Owl has been out hunting tonight. The great horned owls are out hunting for smaller owls, like Betty, and for owl eggs.

Help Betty find her way through the maze and to her nest safely by avoiding her predators.

Draw a line showing the route she should take.



## Hey, Ranger!

There are all kinds of different rangers in a National Park. There are historians, accountants, law enforcement officers, biologists, and photographers. All of them work together to make our parks special now and for future generations. **Find a ranger or volunteer and ask these questions to find out about the job that person does.**

What kind of work do you do? \_\_\_\_\_

What is something you enjoy about your job? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you decide to work or volunteer for the National Park Service? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you helping to make your park better for the future? \_\_\_\_\_



### Looking Ahead

Parks like Congaree will always need people to protect and preserve them. You can help!

What type of NPS employee or volunteer would you like to be?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of yourself or the person you interviewed.

## Let Me Tell You About My Visit!

Have you enjoyed your visit? Did you see or learn anything that you would like to share with a friend or relative? Help spread the word about Congaree so others will want to visit and care for this special place. Use this page to tell everyone what you liked or learned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

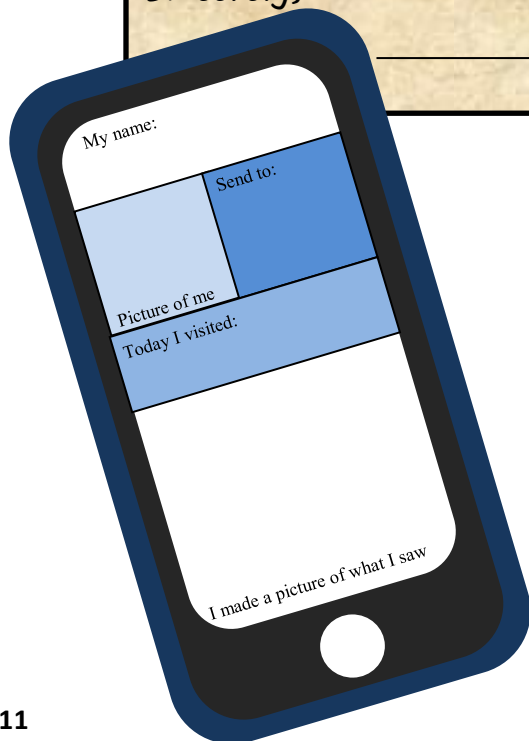
To: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





You can paste a photo here or share on your favorite social media site or at <http://findyourpark.com/share>. Always ask a parent before sharing photos or information on the internet.

## Let's Move!

The coolest way for Junior Rangers to see their National Parks is through recreation! What kind of activities can you do at Congaree?



Recreation is any outdoor activity that gets your body moving, your heart pumping and helps you stay healthy. Find the recreation words in the word search. They can be horizontal, vertical, forwards, backwards, or diagonal.

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

ADVENTURE  
BREATHE  
CANOE  
FISH  
KAYAK  
VIEW  
BIKE  
CAMP  
EXPLORE  
HIKE  
OUTDOORS  
WILDLIFE



## What is a Floodplain?

A floodplain is a low place near a river that gets wet when there is too much water for the river to hold. Congaree National Park lies in the floodplain of the Congaree River. Sometimes, the Congaree River floods, and the nutrient-rich water spills over its banks and into the floodplain. The creek within the park, Cedar Creek, can also flood when the Congaree River floods.

The water level can rise high enough to cover the elevated boardwalk!

Be a Junior Ranger scientist by using the data posted at the visitor center front desk to complete the chart. Then read and answer the questions.

Today's Date:	Water Level	Above or Below its Threshold?
Congaree River		
Cedar Creek		

A river or creek's **threshold** is the highest water level before the water overflows its banks. The Congaree River's threshold is about **15 feet**. Cedar Creek's threshold is about **8 feet**.

What does this tell you about the floodplain right now?

## Your Life, My Life

Compare and contrast how the Congaree Indians and Maroon Communities lived by answering these questions.



Where did they live? \_\_\_\_\_

How did they get their food? \_\_\_\_\_

What problems did these two groups face? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some differences between how you live and how the Congaree Indians and Maroon Communities lived? \_\_\_\_\_

## Cultural History

Congaree National Park did not always appear as it does today. The first known residents of the area, the Congaree Indians, lived in houses made of sticks and clay in a small village on the bluffs, across the Congaree River from what is now the park. They used the floodplain for hunting and fishing, often crossing the river. They raised crops such as corn, beans, and squash. The number of Congaree declined due to smallpox in the late 1600's and several wars in the early 1700's, and remaining members joined the Catawba.

Maroon Communities of escaped slaves lived in floodplains, like Congaree, and swamps throughout the South. These areas, often unexplored due to flooding, wildlife, and even cypress knees, were a safe hiding place. Living on high ground in structures made of available materials, the residents raised crops such as corn and rice. Plentiful fish and wildlife significantly contributed to their diet. Raids on nearby plantations also kept them supplied. Although Maroon Communities offered freedom from slavery there was still a threat of the militia breaking up the community or returning the residents to slavery.

## The Arrowhead

The National Park System includes over 400 units in the United States, and just like Congaree National Park, they are all unique and special places. These areas include national parks, monuments, military parks, seashores, historic sites, recreation areas, and numerous others.

All of these special places belong to YOU to explore and enjoy.

The arrowhead on the right is the emblem of the National Park Service.

Each symbol in the arrowhead represents something the National Park Service protects and preserves. Fill in each blank below with a symbol from the word bank:



The \_\_\_\_\_ represents all plants.

The \_\_\_\_\_ represents all animals.

The \_\_\_\_\_ represents the human history of our nation.

The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ represent all landscapes and water resources.

### Word Bank

mountain	river	bison
arrowhead outline	sequoia tree	



Timelines tell a story and help us understand. They also tell us what happened when and how much time went by between events. This timeline tells some of the major events that happened at Congaree National Park and the surrounding areas.

- You too are part of this history. Mark your birthday on the timeline
- Mark today's date on the timeline
- Mark 1 significant event in your life on the timeline

**N** = break in time

