Junior Ranger Activity Book

Fort Smith National Historic Site

This book belongs to: __________________________
Welcome to Fort Smith National Historic Site

At Fort Smith National Historic Site you can walk where soldiers drilled, pause along the Trail of Tears, and stand where justice was served. The park includes the remains of two frontier forts and the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas and Indian Territory.

Fort Smith Timeline

1817  Soldiers arrive at Belle Pointon December 25th and establish Fort Smith to keep the peace between the Osage and the Cherokee.

1824  Military leaves for Fort Gibson

1838  Construction of second Fort Smith begins

1849  Gold-seekers with an army escort leave for California

1861  Civil War begins - Confederate forces take over the fort

1863  Union forces return to Fort Smith

1865  Civil War ends

1871  Army closes the fort

1872  Federal Court of Western District of Arkansas and Indian Territory moves into the old fort

1875  Judge Isaac C. Parker arrives

1888  Construction of second jail is complete

1896  November Judge Isaac C. Parker dies

1961  Congress authorizes Fort Smith National Historic Site on September 13
Becoming a Junior Ranger

A Junior Ranger learns about history and nature at National Parks and helps Park Rangers care for parks. We hope that you will enjoy learning about Fort Smith’s history and will help us preserve the park so others may enjoy it in the future.

Complete the appropriate number of activities for your age group and then bring your book back to the rangers and earn your Junior Ranger badge!

**Up to age 6**
Complete 4 activities

**Age 7-9**
Complete 7 activities

**Age 10 and older**
Complete 9 activities

Stamp a start to a great day at the park! Use the Fort Smith National Historic Site stamp and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail stamp here.
Marching Across the Country

1. Place a mark where you live.

2. Draw the route from your home to Fort Smith.

3. How many states did you pass through on your journey?

4. What is the closest National Park site to your home?
Here are some ways to stay safe:

- Drink lots of water on hot days (your body needs water to keep cool).
- Wear layers of clothing on cold days.
- Do not feed or play with the squirrels or other animals.
- Do not climb on cannons or other fixtures.
- Be aware poison ivy and poison oak are common along the river trail.
- Watch out for trains near the tracks.

What are some other ways you can be safe at Fort Smith National Historic Site?
Look for these objects (inside and outside). When you find one circle it. Get five in a row in any direction and you have a Fort Smith BINGO!
I Spy in the Basement Jail

Look around the first jail and describe what you spy.

I Spy something with bars around it.

I Spy what was used as a toilet.

I Spy what the prisoners slept on.

I Spy where prisoners took a bath.

I Spy the number of drinking cups the prisoners used.

I Spy what helped guards see the prisoners at night.
Second Jail

Read the panels in the second jail to find the answers to the clues. Then fill in the answers in the appropriate places.

Across:
1. Known as the “Prince of Hangmen”
4. These men arrested criminals
5. Chris Madsen, Bill Tilghman and this man were known as the “Three Guardsmen”
6. Last name of brothers who were lawmen but later formed a gang of outlaws
8. Number of prisoners in each cell

Down:
2. Known as the Bandit Queen
3. Cherokee Bill’s real name
7. US Marshals wore this

8
Deputy Marshals Catch the Outlaw

Help the U.S. Deputy Marshal catch the outlaw.

Start at the courthouse and find your way to the outlaw’s hideout.
Fort Smith has seen many types of transportation through the years. Explorers and pioneers restocked supplies at Fort Smith before heading west. The railroad also played a large role linking the coasts of the United States. It carried travelers across the land faster than wagons, horses, and walking.

**Match the type of transportation or expedition at Forth Smith with the time in history.**

- **Gold Rush**: 1858
- **Butterfield Stage Coach**: 1822
- **Long Expedition**: 1817
- **Steamboat**: 1853
- **Keelboat**: 1819-1820
- **Pacific Railroad Survey**: 1849

**What is your favorite way to travel?**
Trail of Tears

Fort Smith was built to keep the peace between the Osage and the newly relocated Cherokee. Between 1831 and 1845 other Indian tribes were forcibly moved into Indian Territory (now known as Oklahoma).

Circle the 5 tribes from the Southeastern United States that were moved to Indian Territory.

- Choctaw
- Comanche
- Caddo
- Quapaw
- Shawnee
- Muskogee (Creek)
- Chickasaw
- Delaware
- Apache
- Seminole
- Ottawa
- Cherokee

Why do you think this journey was called the Trail of Tears?
Judge Parker’s Courtroom

To answers the questions below you may need to read the panels.

What was the name of the Judge who sat at the desk in the front of the room?

What did this Judge do before he came to Arkansas?

What did he use to keep order in the court?

Who sat in the two rows of chairs?

What is the number of windows with curtains minus the number of fireplaces?

Each star on the flag represents a: (circle the right answer)

State          President          Federal Judge

How many stars are on the U.S. flag today?
Words of the Court

Find the words listed below.

Word List

Appeals   Arkansas   Attorney   Bailiff   Clerk   Commissioner
Congressman   Defense   Desk   Fifty   Missouri   Marshal
President   Grant   Prisoner   Seven   State   Judge
Parker   Gavel   Jury   Prosecutor
GPS Discoveries

Major Stephen H. Long led one of the first expeditions to survey the Midwest. The expedition began in June 1819 and lasted until September 1820. Two important discoveries found on this expedition were Long’s Peak, in present day Rocky Mountain National Park, and the Canadian River in Oklahoma. Major Long surveyed using a compass and sextant to map out grids.

Today surveying is done using satellites and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). You can find history at Fort Smith National Historic Site using a GPS.

To participate in this activity, have an adult go to the front desk in the visitor center to borrow a GPS unit. A Park Ranger will give you instructions on how to proceed with this activity. Once you are done, return the GPS unit to the front desk.

**Waypoint 1**
N 35° 23.295 W 94° 25.877
What date was the large marker built?

**Waypoint 2**
N 35° 23.262 W 94° 25.951
Where are you? Describe what you see.

**Waypoint 3**
N 35° 23.293 W 94° 25.740
How many gun ports?

If you had fun exploring the grounds of Fort Smith using GPS, you might also try Geocaching. For more information about Geocaching, ask a Park Ranger or go the Fort Smith National Historic Site website at www.nps.gov/fosm and click on Geocaching.
What’s Missing?

The building in front of you was used by different people at different times. On the right is the old army barracks where soldiers used to live. Later it was used as a courthouse with jail cells in the basement. The left half of the building was added on in 1888 as a jail to replace the old one.
Complete this drawing by adding missing windows, doors, and chimneys.
Guard Duty

From 1849-1871, the guardhouse of the second Fort Smith housed the officer of the day and a squad of other soldiers. This was the fort jail for soldiers who got into trouble, deserted their post, or were caught drinking.

From 1872-1888, the guardhouse was used as the women’s jail for the federal court. Sometimes the female prisoner was pregnant or already had children. If she had no one else to care for her children, they stayed with her in the jail.

What do you think the children living in the jail did for fun?

Stand in the outline of the small cells. Imagine being locked in a space this small. Describe how you might have felt.

1846 construction drawing of the Guard House.
Commissary Ration Hunt

The United States Army stored food and supplies in this building. The supplies were used for the soldiers living at the fort. Some supplies were taken by wagon to other forts further west.

Can you see these items?

- Candle
- Lock
- Salt
- Pen
- Fireplace
- Bowl
- Soap
- Ledger
- Rope
- Salt pork barrel

Each soldier was allotted a certain amount of food for each day. This was called their daily ration.

**US Army Commissary Daily Ration**

**Meat:**

- 3/4 pound pork or bacon,
  or
- 1 pound 4 ounces salt beef or fresh beef

**Comparison**

- Enough to make 4 hamburger patties

**Bread:**

- 1 pound 6 ounces soft bread or flour,
  or
- 1 pound hard bread,
  or
- 1 pound 4 ounces cornmeal

- Enough flour or cornmeal to make a loaf of homemade bread.

How many rations would your family need for one day?
A Sense of Place

As you walk around the fort, take time to enjoy your surroundings.

List or draw what you hear.

List or draw what you smell.

List or draw what you see.

Draw a picture of your favorite place.
Rebuild the Fort

1. Connect the dots to reveal the shape of the first Fort Smith built in 1817.

2. Walk around the foundation and discover who lived and worked at the fort.
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so all may experience our heritage.
As a Junior Ranger, I promise to teach others about what I learned today, explore other parks and historic sites, and help preserve and protect these places so future generations can enjoy them.

This certifies that

is granted the title of Junior Ranger for taking an active interest in Fort Smith National Historic Site.

Park Ranger

Date