

Zion National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Junior Ranger HANDBOOK

An Activity Guide for Ages 4 and Older



*Olivia Owl*



## *Become a Zion National Park Junior Ranger!*

### **What is a Junior Ranger?**

A Junior Ranger explores, discovers, and enjoys our national parks. They help take care of plants, animals, and their homes, so that Zion remains a special place for visitors to enjoy for many years to come.

### **How to become a Junior Ranger:**

- If you are 4 to 5 years old, complete any two pages of Tara Tarantula's activities.
- If you are 6 to 8 years old, complete all of Tara Tarantula's activities.
- If you are 9 or older, complete both Tara Tarantula's and Lewis Lizard's activities. Olivia Owl's pages are not required to earn a badge. You can complete those whenever you want just for fun.
- Bring your completed booklet to the museum or visitor center desk. A ranger will review it and award you your badge!

*Tara Tarantula, Ages 4 to 8*



*Lewis Lizard, Ages 9 and older*



# Let a Park Ranger Be Your Guide!



To become a Junior Ranger at Zion National Park, you must attend one ranger-led program. There are scheduled programs on a variety of topics listed in the park newspaper. If you are visiting the park during the winter, when programs are not offered, please watch the orientation film instead.

## Ranger-led Program

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Park Ranger:** \_\_\_\_\_

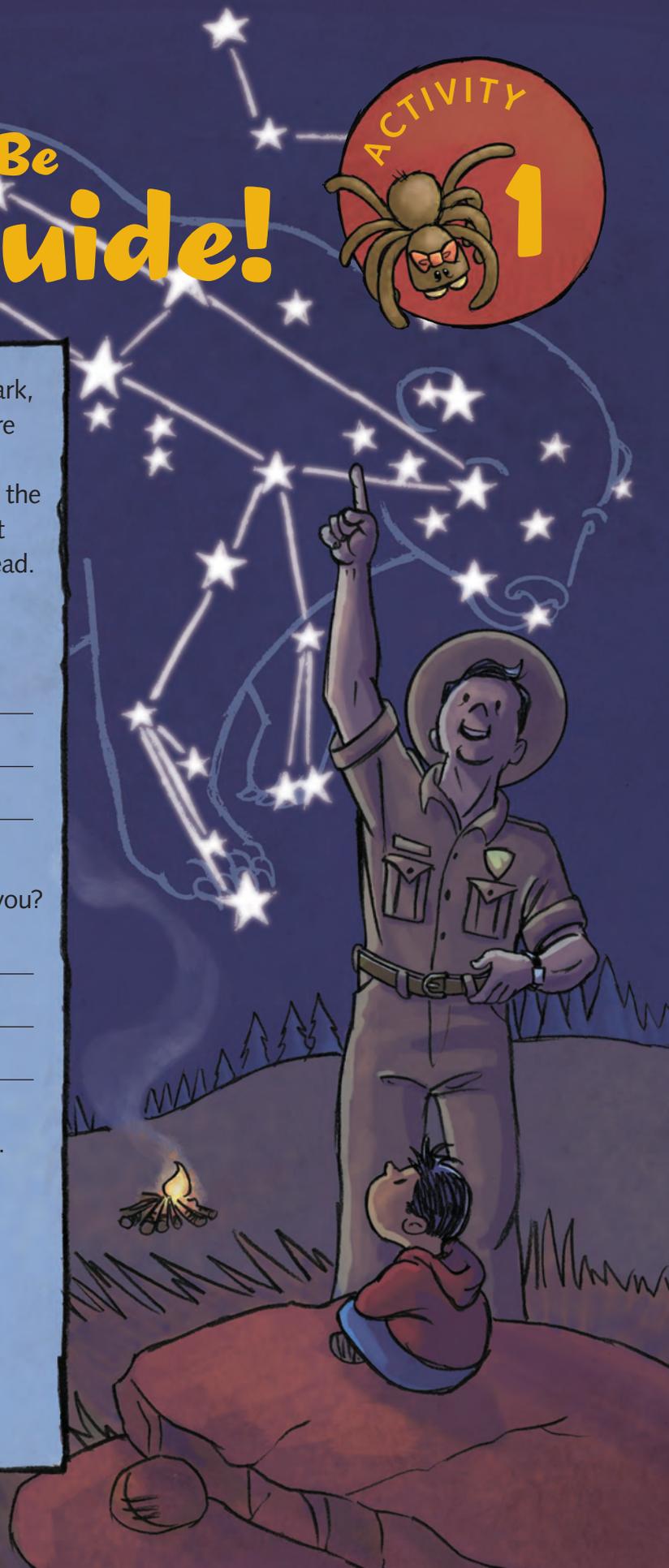
What did you learn about Zion that surprised you?

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Draw something that you liked in the program.





# Adaptation

# BINGO!

### Definition: Ad•ap•ta•tion

An adaptation is a physical feature or behavior that helps living things survive in their environment. Much of Zion includes desert habitats. Many plants and animals have adaptations to help survive the extreme heat and limited water in the park.

**Directions:** During your visit, look for these plants and animals and think about ways that they survive in the desert. Mark what you find below. Try to get four in a row!



 YUCCA	 WILD TURKEY	 RAVEN	 SPIDER WEB
 CACTUS	 MULE DEER	 BEETLE	 BIGHORN SHEEP
 ANIMAL HOLE	DRAW YOUR OWN!	 ROCK SQUIRREL	 DATURA
 FROG OR TOAD	 ANIMAL TRACK	 ANIMAL SCAT	 LIZARD

# Animal Tracks



Every track you find tells a story. A coyote hunting mice along the river might leave tracks in the wet mud. A lizard running across the sand to sun itself on a warm rock may leave marks as well. While you are visiting Zion, look for tracks or other signs of wildlife. They can be as exciting as seeing the animal itself.

**Directions:** Choose from this list and write the name of the animal next to each track.

**cougar skunk lizard toad deer coyote ringtail**



*Beware of this animal's spray!*

\_\_\_\_\_

*This animal has large ears and eats plants.*



\_\_\_\_\_



*This reptile drags its tail when it runs.*

\_\_\_\_\_

*This large feline hunts deer for its dinner.*

\_\_\_\_\_



*This animal may howl or yip at night.*

\_\_\_\_\_



*This nocturnal animal has a ringed tail.*

\_\_\_\_\_



*This amphibian hops to get around.*

\_\_\_\_\_





# Buddy System

Zion National Park has many **habitats**, or homes for plants and animals, from pinyon pine and juniper forests on the hillsides to cottonwood trees near the river. Within these habitats there are plants, animals, and non-living material that work together to create a complex system of survival.

Just as you might rely on the "buddy system" for safety during a hike, some members of these habitats rely on a buddy for their success.

**Directions:** Using the clues below each picture, draw a line from buddy to buddy.



I need a buddy to spread my pollen so that I can produce my seeds.



I am a busy pinyon jay looking for some seeds to eat and store.



I rush and roar during spring floods. The roots of my buddy keep me in line.



I am a thirsty cottonwood tree. Without my buddy I would perish.



I will trade a few pinyon pine seeds for help growing more trees.



Sphinx moths fly at night in search of high energy nectar to drink.

# Keeping the Scene CLEAN!



Zion National Park helps visitors recycle many items. With the help and permission from an adult, list five pieces of litter that you found and removed during your adventure in the park. Tell us where you found it and if you recycled it.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you recycle it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you recycle it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you recycle it? \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you recycle it? \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you recycle it? \_\_\_\_\_



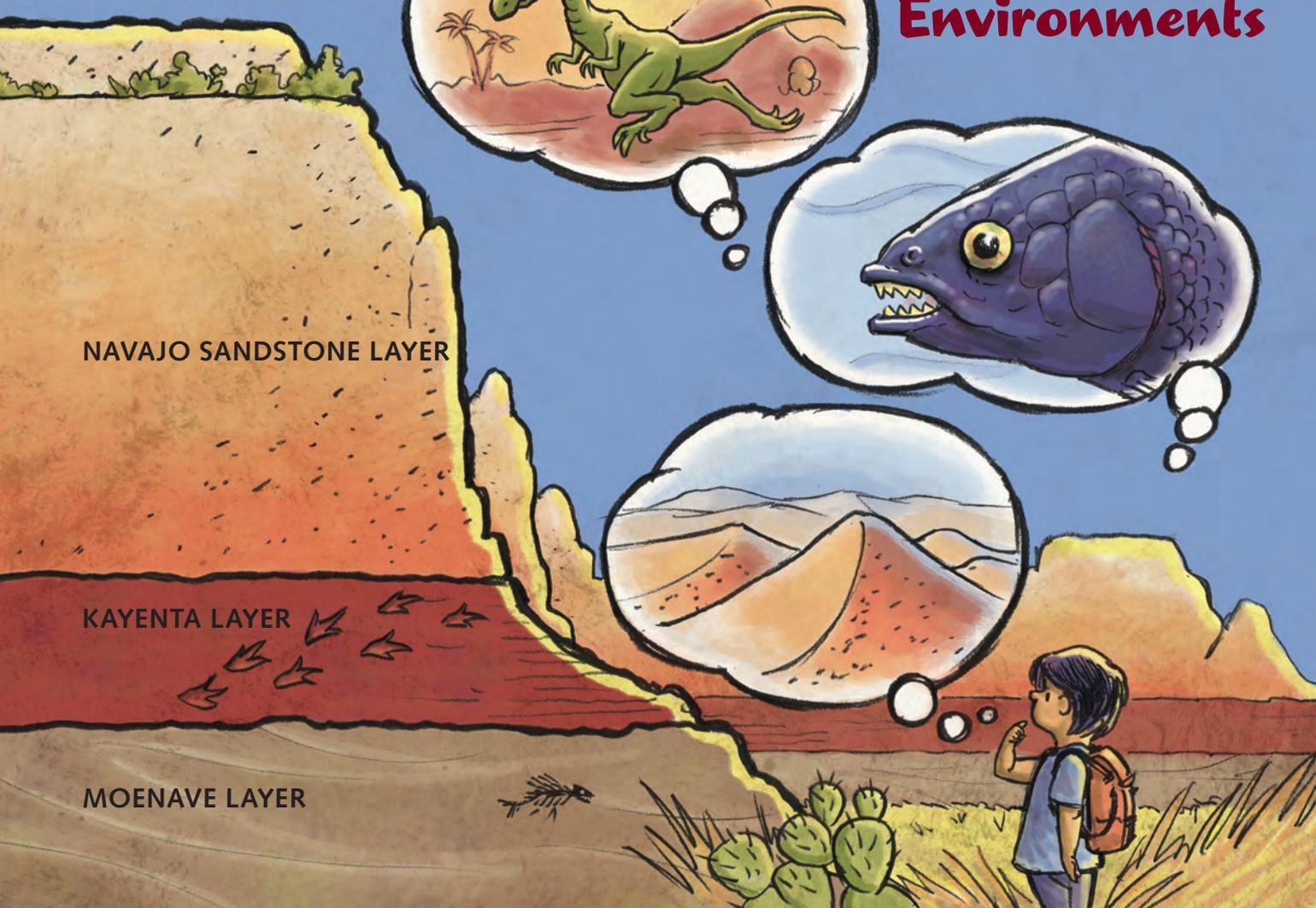
# Zion Rocks!

The rocks in Zion are found in layers like a cake. Most layers in the park are made up of **sedimentary rock**. Sedimentary rocks are formed when pressure slowly turns sand, shells, or dirt into rock over time. Scientists use clues in the rocks to find out what the environment was like when the rocks were made. Sometimes the material that makes up the rock gives us clues, and sometimes there is evidence of ancient life called **fossils** in the rocks.

**Directions:** On the left is a picture of some of the rock layers you can see in the park. Using the clues in the rock layers, draw a line from the rock layer to the past environment in which it was formed.

## Rock Layers

## Environments



NAVAJO SANDSTONE LAYER

KAYENTA LAYER

MOENAVE LAYER

# The Past Comes Alive



Native Americans living in this area in the past left symbols chipped into rock called **petroglyphs**. Sometimes they painted pictures on rocks called **pictographs**. Many archeologists have studied rock art, but still do not know the exact meaning of these symbols.

As a Junior Ranger, you can help protect this important part of history. It is impossible to fix rock art once it is damaged. The most important rule when visiting any archeological site is to look without touching. Do not climb near rock art, enter any ruins, or remove any material.

**What do you think the symbols on the rock mean?**

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**Do you see anything wrong with this picture?**

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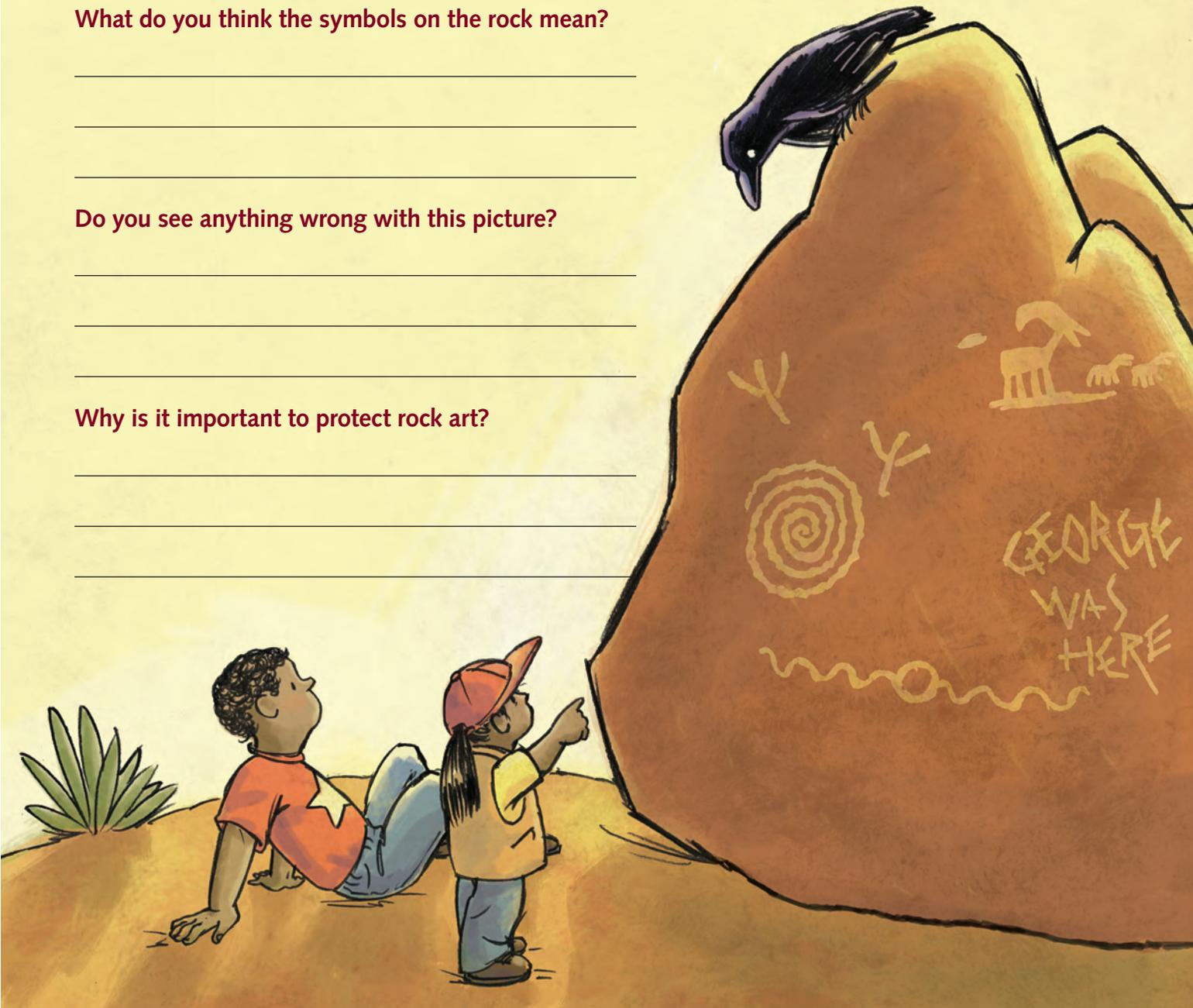
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**Why is it important to protect rock art?**

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# Zion Canyon "I SPY!"

There are many things to discover at each stop on the scenic drive. Use your powers of observation to find the special things at each stop and answer the questions below. Place a ★ beside each stop where you spy a ranger!



**Visitor Center:** Find four animal sculptures and list them. \_\_\_\_\_

**Human History Museum:** Find the bronze plaque. Who is on it? \_\_\_\_\_



**Canyon Junction:** Which trail begins here? \_\_\_\_\_

**Court of the Patriarchs:** How many patriarchs are there? Name them. \_\_\_\_\_



**Zion Lodge:** Can you find the big tree on the front lawn? What kind of tree is it? \_\_\_\_\_

**Grotto:** Can you find the first museum which was built in 1924? What is the building made of? Name a trail that begins from here. \_\_\_\_\_



## FUN FACT:

Pa rus is a Paiute word which, loosely translated, means bubbling, tumbling stream.

**Temple of Sinawava:** Can you find the river? What is its name? \_\_\_\_\_

# Design a Patch



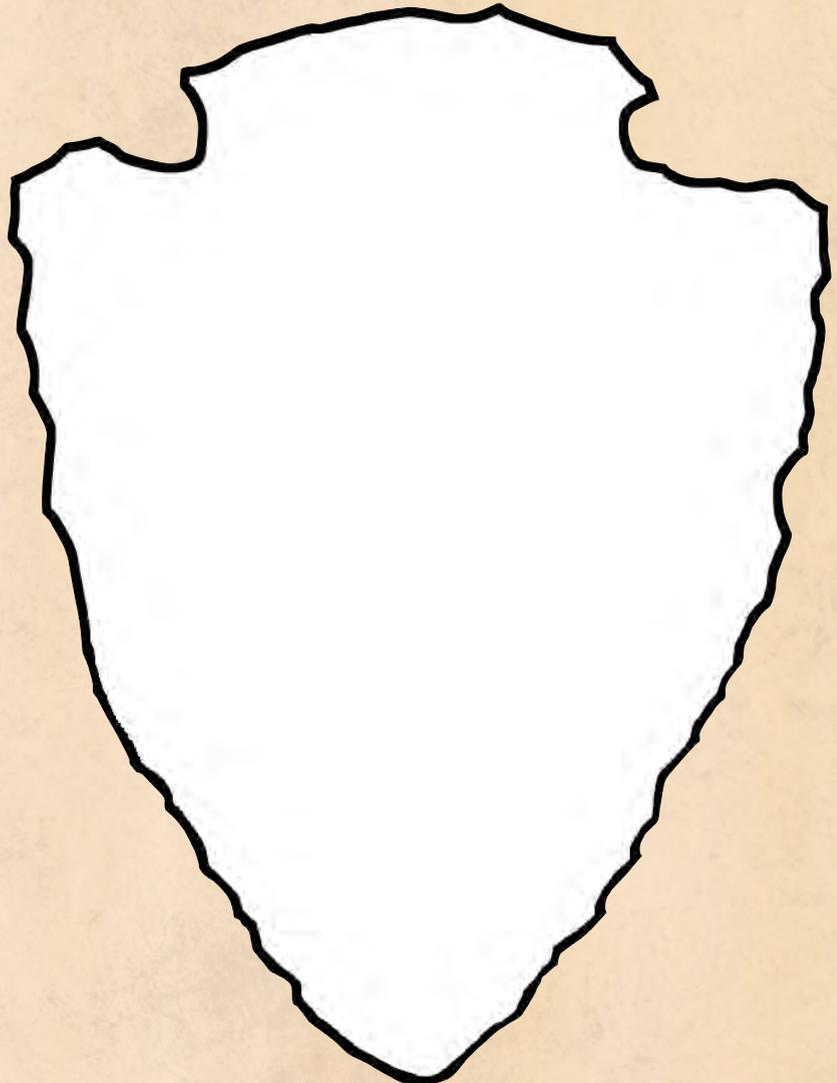
**Directions:** Think about what you have seen and experienced in Zion. Create your own unique patch below for Zion National Park with drawings of wildlife, plants, scenery, recreation, and history.

## You may have noticed

the arrowhead patch worn by park rangers in Zion and other national parks. This is the emblem of the National Park Service. Let's take a closer look at the meaning of this important symbol.

The arrowhead was authorized as the official NPS emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951.

- The arrowhead shape stands for history and archeology
- The sequoia tree and bison stand for plants and wildlife
- Mountains and water stand for scenery and recreation





# Signs of Our Park

Signs are important for our safety and the protection of the park. You should read them and recognize their meanings.

**Directions:** Below are some signs you will see in the park. Match the pictures with their meanings in the middle column.



Don't feed the wildlife.



No campfires.



Stay on the trail.



Warning! Steep cliffs.

Drink more water and rest.



Thunderstorm and possible flash floods.



# Junior Rangers **RULE!**



The rules in national parks are in place for a number of reasons. Many rules are for your safety and the safety of others. Remember that everything in a national park is protected, including the rocks, plants, and wildlife. As a Junior Ranger, it is important to know the rules and share them with others who are not aware of them.

Identify the rules being broken in the following picture:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# Zion Poetry

The beauty of Zion National Park has inspired many poets and artists. Follow the steps below to write your own poetry about Zion.

- First Line:** Write the name of something you like or found in Zion.
- Second Line:** Write one word or more that describes how it looks.
- Third Line:** Write one word or more that describes something it does.
- Fourth Line:** Write a sentence about how it makes you feel.

Here is an example: *Fish*  
*Silver*  
*Splash*  
*I feel cool and wet when I watch you.*



Have fun! I bet you're a poet and don't even know it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture to go along with your poem.

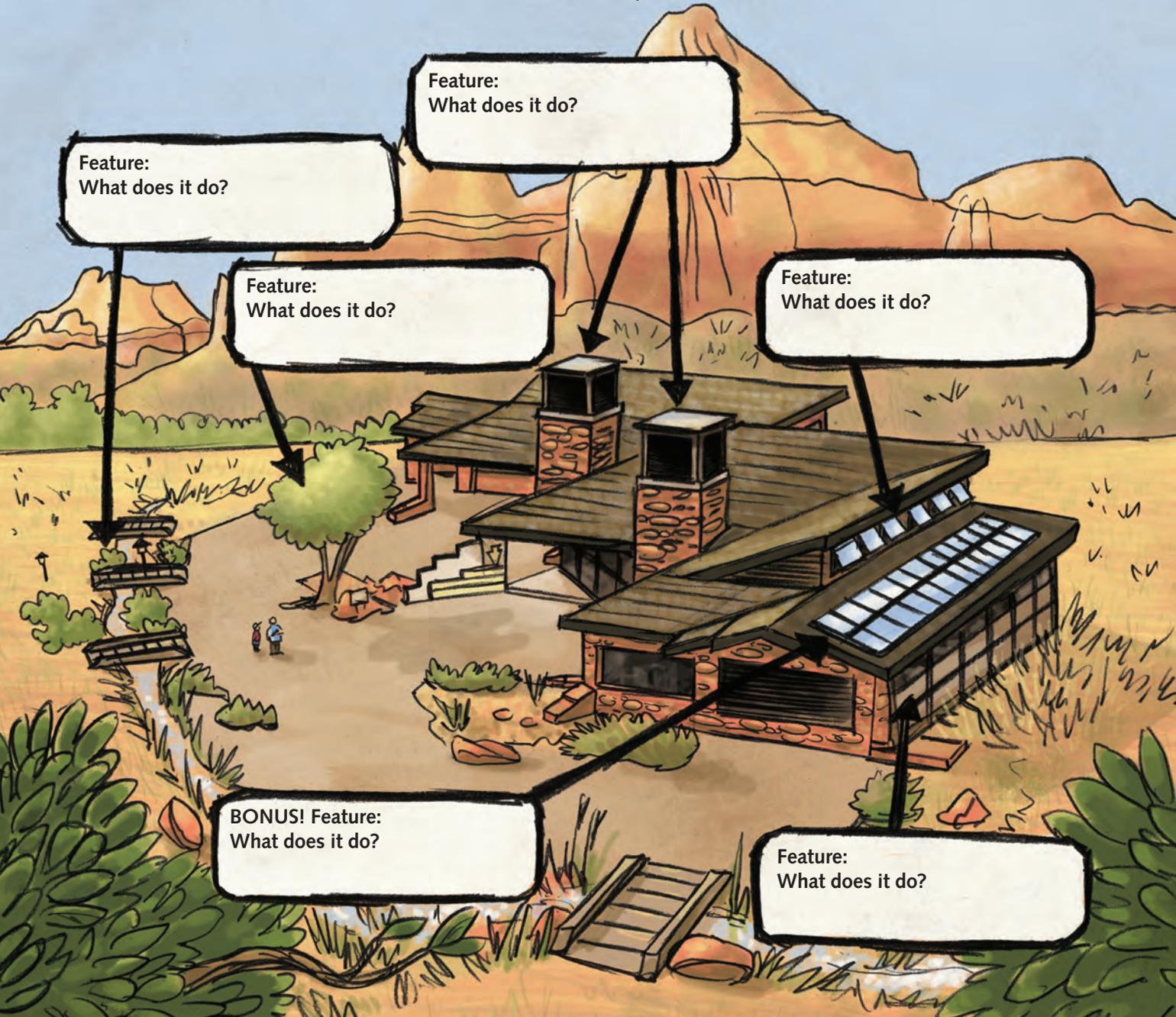


# Visitor Center Eco-hunt!



**The Zion Canyon Visitor Center** was designed as a climate-friendly building that reduces heating and cooling costs by 74% and CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 155 tons a year. In the visitor center plaza, there are Eco-hunt signs that identify and explain the earth-friendly features.

**Directions:** See if you can find the signs with the Eco-hunt logo (pictured above left) and write the name of the feature and what it does in the blank space next to each one.





# Go Team!

Park rangers work as a team. There are many types of rangers. The uniform they wear and the tools they use may give you a clue as to what they do.

**Directions:** Match each riddle with the type of park ranger pictured below.



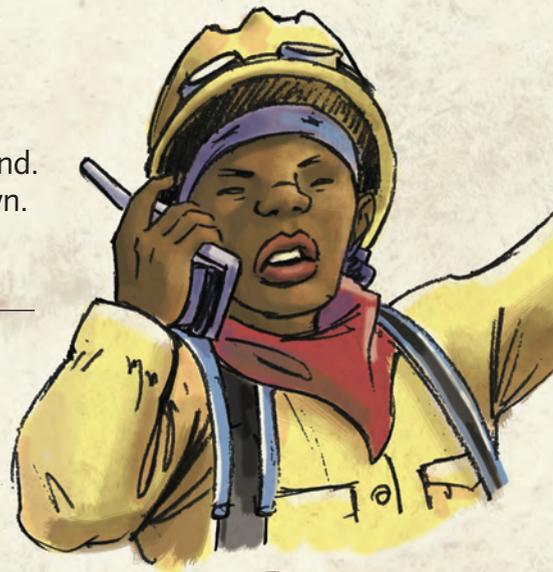
**Interpretation**

I've got the hottest job in town.  
I work from the air and on the ground.  
When flames get out of hand I frown.  
I help keep healthy habitats around.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

My job is to build the trails.  
I put in steps, bridges, and rails.  
Making sure nothing is in the way,  
so that you can hike safely today.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_



**Fire**

Don't break rules or I'll get on your case.  
I help keep Zion an orderly place.  
Look at that flower—please don't pick it,  
or I will have to write you a ticket.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

All day long I answer questions for you.  
I will take you on a guided hike too.  
My job is to observe, learn, and share.  
And to help visitors relate and care.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_



**Law Enforcement**



**Trail Maintenance**

# Animals of Zion

# Word Search



**Directions:** Circle the animals from the list below in the puzzle. The words are hidden up, down, sideways, backwards, and diagonally.

- BAT
- TARANTULA
- OWL
- MULE DEER
- EAGLE
- RACCOON
- STINKBUG
- FOX
- COUGAR
- LIZARD
- BIGHORN SHEEP
- RATTLESNAKE
- COYOTE
- SCORPION
- SKUNK

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





# Do You Hear What I Hear?

National parks like Zion offer more than beautiful landscapes, wildlife, and ancient rock art. Parks offer an opportunity to hear a unique sound environment, or **soundscape**. Exercise your listening skills and find out why Zion might sound different from your home.

*You may think you hear a bird laughing at you . . .*

tee-tee-tee-tew-tew-tew-tew...



*The sound of the wind rustling through the cottonwood trees might make you sleepy . . .*

Whoooooshhhh

As you explore the park, find a place to close your eyes and listen to the sounds. Where did you stop and listen?

---

What did you hear?

---

How are the sounds different at home?

---

Why should natural sounds be protected?

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*Or, you may be certain you hear a goat while hiking along the trails . . .*

brrurt-brrurt-brrurt



## Suggested Reading List

*A Naturalist's Guide to Canyon Country.* David Williams. Guilford, CT: The Globe Pequot Press, 2000.

*101 Questions About Desert Life.* Alice Jablonsky. Tucson, AZ: Western National Parks Association, 1994.

*Rangers Activity and Sticker Book.* Greer Chesher, illustrated by Guy Porfirio. Ft. Washington, PA: Eastern National, 2005.

*The Redrock Canyon Explorer.* Irene Brady. Talent, OR: Nature Works Press, 1998.

*A Seed Is Sleepy.* Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2007.

*Watching Desert Wildlife.* Jim Arnosky. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1998.

*When Clay Sings.* Byrd Baylor, illustrated by Tom Bahti. New York, NY: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1972.

*Winging It.* Catherine, Cynthia, James, and Vivian Coulter. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2004.

## Become a WebRanger!

The National Park Service WebRangers website is filled with activities for kids of all ages.  
[www.nps.gov/webangers](http://www.nps.gov/webangers)

## Credits

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Zion Natural History Association  
Springdale, Utah 84767  
[www.zionpark.org](http://www.zionpark.org)

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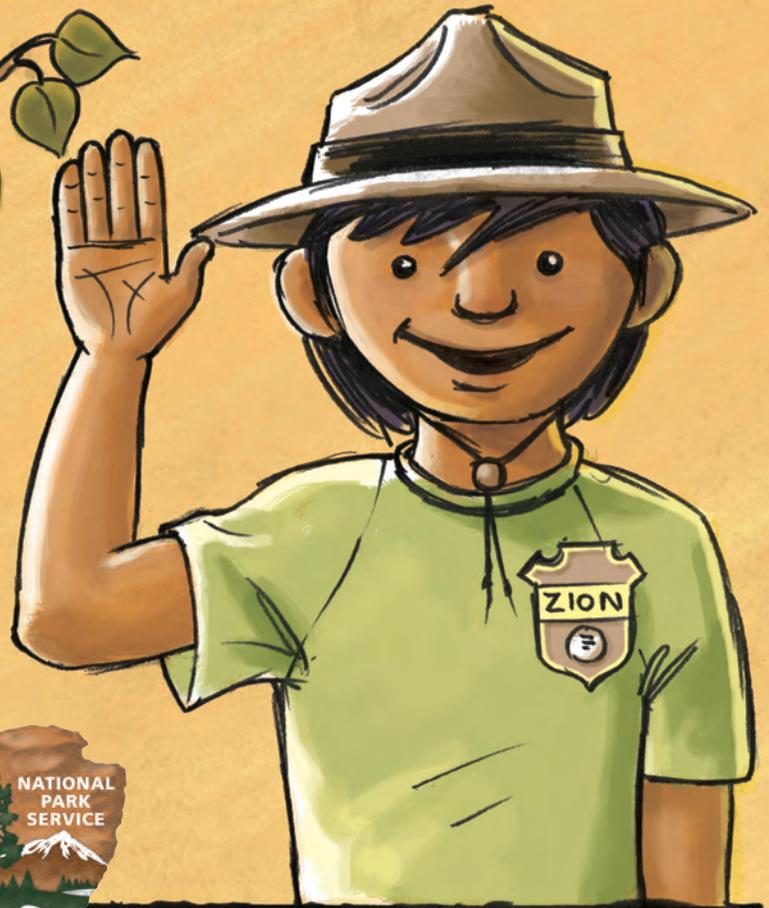


# Zion National Park Junior Ranger Certificate



## Junior Ranger Oath

I am proud to be a Zion Junior Ranger. I promise to help take care of and protect Zion National Park and all national parks. I also promise to continue to explore, learn about, and respect the natural world wherever I go.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger Signature

