Junior Ranger HANDBOOK
An Activity Guide for Ages 6 to 12
How to become a Junior Ranger:

- If you are 6 to 8 years old, complete Tara Tarantula’s activities.

- If you are 9 to 12 years old, 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!

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.
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?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Draw something that you liked in the program.
**Definition:** Adaptation

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!
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

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*This reptile drags its tail when it runs.*

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*This large feline hunts deer for its dinner.*

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*Beware of this animal’s spray!*

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*This animal has large ears and eats plants.*

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*This animal may howl or yip at night.*

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*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.**
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.
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?**

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
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. ________________

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

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**FUN FACT:**
Pa’rus is a Paiute word which, loosely translated, means “bubbling, tumbling stream.”
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

**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.
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.
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.
The Zion Canyon Visitor Center was designed as a climate-friendly building that reduces heating and cooling costs by 74% and CO$_2$ 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.

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? ________________

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? ________________
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

TFELMDRAZILNF
RAGUOCUFVRIOP
ACBDEPEAGLEEU
XMLFKYABALEPM
EURSSOFOJHISS
KLEKXTYRSLDOC
AEOUGETNYKMRON
NDANOWRBEOQSORM
SEUKXOWLCLOTIP
EEJMHYATIBIEL
LRPGRACCOONHO
TUIGHONEWAKON
TBISOFYKNIBCR
AYJETARANTULAROHXOFVIDHGEV
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 . . .

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

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?

__________________________________________________________________________
Suggested Reading List


Become a WebRanger!

The National Park Service WebRangers website is filled with activities for kids of all ages.
http://www.nps.gov/webrangers

Credits

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Zion Natural History Association (ZNHA), is a nonprofit corporation working in cooperation with Zion National Park. Publishing is just one of the functions we perform to enhance the quality of your visit to National Park Service areas. The association also funds interpretive projects and scientific research, produces free publications, aids in museum and library activities, awards scholarships, and helps with many other National Park Service programs.

To purchase additional copies of this publication, or any other Zion-related publication, visit our website at www.zionpark.org, or call (800) 635–3959.

Thank you for your support of the Zion National Park Junior Ranger Program.
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