Junior Ranger Adventure Book
Hi, my name is Jack. Welcome to Fort Scott. My dad was a soldier here and he helped build the Fort. He said he cut down the first tree used in the first building constructed here.

In 1855, after my dad left the army, he came back to Fort Scott to live in and he brought us with him. By then the soldiers were gone and the fort was a town. We thought it would be a quiet place to live, but there were a lot of things that happened at that time. Some were exciting, some were scary. Come on an adventure with me and I'll share some stories with you about Fort Scott.

There are many different activities in this book that you can do. Choose one on each page or you can do them all if you want. Bring along your haversack. Inside you will find all kinds of things to help you with the activities. Use the map below to help find the way. The numbers on the map match the numbers on the pages. They show where to do the activities. Look for the letters colored red to help you solve a puzzle at the end of the book. When you're done, take the book back to the visitor center and you can get a badge. Ready? Let’s go.
1. Museum

We’ll start in the museum. The movie tells about stories of adventure and exciting things that happened here. Watch it and then do one of these activities.

The movie tells about four different periods of time that are important to Fort Scott’s history. Draw a line matching the time period to the picture.

A. Permanent Indian Frontier

B. Bleeding Kansas

C. Civil War

D. Railroad expansion

Mark the following statements as true or false.

1. The Indians of the East were moved west to free land for the settlers of a growing nation.
2. Soldiers from Fort Scott left to go fight in Canada. Many gave their lives in battle.
3. There was violence at Fort Scott during Bleeding Kansas.
4. Many soldiers died in the hospital at Fort Scott during the Civil War.
5. The Army came to Fort Scott in 1900 to help put telegraph lines in.

The narrator of the film states that “the soldiers arrived by horse and left by train.” Can you explain how this statement relates to the history of the fort?
Some of the exhibits in the museum tell about Indians that lived nearby. When my dad first came to Fort Scott, his job was to keep peace between the white settlers and the Indian tribes. The Osage were one of those tribes. Imagine yourself as an Osage as you do these activities.

The Osage warriors often carried shields made of buckskin into battle. They were colorfully decorated. Design your own shield. Use your imagination and the colored pencils in your haversack.

Your haversack contains a partial list of Osage vocabulary words. Use this list to translate the following phrase.

“The buffalo kill will be good in summer. The village will eat this winter.”

Osage Translation:

NPS Note: Before proceeding to the stables, stop and read the Western Hotel exhibit just outside the museum for help with activities 6 and 7.
3. Stables

To patrol the frontier, the army sent dragoon soldiers to Fort Scott. A dragoon was a horse soldier. My dad was a dragoon. He could ride fast. One summer, he and some other soldiers rode 2200 miles in less than 100 days. That’s more than 20 miles a day. Come on inside the stables to learn more about horses.

If you could choose the color of your horse, what would it be? Why would you pick this color?

Horses are measured in “hands.” Lay your hand sideways and measure the horse on the wall from the floor to the top of the shoulder.

How many hands tall is the horse? _______ How many hands tall are you? _______

One of the things that dragoons had to do every day was to groom the horse. There were several tools used to do this task. One of these tools is the mane comb. Take the mane comb from your haversack and brush out the tail of the woodcut horse on exhibit in the first stall on your right. Why was grooming an important task at Fort Scott?
When the soldiers weren’t out on horseback, they slept on the second floor of the barracks. Go upstairs to the squad room. Half the company shared this one room. As you can see, it was crowded in here. Sometimes this caused fights. There was one soldier who got killed at Fort Scott in a fight over a dog.

Study the beds. The single beds with ropes were for the corporals. They got their own beds. The bunks were for the privates. They slept two to a bunk, two on top, and two on bottom. Counting two to a bunk and one for single beds, figure out how many people slept in this room. Look at the names on the bunks. These are the names of soldiers who were here. Write down the names of four of the soldiers:

One of the exhibits across the hall tells about the weapons of the dragoons - the saber, the carbine, and the pistol.

The saber and the carbine were the main weapons. As you read the exhibit, compare the two weapons. If you were a dragoon, which weapon would you prefer, the saber or the carbine? Explain why you would make this choice. Hint: Think about how you would use each weapon.
Most of the work at the fort was done by the soldiers who were all men. There were some women though, called laundresses, that washed the soldiers’ clothes. They worked hard scrubbing the soldiers’ clothes on a washboard. They made extra money by mending rips and tears on clothes and sewing on buttons. Let’s help the laundress do her work.

The laundress had many tools to do her work. Look at the pictures below and decide which of these tools the laundress would need to complete her work. Cross out the unnecessary items.

If a laundress did the laundry for 4 soldiers and then mended 2 coats, altered 3 vests, and sewed on 16 large buttons, how much money would she make?

Next to the laundress quarters exhibit is a washboard and tub. Remove the shirt from your haversack and pretend to scrub it on the washboard to experience the hard work of a laundress.
6. Free State vs. Pro-Slavery

The army left Fort Scott in 1853. Two years later, the fort became a town. After my dad left the army, he moved back to Fort Scott with his family. My dad thought his adventures were over when he came here, but then people started fighting about slavery in Kansas.

Below are pictures of two buildings that became hotels. One was the Fort Scott or Free State Hotel. The other is the Western or Pro-Slavery Hotel. Look at some of the outdoor exhibits and figure out which one is which. Write your answer in the space below the pictures.

The town was so divided that all the streets on the west side of town were named after free state men and all the streets on the east side were named after pro-slavery men. Take the map of Fort Scott out of your haversack and study the street names. Write below the names of two free state men and two pro-slavery men.

Free State Men

Pro-Slavery Men

NPS Note: Most of the answers to Activities 6 and 7 can be found on two outdoor exhibits. The Western Hotel exhibit, which is located in front of the museum and the exhibit with the photo of James Montgomery located just in front of Officers’ Row. If you have not already read the Western Hotel exhibit, you may have to go back there to do these activities.
The disagreements over slavery turned violent. Fort Scott became a dangerous place to live. One time, some angry men came to town with guns. They broke someone out of jail. They even killed someone who used to be a deputy marshal. Help keep Fort Scott safe.

Here are three pictures that show some scary things that took place around Fort Scott in 1858.

They are pictures of the  A. Marais des Cygnes Massacre   B. Montgomery Raid   C. Peace Convention

Match the picture with the event by writing the name of the event below the picture. Look at the wayside or outdoor exhibits to find the answers.

Take out your copy of the Fort Scott Democrat from your haversack. Locate the article titled “Horrible Murder, Mob Law Triumphant.”

Imagine you are an illustrator for the Democrat. Draw a picture that tells the story of the raid. Include some of the details that are reported in the newspaper.
8. The Wilson-Goodlander Home

This building was Mr. Wilson’s house. He was a town leader and a storekeeper. He was threatened many times while living here. After the marshal was killed, my dad became leader of the militia to help protect Mr. Wilson and the rest of the town. Today you can look inside the house to find out how the fort was built.

Retrieve these items from your haversack: a square nail and a piece of wallpaper. As you walk through the Wilson Home, find examples of these in the building. Write down where you find them.

On the upper floor of this building, look for the exhibit seen in the photograph to your left. The materials in this exhibit are wood, plaster, and brick. The sign next to the exhibit says that one of these materials was used for insulation.

After reading the sign, answer the following questions.

Which of these materials was used for insulation?

What is this type of insulation called? Hint: Starts with an N

Bonus Question: What is used for insulation in homes today?

One of the most important decisions that the National Park Service made was to leave the Wilson/Goodlander Home in its original condition. Find the blank copy of an archeology report from your haversack. On this form, express your ideas why this building should be restored or left in original condition. Be sure to support your opinions.
9. Kansas Statehood

After seven years of fighting, Kansas finally became a state. It entered the Union as a free state (without slavery) on January 29, 1861. The people in Fort Scott were happy that the fighting was over. But peace didn’t last long. The Civil War began that same year.

From your haversack, find the Kansas state flag. Notice what is on the flag—the word Kansas, the state flower and the state seal. The seal has 34 stars because Kansas was the 34th state. It also has other important symbols. The riverboat means trade and commerce. The person plowing symbolizes farming. What do you think the buffalo and covered wagons mean?

Imagine you are trying to design a flag for a new state. Below, draw your own version of a state flag.

The Kansas state motto is “Ad Astra per Aspera” or “To the Stars through Difficulties.” How does this motto relate to the history of Kansas?
As you walk, listen to all the sounds. Are these sounds you would have heard in the 1800s or is it a modern sound? Below, circle the sounds that you might have heard in the 1800s and cross out the modern sounds.

Wind blowing   Cars
Train           Leaves
Insects        Animals
Power Tools

As Fort Scott grew, the landscape changed. From prairie to military fort to thriving city, Fort Scott has seen many changes. As you look at the prairie around you, imagine how the landscape looked before the fort was built and draw the scene you imagine in the first space below. In the second space, draw that same scene as you see it today with all the modern buildings.

Before

After

Early explorers called the prairie “the Great American Desert”. A Fort Scott officer described it as “magnificent”. During Bleeding Kansas, prairie land was one thing people fought over. What do you think after walking through the prairie. Is the prairie beautiful or is it worthless? If you owned land here would you fight to keep it?
11. Quartermaster Storehouse

After the Civil War began, the army came back to Fort Scott. Many buildings in town, including this one, stored food and equipment for the soldiers. Supplies are very important because they keep soldiers fed and ready to fight.

Examine the barrels in the storeroom and look at some of the boxes in the quartermaster office. Write down two types of food that were stored here and two types of supplies that were not food that were here.

Soldiers today eat much better than they did in the Civil War. Today, soldiers eat “Meals Ready to Eat” or MREs. These meals are complete and only need water to heat up. The Civil War soldier ate mostly hardtack and salt pork. Here are pictures of a MRE and a piece of hardtack. Remove the piece of hardtack from your haversack and look at the recipe. Would you prefer to eat a MRE or the hardtack? Why?

During the Civil War, the opposing army often attacked supply wagons. Can you explain why they would do this? How would attacking a supply wagon hurt the army you were fighting?
Life on the border during the Civil War was adventurous. Kansans and Missourians raided each other up and down the border. Fort Scott was closely guarded. Spies, Confederate prisoners, and Union soldiers who got in trouble were jailed in Fort Scott. This building housed many of the troublemakers until a new prison was built later in the war.

Here are some typical punishments of the time. Which one of these punishments would you like the least? Tell why.

Locked in Cell
Standing on Barrel
Tied on Sawbuck

A soldier who deserted the Army was badly punished. During wartime, the army shot deserters. Look at the “Strict Rules” exhibit in the guardhouse. Write below what the punishment was for desertion during peacetime. How do you feel about the army shooting deserters?
In 1863, on this parade ground, I saw former slaves become soldiers in the U.S. Army. My friend, Moses, was born into slavery in 1844. At 18 years old, he ran away from the Holt plantation and joined the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. He was one of many to serve this nation proudly.

From your haversack, retrieve the “Emancipation Proclamation.” Use this as a guide to fill in the letters missing from the following sentence.

“That on the __irst day of January, in the year __f our Lord one tho__sand ei__ht __undred and six__y-__hree, all persons held as slaves w__thin any State or desi__nated part of a state, th__ people whe__ eof shall then be in rebellion against the United __tates, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

The missing letters of the sentence combine to spell a phrase that describes how the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry performed in combat.

Fill them in to find out what the phrase is! Be sure to keep the letters in order.

“___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ like ___ ___ ___ ___ ___”

As you stand looking at the parade ground, imagine yourself as one of the first African Americans to become a soldier in the U.S. Army. What are your thoughts and feelings?
By 1864, the war was still being fought. I was 18 by then, so I joined the army. I fought at the battle of Mine Creek, got shot, and was treated here in the hospital. I was lucky that I survived. Do the activities on this page to discover more about medicine at the time.

Below are items that were used in the hospital. All are on display today. Can you guess what each one was used for? Write your answer below each item.

Chamber Pots
Apothecary
Pitcher and Wash Basin

Read the exhibit panels in the hospital and then answer the following.

Where did one doctor wipe his scalpel prior to surgery? ________________

How did doctors wet thread? ________________

What didn’t they know about? ________________

As a surgeon in the Civil War, you often had to make choices. For example, you sometimes had to choose between working hours to save a soldier’s leg or saving another soldier’s life. What would you choose and why?
15. Sutler Store

One of my favorite places to visit while I lived in Fort Scott was Mr. Wilson’s store. Through the fort closing down, the violence of Bleeding Kansas, and the Civil War, Mr. Wilson kept his store running. He saw it all! Let’s take a look at what he sells.

Here are some pictures of things that Mr. Wilson used to sell. Can you find them all and write down what they are? NPS Note: you can find these items at the sutler counter in the visitor center or you can visit the sutler exhibit, if open, in Officers’ Quarters No. 4.

When my dad was a soldier here, he was a sergeant so he made thirteen dollars a month. The men that he was in charge of—the privates—only made eight dollars a month. Mr. Wilson would let them charge 1/2 of that for things in his store. Can you help me figure out what 1/2 of $8.00 is. Write your answer in the space below.

Now that I know that, can you help me figure out what a soldier could buy in Mr. Wilson’s store. Use the price list in your haversack and write down things below that add up to 1/2 of $8.00. Try to come as close as you can without going over.
16. Fort Scott National Historic Site

After the Civil War, the army left Fort Scott. My family moved from Fort Scott after the Civil War, so that was the end of our adventures here. Today Fort Scott is protected as a national historical site so that you can learn about Fort Scott's role in Westward Expansion, Bleeding Kansas, and the Civil War and so that you can hear stories about the important things that happened here during that time.

Unscramble the red letters that you have been collecting throughout the booklet to find out who protects Fort Scott today.


List three things that are protected at Fort Scott National Historic Site.

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Fort Scott National Historic Site works to help the environment. One example of this is recycling. Look for the recycling areas and list some things we collect below.

One of the most important duties of the National Park Service is the protection of our nation’s resources. Why is it important to protect our natural and historic resources?

DO YOUR PART

There are many practices that you can do in order to be “green”. These are things that you can do around your home. They include recycling, turning off the lights when nobody is in a room, not wasting water, and riding a bicycle or walking to school (with parental permission) instead of riding in a car. For more ideas, go to http://www.50simplekids.com/.
Congratulations, you are now a Junior Ranger at Fort Scott National Historic Site.

The Junior Ranger Motto is: Explore, Learn, Protect

You have explored Fort Scott, you have learned about Fort Scott, if you now agree to protect Fort Scott, sign your name below. Then show your book to the person working in the visitor center and have them sign it too. You will get your junior ranger badge at the visitor center.

________________________________________
Signature of Junior Ranger

________________________________________
Signature of Ranger or Volunteer

Web Rangers

If you enjoyed this booklet, you might also enjoy the online activities available through the NPS Web Ranger Program

Online activities can be found at www.nps.gov/webrangers or www.webrangers.us.

There are three different levels of activities that you can try at Web Rangers.

Junior Ranger Programs

Many other National Park Service sites also offer junior ranger programs. Many of these are available online.

For a complete listing of parks with junior ranger programs, including those online, visit http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm.

Photo Credits

Artwork of ribbon in Activity 2 is from Symbolic and Decorative Art of the Osage People.

Photos of horses in Activity 3 taken from the following websites.


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Thank you for taking the time to explore our park. Fort Scott National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, which is an agency of the United States Department of the Interior. The National Park Service oversees nearly 400 sites in 49 states and some U.S. territories.