

Program of the Month | July 2024



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Junior Ranger Program

**Who are
Junior
Rangers?**

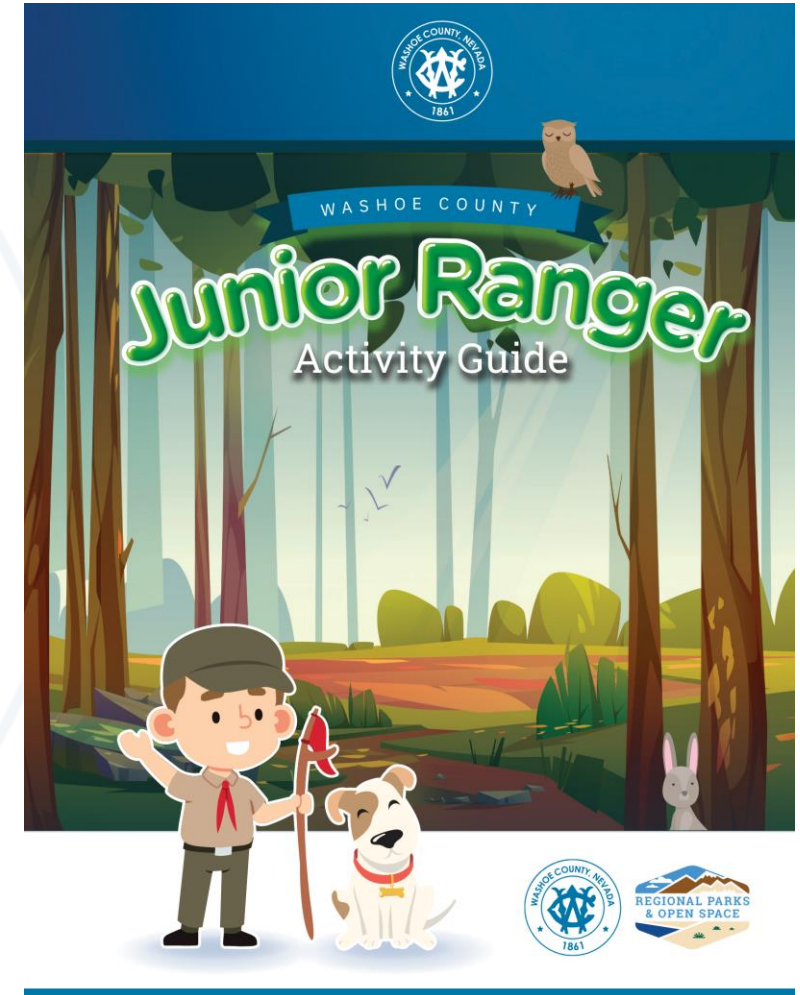


Who are Junior Rangers?

- This program is formatted for our youngest park visitors
 - Children ages 5-12 years old is the target audience, although anyone can participate.
- They possess the curiosity to learn about the important work of Park Rangers and share that knowledge with others.
- They are the next generation of park protectors, advocates and stewards. Perhaps even the future of the Parks team...

Junior Ranger Activity Guide

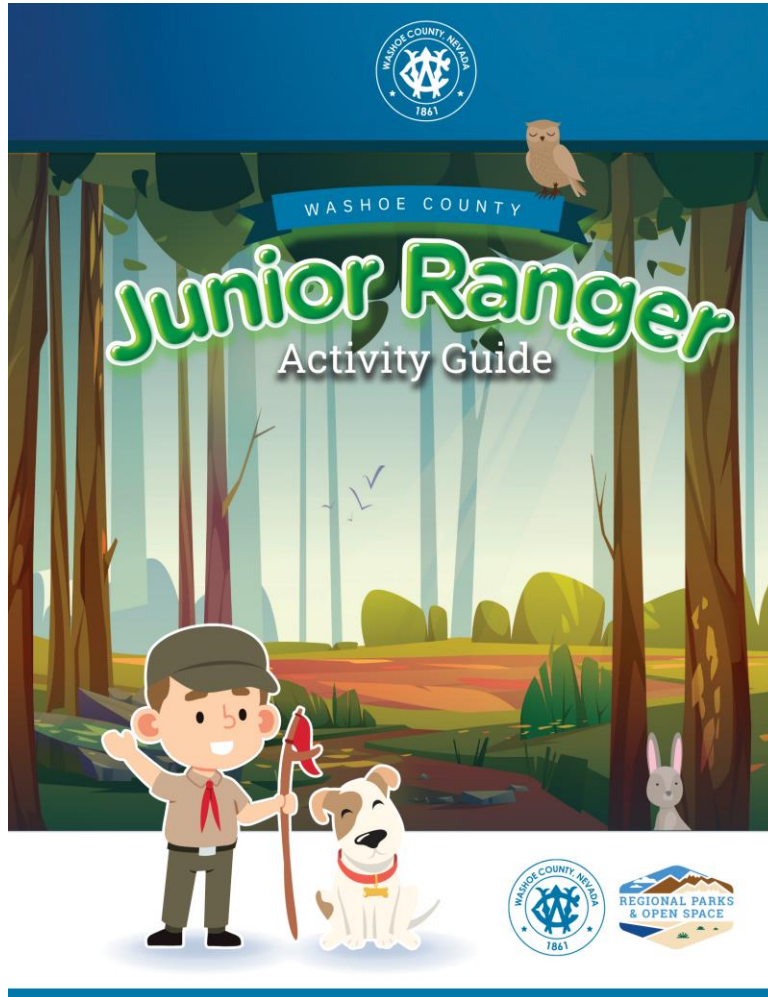
- Re-imagined in 2023 as a collaborative effort by Washoe County's Park Rangers and Digital Communications.
- Replaced a previous guide that was meant as a self-guided, passive experience.
- New guide features 22 pages of full-color activities
 - "Leave No Trace" 7 principals
 - Flora, fauna, ecosystems, natural and cultural history of our region
 - 6 Regional Parks Highlighted
- Designed as an interactive element of Ranger-led Junior Ranger Adventure Day programs – or explore on your own, at your own pace.
- Physical copies can be obtained by visiting a park office or downloaded from www.WashoeCountyParks.com.

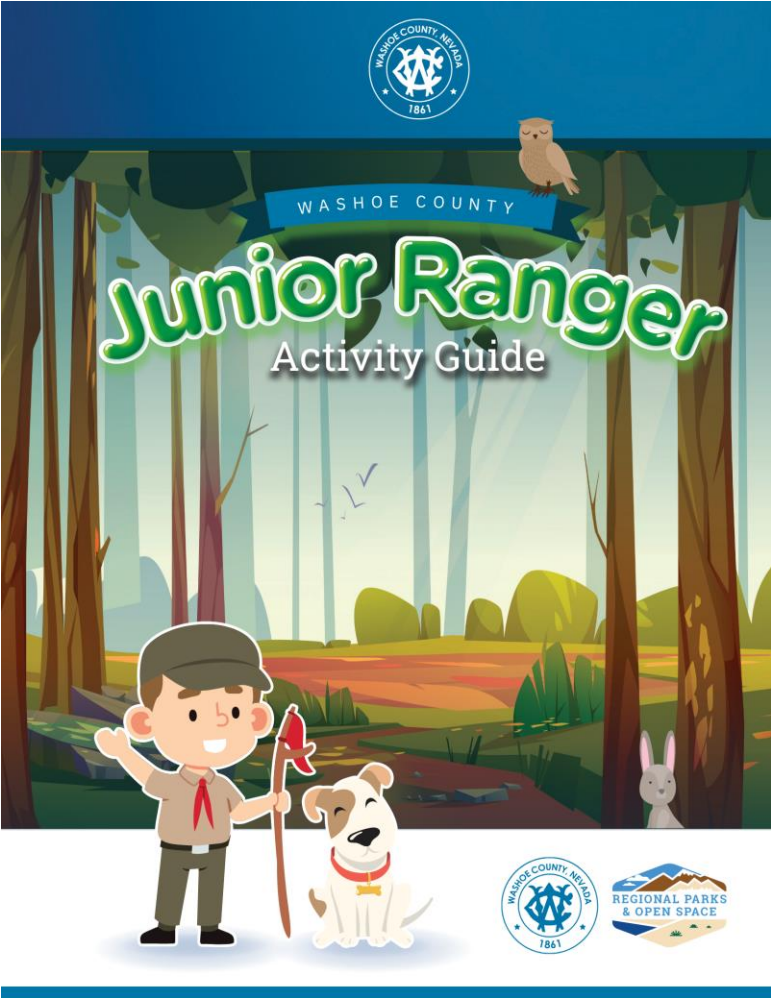


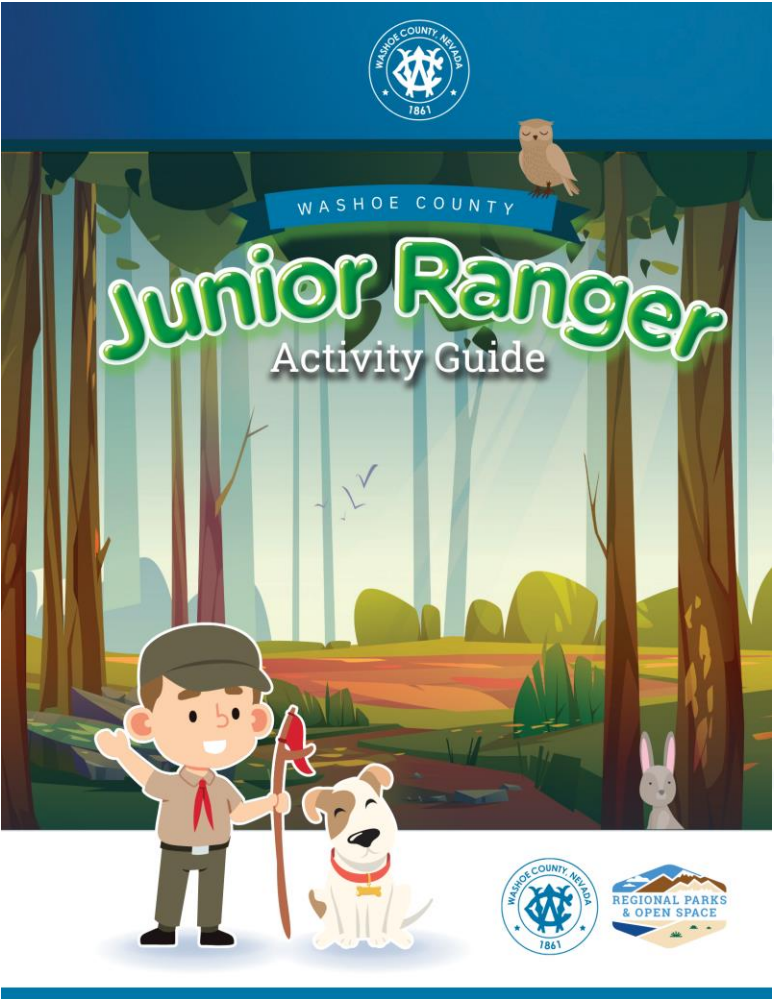
Washoe County Junior Ranger Program



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Truckee River Watershed

The Truckee River Watershed

Have you ever thought about where our water comes from? The Truckee River Watershed is located on the western edge of the Great Basin, which is basically a big sink. But how does it work? Match the bold words with the boxes to discover the magic of our water cycle!



Clouds that are formed by **condensation** over the Pacific Ocean are pushed by wind over the Sierra Nevada Range. As this happens, they become so condensed that they begin to form water droplets that fall as **precipitation** in the form of rain and snow. Snow that accumulates in the Sierras melts to form creeks and streams. Known as **runoff**, the creeks and streams that flow down the western slope of the mountains will flow toward the Pacific Ocean, while those that flow down the eastern slope will flow toward the Lake Tahoe Basin, which is the beginning of the Truckee River.

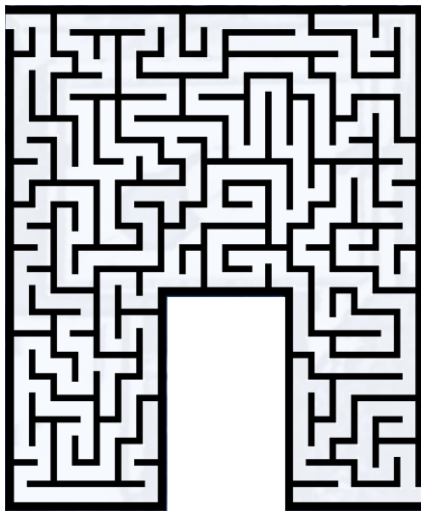
As the river winds its way into the Truckee Meadows, it is combined with other creeks and streams along the way, while some water will percolate into the soil to form an underground **aquifer**. Meanwhile, snowmelt that settles in Washoe Valley to create Washoe Lake joins runoff from Galena Creek, Thomas Creek and others as they flow into Steamboat Creek on the east side of the valley, combining with the Truckee River near Lockwood. The river continues east, eventually making the 121-mile journey to Pyramid Lake. The sun will heat the lake, causing **evaporation** to take place, where the water will again condense in the atmosphere. Plants also contribute to this process through **transpiration**, where they release water that was once soaked up through their roots, by "breathing" through their leaves.



Who Lives Here?

Biomes are zones where a particular kind of environment exists, such as deserts, forests, and wetlands. The relationship between plants and animals has a lot to do with what type of environment they are in. Herbivores (prey animals) that depend on a certain type of plant for survival may only be found where that plant exists, while carnivores (predatory animals) might roam between one or more biomes as they hunt for their food. Can you tell who lives here by looking at their tracks? Draw a line between the animal and their tracks, and then draw a second line to connect them to their biome. *Hint: There may be more than one possible biome depending on the animal!*







Bowers Mansion Park Page Text

Did you know? Sandy and his wife Eilley built the Bowers Mansion in 1864 after becoming Nevada's first Comstock Lode Millionaires. They earned a fortune with their silver mine near Gold Hill, Nevada. After becoming a Washoe County Park in 1946, the mansion was restored in the 1960's to become one of the most impressive examples of Nevada history. You can take a guided tour of the mansion, which is open seasonally each year! Can you find your way through the Mansion Maze?




 **Bowers Mansion**




Welcome to Bowers Mansion Regional Park

Did you know? Sandy and his wife Eilley built the Bowers Mansion in 1862 after becoming Nevada's first Comstock Lode Millionaires. They earned a fortune with their silver mine near Gold Hill, Nevada. After becoming a Washoe County park in 1946, the mansion was restored in the 1960's to become one of the most impressive examples of Nevada history. You can take a guided tour of the mansion, which is open seasonally each year! Can you find your way through the Mansion Maze?

When touring, please don't touch anything in the mansion. Leave what you find for others to enjoy.





Campfire Safety Crossword

Camping at Davis Creek Regional Park is a fun way to experience the great outdoors. One of the best parts of a camping trip is building a campfire. Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn some of the important ways to minimize campfire impacts.



Minimize Campfire
Impacts!!

Clues!

ACROSS

- 3 Never leave your campfire _____.
- 5 Use established fire _____ only for your campfire.
- 7 Do not _____ when you are near or around a campfire.
- 8 _____ fires are better than larger fires.

DOWN

- 1 Keep a bucket of _____ near the fire.
- 2 Never throw _____ into the fire. This can cause sparks to fly.
- 4 Always _____ the fire with water until cool to the touch before leaving.
- 5 Only _____ should build campfires.
- 6 Use wood no _____ than the fire ring.

Key: Water Unattended Rings Rocks
Run Smaller ~~Down~~ Adults Bigger

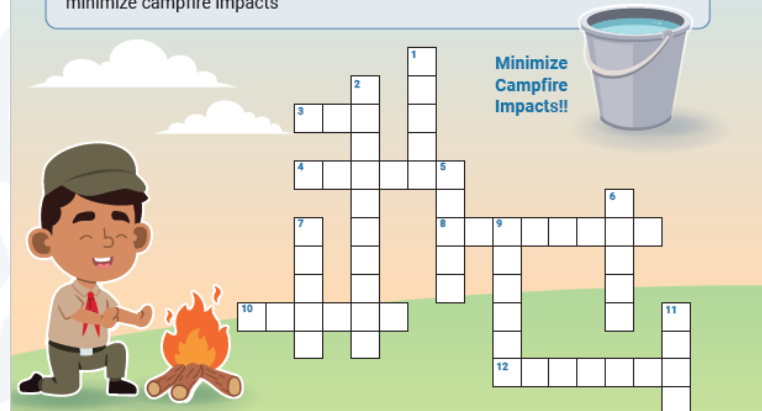
Davis Creek Regional Park is located at 25 Davis Creek Rd., Washoe Valley, Nevada.



Davis Creek

Welcome to Davis Creek Regional Park

Camping at Davis Creek Regional Park is a fun way to experience the great outdoors! While building a campfire is a great way to add to the enjoyment of any camping trip, knowing campfire safety will help you and your fellow campers be safe. Complete the crossword puzzle to learn some important ways to minimize campfire impacts.



Across

3. It's not a good idea to _____ when around or near a campfire.
4. It's best not to _____ sticks, pinecones, or pine needles from surrounding areas to burn in your campfire.
8. _____ should only be used in fire rings or freestanding park grills.
10. Use firewood no _____ than the fire ring.
12. A safe campfire is knee-height or _____.

Down

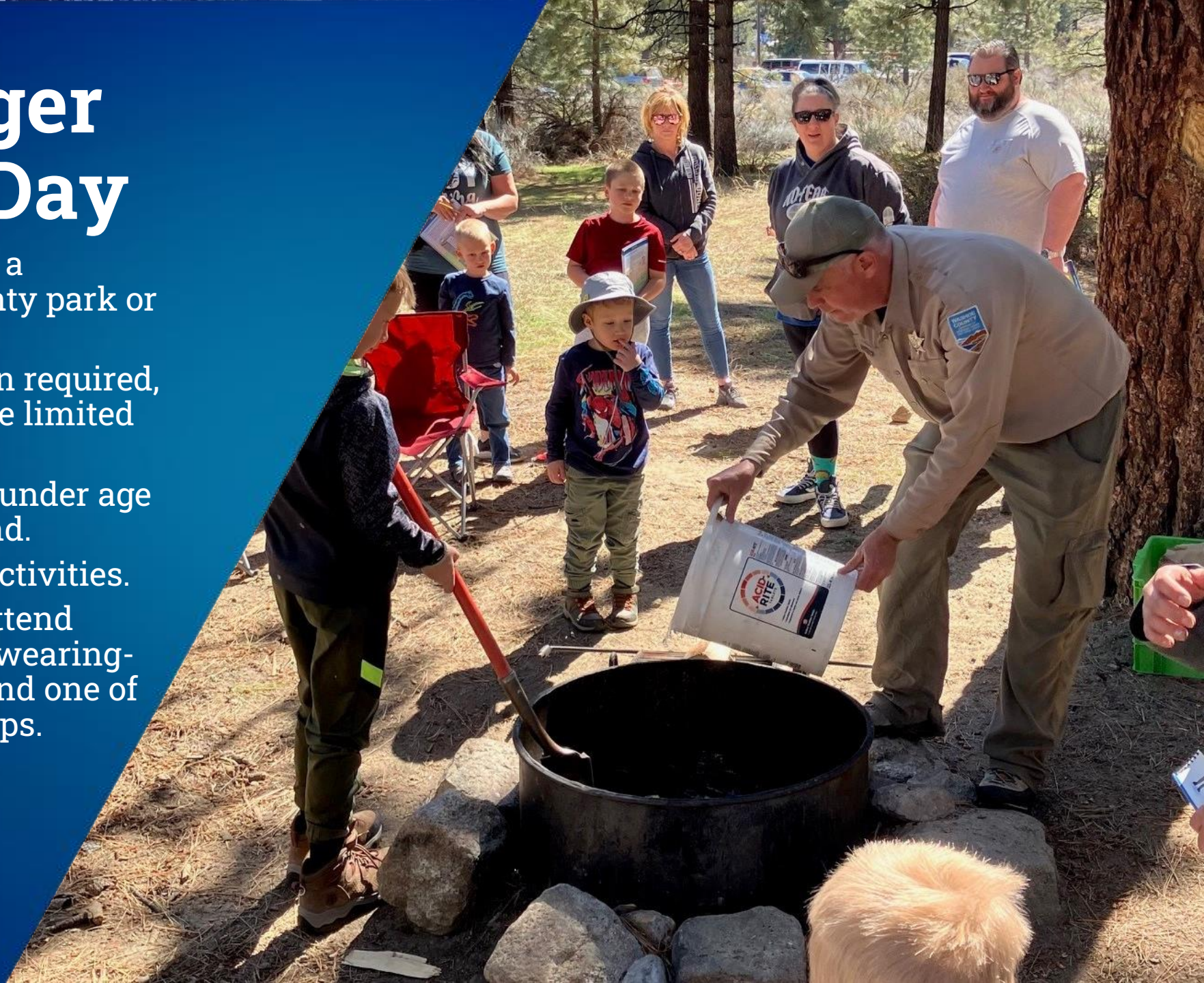
1. Always _____ your campfire before leaving it.
2. Never leave your campfire _____.
5. Throwing _____ into a campfire can cause sparks to fly.
6. Always keep a bucket of _____ nearby.
7. Only established fire _____ should be used to build a campfire.
9. Only _____ should build campfires.
11. Water works better than _____ for extinguishing campfires.

An Interactive Experience



Junior Ranger Adventure Day

- Offered each month in a different Washoe County park or open space area.
- Free online registration required, no cost to attend. Space limited to 30 per program.
- Parents with children under age 10 are required to attend.
- Variety of topics and activities.
- Junior Rangers who attend receive a badge and “swearing-in” by a Park Ranger and one of six regional park stamps.



Or...feel free to explore on your own!

- Grab a guide from the nearest Regional Park office or download the guide to your device and complete it electronically or print it at home.
- Visit your favorite Washoe County Park or Open Space area
- Plan your own adventure (Page 6)
- Complete at least 3 Outdoor Activities (Page 7)
- Contact your nearest Washoe County Regional Park office to schedule a meeting with a Park Ranger or attend a Ranger-led activity or volunteer event to earn your stamp and special "Swearing-in" as a Junior Ranger.

Checklist

My Journey to Become a Junior Ranger

- ✓ Successfully planned an outdoor adventure? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ✓ Completed at least 3 outdoor activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ✓ Walked Penny the Pug? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ✓ Joined a Park Ranger on a Ranger-led activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Junior Ranger Oath:

I, _____
Print your name

Promise to:

Appreciate, protect, and respect all of Washoe County's Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces so that all visitors can enjoy them today and in the future.

Continue to explore and learn as much as possible about the plants, animals, and history of these special places.

Be a steward and share what I have learned with my friends and family.

Washoe County
Park Ranger

Date



More Adventure Awaits!

- Attend Junior Ranger Adventure Day Programs to earn the six stamps for:
 - Bowers Manion Regional Park
 - Davis Creek Regional Park
 - Galena Creek Regional Park
 - Bartley Ranch Regional Park
 - Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
 - Lazy 5 Regional Park
- Complete your self-guided journey and meet with Rangers to obtain the stamps using a physical copy of the guide.
- Those who present their completed guide will earn the rank of **Super Junior Ranger** and a special prize!

Resources

Collect All Six Regional Park Stamps!



Junior Ranger Online Resources:

For educational material and helpful resources, visit www.WashoeCountyParks.com and find the Junior Ranger Page under Parks/Park Programs, or scan the QR Code for more about:

- The Junior Ranger Activity Guide Answer Key
- Parks and Open Space Locations
- Trail Maps and Guides
- Leave No Trace Principles
- Park Ranger Contact Information



Printing was made possible with funding from your generous donations to our Washoe County Parks. Original content created by the Park Rangers who protect and preserve them. Special Thanks to our friends at MeshCreative for their hard work and dedication in the creation of this guide.

At a Glance:

- Debuted in September 2023 at Galena Creek Regional Park
- Funded 100% through donations
- 11 JRAD Programs offered so far...
 - 275+ participants, many have attended more than one program, 21+ average per program.
 - Our first Super Junior Ranger award will be given soon with more to follow!
- Upcoming Junior Ranger Adventure Days:
 - South Valleys Library on 7/25/24
 - Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on 8/18/24
 - *Regional Junior Ranger Day at Washoe Lake State Park on 9/7/24



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For More Information:

Visit the Calendar of Events to learn about upcoming programs and to register:

www.WashoeCountyParks.com

Follow us on Facebook @ Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space

Or contact:

Abrown@washoecounty.gov

775-785-4512



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Thank you



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