Glen Echo Park

Administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

7300 MacArthur Blvd
Glen Echo, MD 20812

Civil Rights Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

This Junior Ranger Activity Booklet belongs to:

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Junior Rangers

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hello!

Welcome to Glen Echo Park. Today, you have the opportunity to become an official National Park Service Junior Ranger!

What is a Junior Ranger?
A Junior Ranger is someone who likes to explore, protect, and learn about national parks. As a Junior Ranger, you have a very special role. You have the chance to help take care of our national parks for everyone to visit and enjoy.

This activity booklet includes many fun activities to help you learn about the history of Civil Rights at Glen Echo Park. As a Glen Echo Park Civil Rights Junior Ranger, you will:

- Learn more about national parks;
- Learn about Glen Echo Park and Civil Rights; and
- Understand what the word “segregation” means.

Complete ALL of the activities in this booklet to earn a certificate and badge. When you have completed your activities, return your booklet to a park ranger. Be prepared to tell him or her what you learned and how you can make a difference in the future of the National Park Service.

Do your best, have FUN, and thank you for visiting Glen Echo Park!

What is the National Park Service?

The American people have set aside special places that are protected for future generations. The National Park Service cares for these places and you can help!

Look at the National Park Service arrowhead. The arrowhead is a symbol that represents what the service stands for. Rangers and other employees of the National Park Service wear a uniform and this arrowhead. This makes them easy to find and identify.

Activity: Draw a symbol for Glen Echo Park in the box below.

Activity: Write what you think each part of the picture in the National Park Service symbol represents:

The arrowhead shape represents

_____

The tree represents all

_____

The mountains represent

_____

The lake or water represents

_____

The bison represents all

_____

Glen Echo Amusement Park

Glen Echo Park is a unique National Park Service site because it is the only example of an early 20th century amusement park preserved within the National Park System. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the site maintains an operating carousel and historic ballroom.

Glen Echo was a privately owned amusement park between 1898 and 1968. Many thousands of people came from all around to enjoy the sights, sounds, laughter, games, and rides that were offered here.

Have you ever visited an amusement park?

If so, what was your favorite ride?

Activity: Find the words in the word search below that describe the different things visitors found at Glen Echo Amusement Park.

ARCADE
BUMPER CARS
CANDY CORNER
CAROUSEL
COTTON CANDY
CRYSTAL POOL
JUNGLELAND
KIDDIELAND
MINI GOLF
POPCORN
ROLLER COASTER
SHOOTING GALLERY
SKEEBALL
SPANISH BALLROOM
TROLLEY

W	X	L	H	E	X	C	M	I	N	I	G	O	L	F	H	T	H
X	V	X	Z	R	M	D	G	R	Q	D	I	U	T	Y	G	S	R
P	Z	U	H	B	B	R	C	J	U	N	G	L	E	L	A	N	D
S	F	S	S	H	O	O	T	I	N	G	G	A	L	L	E	R	Y
K	Z	V	R	E	T	S	A	O	C	R	E	L	L	O	R	Z	Z
E	Q	A	X	C	C	R	W	O	F	X	I	Q	Y	N	G	U	H
E	L	O	Y	D	N	A	C	N	O	T	T	O	C	W	Q	Y	Y
B	X	I	E	E	K	S	U	I	X	U	Y	E	L	L	O	R	T
A	N	M	M	O	O	R	L	L	A	B	H	S	I	N	A	P	S
L	W	L	P	O	P	C	O	R	N	A	R	C	A	D	E	Q	B
L	W	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	P	O	O	L	J	J	C	M	Y
E	A	Q	H	W	C	A	N	D	Y	C	O	R	N	E	R	X	G
G	I	B	U	M	P	E	R	C	A	R	S	B	Z	Z	D	Y	X
A	D	E	L	J	S	C	M	K	W	V	O	I	Y	H	T	K	E
U	R	Y	H	D	P	F	J	Y	Z	W	X	I	W	M	F	P	X
M	V	F	B	C	S	G	L	D	A	Y	V	W	I	D	W	P	U
P	A	D	N	A	L	E	I	D	D	I	K	V	Z	X	E	Q	N
X	J	K	C	M	H	L	U	O	Q	C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L

Segregation

While Glen Echo Amusement Park was a fun and exciting place to visit, not all were welcome. The park's policy of racial segregation meant that only white patrons were allowed. Racial segregation of facilities was a common feature in American society since the establishment of what became known as the Jim Crow laws in the 1870s. These laws legally separated African Americans in public and private places.

For instance, in many places African Americans had to use separate restrooms than whites, separate drinking fountains, and sit at the back of the bus if they were allowed on at all. Businesses, such as restaurants, had to serve white and black people in separate rooms. Some chose to serve only white or only black people.

A young man takes a drink from a water cooler. July 1939.
Photo Credit: Library of Congress. U.S. Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information. Photographer: Russell Lee.

However, Jim Crow laws did not create equal conditions and often the separate conditions blacks were given were not as nice as what white people received.

Activity

Take a look at the photo above. What in this photo shows evidence of segregation? How would you feel if you were the young man in this photo?

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_____

_____

_____

Demonstration

Glen Echo Amusement Park, which was privately owned, was one example of a business that chose to serve only white people and refused to allow black people into the park.

In protest of the park's segregation policy, African American students from Howard University teamed up with white local community members and staged a sit-in protest on the amusement park's carousel on June 30, 1960.

This photo shows one of the protesters on the carousel being confronted by Glen Echo Amusement Park Security Guard Francis Collins.

June 30, 1960.

Dialogue between Glen Echo Amusement Park Security Officer Francis Collins and Protester Lawrence Henry

Collins: Are you white or colored?

Henry: Am I white or colored?

Collins: That's correct. That's what I want to know… Can I ask your race?

Henry: My race? I belong to the human race.

Collins: All right. This park is segregated.

Henry: I don't understand what you mean.

Collins: It's strictly for white people.

Henry: It's strictly for white persons?

Collins: Uh-hum. It has been for years…

Henry: You're telling me that because my skin is black I cannot come into your park?

Collins: Not because your skin is black. I asked what your race was.

Henry: I would like to know why I cannot come into your park.

Collins: Because the park is segregated. It is private property.

Henry: Just what class of people do you allow to come in here?

Collins: White people.

Henry: So you're saying you exclude the American Negro.

Collins: That's right.

Five students were arrested that day. This sparked a strong reaction from those in favor of ending the segregation of the park.

A picket line formed and ten weeks of protests followed until the park's private owners abandoned their policy of segregation in early 1961!

The following are actual instructions for those participating in the 1960 picket line in front of Glen Echo Amusement Park.

Picket Instructions

Glen Echo Amusement Park

Welcome to our picket line. There are a few general instructions we think might be of some assistance to those who have come to join with us in our walk for democracy.

We are dedicated to the principle that our effort be of non-violent character. Non-violence means more than just not using force. It also means that we do not answer to insults and we do no name-calling.

While picketing, there are a few reminders that will prove useful:

- ◊ Wear appropriate clothing. Dress in light comfortable clothes and wear shoes that you can walk in for a period of time without hurting your feet or the shoes.
- ◊ If you grow hot or tired, take a break for a few minutes.
- ◊ No drinking of intoxicating beverages either before or while on the picket line.
- ◊ Come prepared to smile, chat, sing and generally to share some of the most congenial company most of us have ever shared.
- ◊ You will find that our picket line is a happy one where songs are common. If you can recognize the song that the pickets are trying to sing, please join in!

Activity

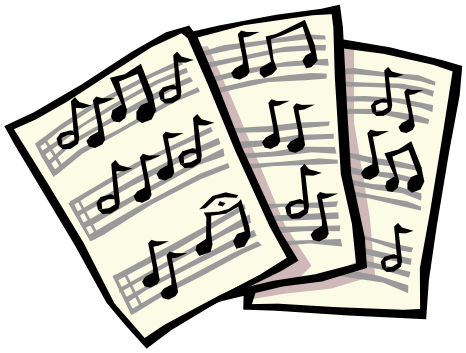
Imagine you were there protesting against segregation and were going to join the picket line at Glen Echo Park. Draw your own protest sign on the following page.

This young girl was not afraid to take a stand alongside adult picketers.

Draw your protest sign here:

Do you remember the last picket instruction from a previous page? It said that songs were common on the picket line and encouraged singing along if you recognized any of the songs. These songs were used to keep morale up while still promoting the message of the picketers.

Activity

Practice singing the following picket song, sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

We are picketing Glen Echo
And our cause is just;
We'll be picketing Glen Echo
Till segregation's bust.

Can't you see Jim Crow's a-dyin'
Un-wanted in the USA
And there won't be any cryin'
When he's passed away

Don't discriminate,
Don't discriminate.
…Segregation's got to go-go-go!
Segregation's hate,
So take it off the gate;
Oh segregation's got to go.

Open up your doors Glen Echo,
Open up your doors to all-all-all.
Open up your doors Glen Echo,
Segregation's wall must fall.

So sing out: fe-fi-fiddle-e-i-o
fe-fi-fiddle-e-i-o-o-o-o-o
fe-fi-fiddle-e-i-o.
Segregation's got to go!

Desegregation

Because of the joint efforts from many people, Glen Echo Amusement Park opened its doors to everyone in 1961.

Some of the people here went on to fight for Civil Rights all over the country. These desegregation movements that began spreading across the country led to more national news and attention on the issue of segregation.

In 1964, Jim Crow laws were outlawed by the United States government when President Lyndon Johnson and Congress passed what was called the Civil Rights Act. The Civil Rights Act states that all races deserve equal rights and that segregation is unconstitutional.

Those people needed courage, bravery, and commitment to achieve their goals. Because of their hard work and dedication, generations of people would not be segregated due to race again.

This Award Certifies that

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is an official GLEN ECHO PARK CIVIL RIGHTS

Junior Ranger

As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to do my part to take care of the natural and cultural resources of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.