

DeSoto State Park's



# Junior Ranger Handbook

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

# Hello!



Welcome to DeSoto State Park, the home of Mother Nature. I am so glad you are here and would like to be a DeSoto State Park Jr. Ranger. It is not going to be easy. A Jr. Ranger has got to love and be curious about nature. You have got to want to conserve & protect our fragile environment.

To become a DeSoto State Park Jr. Ranger you will need to follow the requirements on the next several pages. Clues & tips can be found all over the park to help you finish the activities. When you finish meeting all the requirements you will receive your official Jr. Ranger Certificate.

## Thank you for your help & good luck!



**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR JUNIOR RANGER CERTIFICATE YOU MUST FILL OUR THE INFORMATION BELOW AND TURN IN THIS ENTIRE BOOKLET AT DESOTO STATE PARK.**



Booklet & certificate will be mailed to you.  
Please print as clearly as possible.

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

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Room/Campsite/Cabin: \_\_\_\_\_

What date will you be leaving? \_\_\_\_\_

**Information about weekend activities & programs is available at the Country Store, Lodge & Nature Center.**

**Call 256.997.5025 or see [www.alapark.com/events](http://www.alapark.com/events) for full calendar of events.**



# Junior Ranger Requirements:

1. Attend 1 guided hike or program. (If available)
2. Hike at least two of the trails in the park.
3. Visit the Nature Center

Name two live animals you saw in the Nature Center:

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

4. Visit 5 or more of the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ DeSoto Falls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Little River Canyon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Falls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Old CCC Rock Quarry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Needle Eye Rock
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lost Falls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Laurel Falls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Azalea Cascade
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Falls



5. Collect any litter you see while hiking in the park. (Ask at the Country Store for trash bags)
6. Complete the exercises in this Jr. Ranger Handbook.

## As you Hike, remember:

Be aware of potential dangers!



**Poison Ivy**

This small creeper can crawl along the ground or up a tree. It always has 3 leaves & can camouflage itself among places that you may want to explore. Sounds innocent, right? Not! This plant can cause an allergic reaction on your bare skin. Stay on the trails in the park & be safe!



**Ticks**

These arachnids are very tiny and parasitic, meaning they feed on blood. Ticks crawl on shrubs & grasses waiting for host animals to pass by. They quickly let go of the plant and then crawl on the host. Be sure to check your hair & body after being in the woods.



**Snakes**



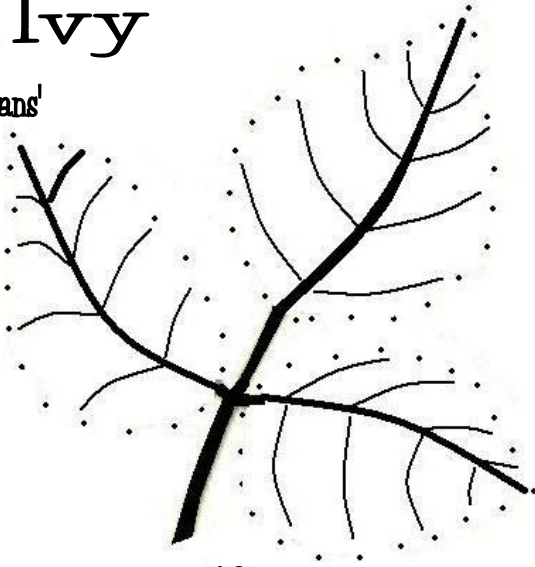
-All kinds of snakes can be found in the woods, though not very often. A snake's most common form of defense is avoidance; they don't want to see us as much as we don't want to see them! If you happen to see one on the trail, step back, give it space and they will quickly slither off of the trail.

# Leaf Shapes

Botanists are people that study all about plants, including the sizes & shapes of leaves. Trace around the leaf shapes & look at plants while out hiking to help you become a botanist.

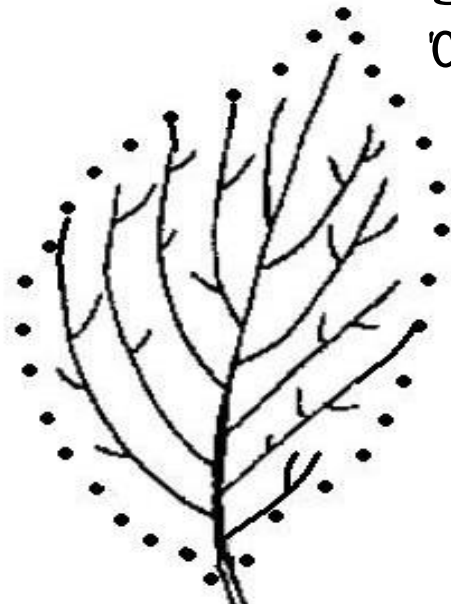
## Poison Ivy

*Toxicodendron radicans*



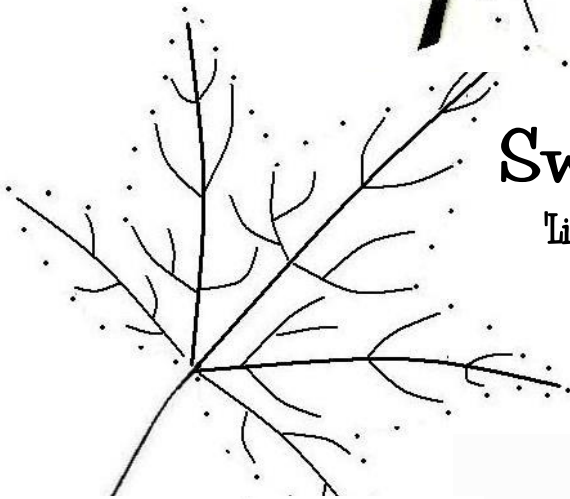
## Dogwood

*Cornus florida*



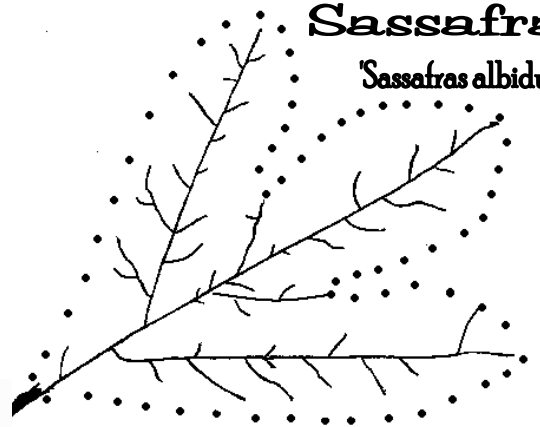
## Sweetgum

*Liquidambar styraciflua*



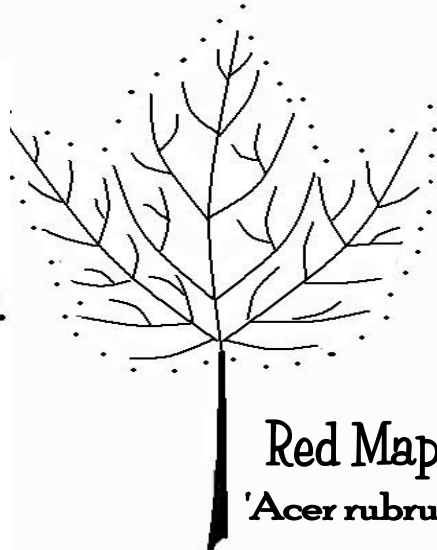
## Sassafras

*Sassafras albidum*



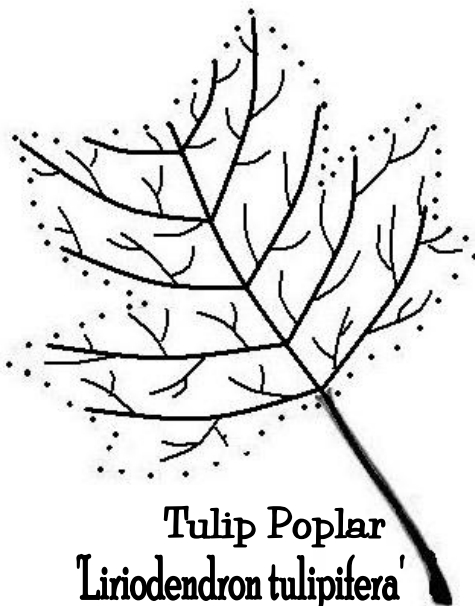
## Red Maple

*Acer rubrum*



## Tulip Poplar

*Liriodendron tulipifera*



## White Oak

*Quercus alba*





# Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps built DeSoto State Park in the 1930s nearly 80 years ago.

Find the words about the CCC in the puzzle below.

Memorial

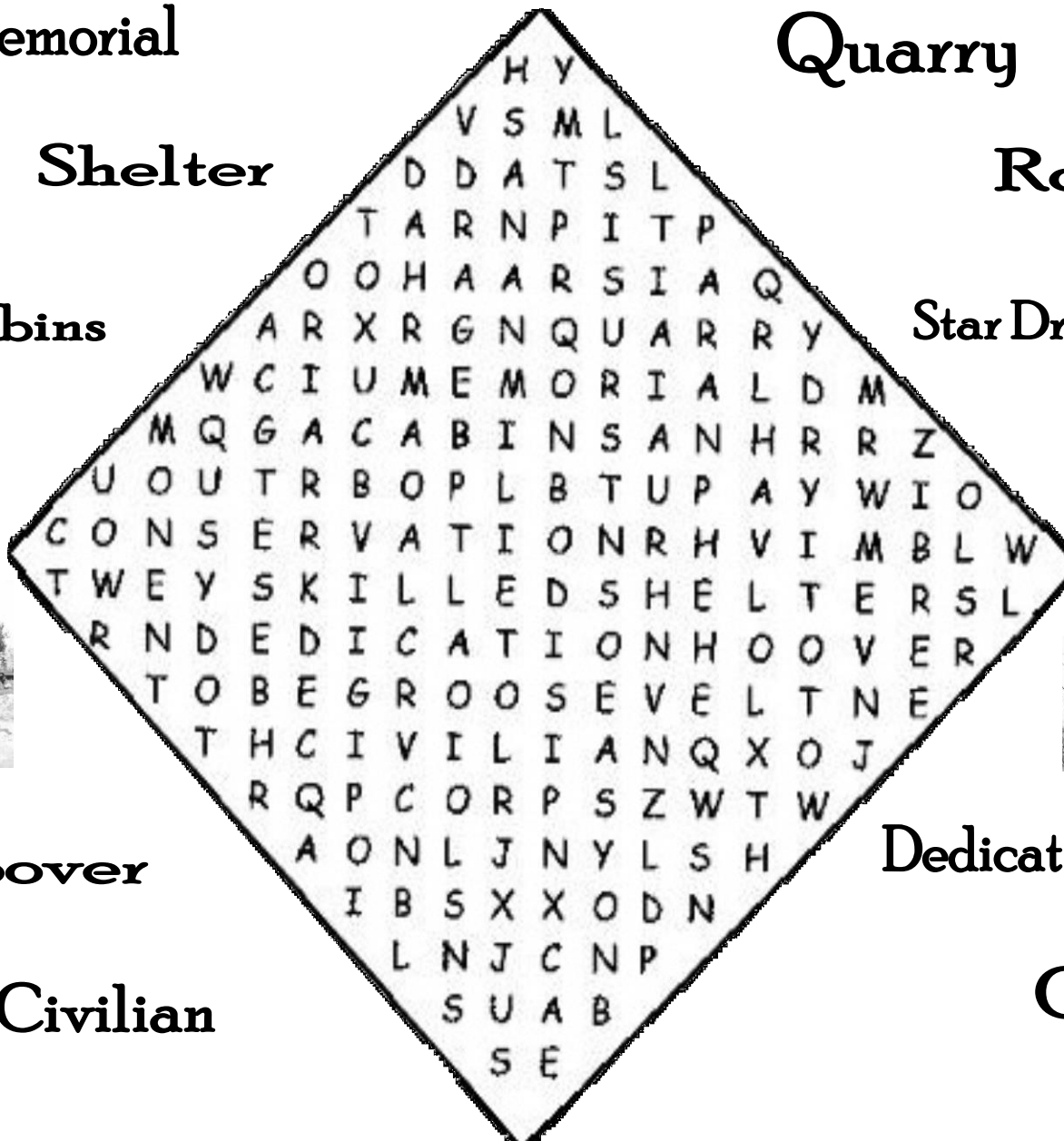
Quarry

Shelter

Roads

Cabins

Star Drill



Hoover

Dedication

Civilian

Corps

Roosevelt

Conservation

Restaurant

Skilled



Trails

Sandstone



# Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is a national program that promotes responsible outdoor recreation.

Remember - As a Jr. ranger you'll enjoy nature even more by caring for your special place.

Solve the cryptogram below by finding the letters that go along with the numbers in the puzzle to learn the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

**Key**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
9	4	25	21	26	5	11	8	23	19	3	20	16

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6	18	15	13	1	17	10	14	24	12	7	2	22

" **K** \_\_\_\_\_ **B** \_\_\_\_\_ **Y** \_\_\_\_\_ **G** \_\_\_\_\_ "

3 6 18 12      4 26 5 18 1 26      2 18 14      11 18

Be prepared! Use maps to show you where you'll be going & you won't get lost. Learn about the areas you visit. The more you know the more fun you'll have.



" **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **P** \_\_\_\_\_ "

25 8 18 18 17 26      10 8 26      1 23 11 8 10      15 9 10 8

Use existing camp areas & walk on the main trail to protect nature.



" **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **Y** \_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ "

10 1 9 17 8      2 18 14 1      10 1 9 17 8

Pack it in, pack it out. When hiking or camping take your trash home with you. Keep water sources clean.

Don't put soap, food, or poop in rivers or streams.



" **L** \_\_\_\_\_ **W** \_\_\_\_\_ **Y** \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ "

20 26 9 24 26      12 8 9 10      2 18 14      5 23 6 21

Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so the next person can enjoy them.



" **B** \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **W** \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ "

4 26 25 9 1 26 5 14 20      12 23 10 8      5 23 1 26

If it's ok to build a campfire in the area you're visiting, use an existing fire ring to protect the ground from heat. Don't break off any twigs or branches from live plants; instead collect loose sticks from the ground. Be

sure that the fire is completely out and cold before you leave.



" **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **W** \_\_\_\_\_ "

1 26 17 15 26 25 10      12 23 20 21 20 23 5 26

Watch wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them. Human food is unhealthy for all animals and feeding them starts bad habits. Protect wildlife and your food by storing your meals and trash tightly. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

" **B** \_\_\_\_\_ **K** \_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **O** \_\_\_\_\_ **V** \_\_\_\_\_ "

4 26      3 23 6 21      10 18      18 10 8 26 1      24 23 17 23 10 18      1 17

Make sure the fun you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember that other visitors are there to enjoy nature. Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. If you meet other visitors on the trail, step to the side & let them pass.



# DeSoto State Park Quiz



Use the words below to solve the puzzle.

Salamander

Milford



~Across~

Orchid

Rangers

Park

Endangered

Explorer



River

Green

Canyon

Dam

Amphibian

Pecan

Plants



Lodge

Dedicated

3. DeSoto's Mountain Inn Restaurant was built in the original \_\_\_\_\_ dating from the 1930s.
4. DeSoto State Park was named for Hernando DeSoto, a Spanish\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Little River \_\_\_\_\_ was originally called May's Gulf.
12. The Pink Lady Slipper is Alabama's largest native \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Park \_\_\_\_\_ help to protect the park.
14. The rare Green \_\_\_\_\_ can be found in DeSoto State Park.
16. The Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel was built by \_\_\_\_\_ Howard in memory of his wife.

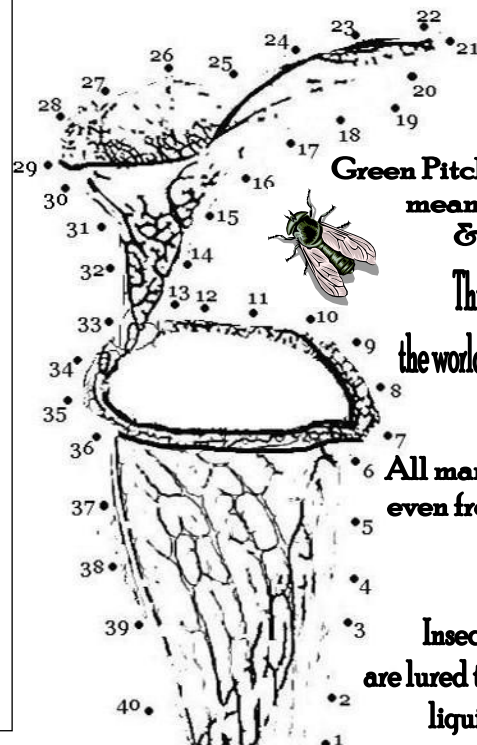


~Down~

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is Alabama's state nut.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Pitcher Plant is endangered in Alabama & can only be found in small colonies.
- Digging or picking \_\_\_\_\_ is not allowed in state parks & other protected lands.
- Alabama's state \_\_\_\_\_ is the Red Hills Salamander.
- DeSoto State Park was the largest state \_\_\_\_\_ in Alabama at the time of its dedication.
- The Green Pitcher Plant is \_\_\_\_\_ in Alabama & can only be found in small colonies.
- Little \_\_\_\_\_ flows almost its entire length atop Lookout Mountain.
- DeSoto State Park was \_\_\_\_\_ on May 24, 1939.
- A. A. Miller built the \_\_\_\_\_ above DeSoto Falls in the mid 1920s.

Connect the dots to see the picture.

Green Pitcher Plant



Did you know?

Green Pitcher Plants are carnivorous, meaning they eat animals & other organisms.

This plant is only found in 3 states in the world, & is considered critically endangered.

All manner of insects, arachnids, & even frog bones have been found in Green Pitcher Plants.

Insects & other small animals are lured to the plant by the smell of the liquid trapped in the pitcher.