



## Congaree National Park

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet  
Ages 11 and up

This Book Belongs To:

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Pileated Woodpecker

Welcome to Congaree National Park! You are on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger! Now is your chance to explore the plants, animals, and water that make up the old-growth bottomland hardwood forest at Congaree.

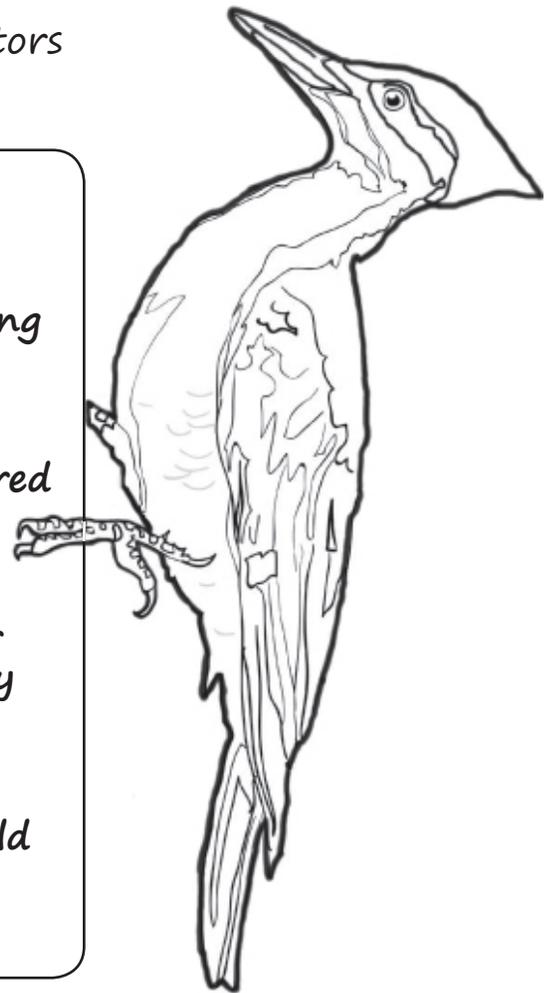
The Pileated Woodpecker Junior Ranger Booklet is intended for ages 11 and up. To become a Junior Ranger:

- 1) complete as many activities as you can in this booklet. Pages 2 & 3 can be completed in the Visitor Center. Page 6 can be completed on the boardwalk trail.
- 2) have a ranger or park volunteer review your book and sign your certificate.
- 3) be sworn in as a Junior Ranger and receive your patch or badge!
- 4) help protect Congaree for future visitors and Junior Rangers!

### Who is the Pileated Woodpecker?

I am a large woodpecker with a long neck and a flaming red crest resembling a mohawk. My body is mostly black with white stripes on my face and neck. Males have a red stripe on their cheeks.

I make large rectangular holes in dead and rotten trees as I drill for insects or make a safe place for my nest. Each year, I make a new nesting hole. I also spend a lot of time on the ground. I like to eat ants, beetles, berries, nuts, and wild grapes. You may hear me making loud laughing calls.



# We Are the Champions

Why does Congaree have so many large and old trees? Because the forest is protected, trees can live out their natural lives without being logged.

Pick 2 champion trees from the visitor center exhibit "A Special Place: Forest of Champions."

Round the height, circumference, and crown spread (the distance a tree's branches spread) of each tree to the nearest foot and record your data:

\_\_\_\_\_

tree	height	circumference	crown spread
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\_\_\_\_\_

tree	height	circumference	crown spread
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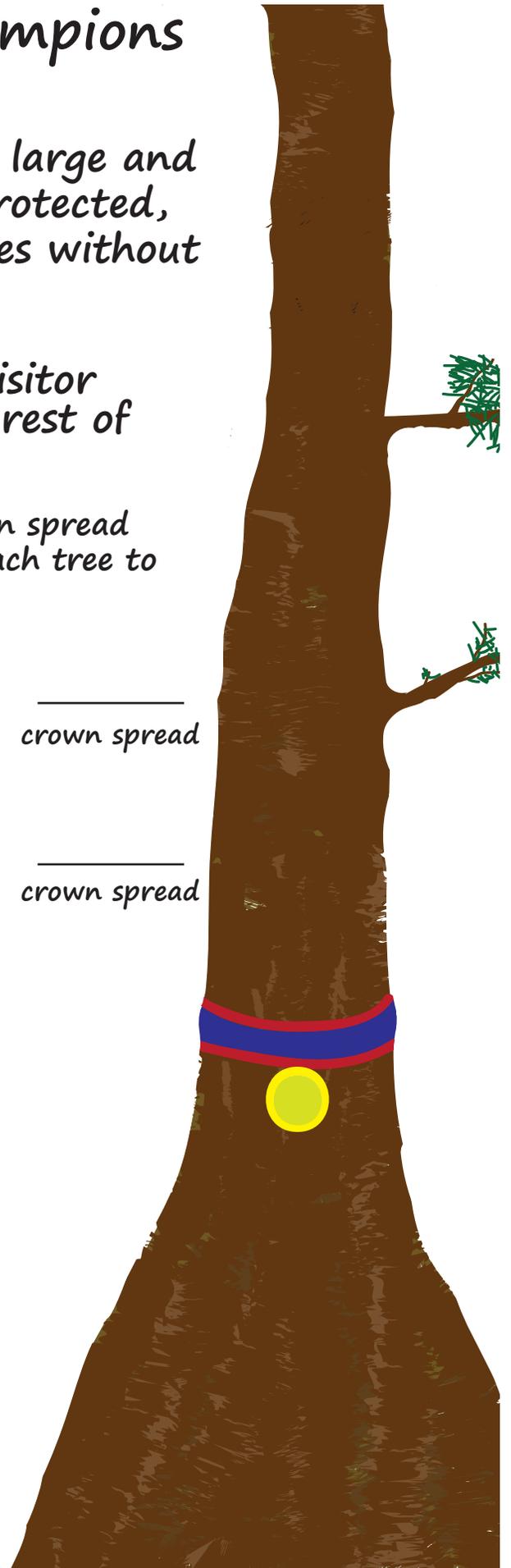
Which tree is taller? \_\_\_\_\_

By how many feet? \_\_\_\_\_

Which tree has a smaller circumference? \_\_\_\_\_

By how many feet? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between their crownspreads in feet? \_\_\_\_\_



# People at Congaree

Choose an exhibit in the visitor center about a person or group of people.

Answer the questions below:

Who is your person or group of people?

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Write three adjectives to describe them:

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During what time period were they significant to Congaree National Park or the surrounding area?

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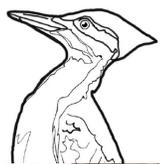
How did they use or protect their environment?

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How can YOU use and protect Congaree National Park?

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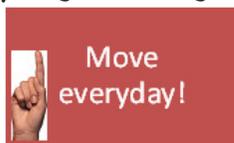


# Let's Move!

The coolest way for Junior Rangers to see their National Parks is through recreation! How can you recreate at Congaree?



Recreation is any outdoor activity that gets your body moving, your heart pumping, and helps you stay healthy. Here are other ways to stay healthy:



You can learn more about the 5 Steps of Success at [www.letsmove.gov/kids](http://www.letsmove.gov/kids)

Write down three types of recreation Junior Rangers and visitors can participate in at Congaree:

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## Ranger Challenge:

Complete the activity about hiking safely on the next page. Then, explore the boardwalk trail at the park! If you are able to use a computer at home, school, or your local library, check out [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) and search your state for ways to recreate!



# Hiking

Unscramble the following tips for hiking safely:

EWAR OODG KINGIH EOSHS



BINGR YLENTP FO TAWER



YSAT NO KINGIH RAITLS



ATCHW TOU ROF IOSPON VYI



CKIP PU TILTER



D'NTO EEDF NAMILAS



VAHE UNF!



# I Spy!

Explore the boardwalk trail at the park and look for the things listed in the I Spy checklist.

Put check marks in the boxes next to the things you see.

Fallen Tree

Sunlight

Shade

Mammal

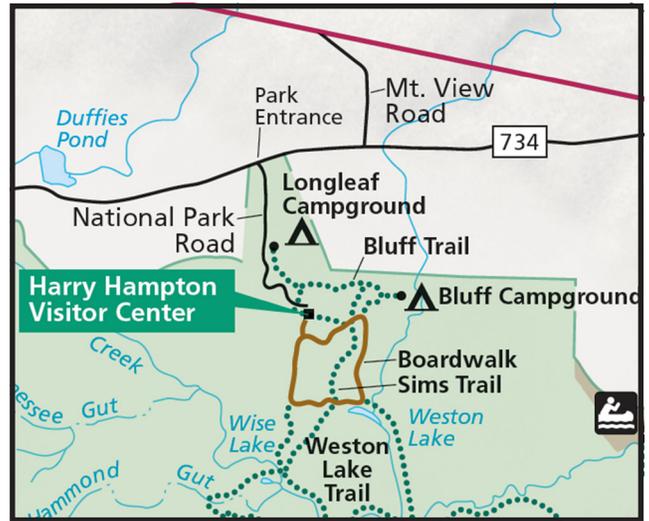
Snag

Cypress Knees

Bird

A tree taller than your house

Spider



Think of 1 question you have on your hike and write it below:

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# The Arrowhead

The National Park System includes almost 400 areas in the United States, and just like Congaree National Park, they are all unique and special places. These areas include national parks, monuments, military parks, battlefields, lakeshores, seashores, historical parks, historic sites, memorials, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House.

All of these special places belong to YOU to explore and enjoy.

The arrowhead on the right is the emblem of the National Park Service.

Each symbol in the arrowhead represents something the National Park Service protects and preserves. Fill in each blank below with a symbol from the word bank:



The \_\_\_\_\_ represents all plants.

The \_\_\_\_\_ represents all animals.

The \_\_\_\_\_ represents the human history of our nation.

The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ represent all landscapes and water resources.

## Word Bank

arrowhead outline

bison

mountain

river

sequoia tree



# What's a Watershed?

Read about Congaree National Park's watershed. Complete the map by filling in the blanks with the words from the word bank.

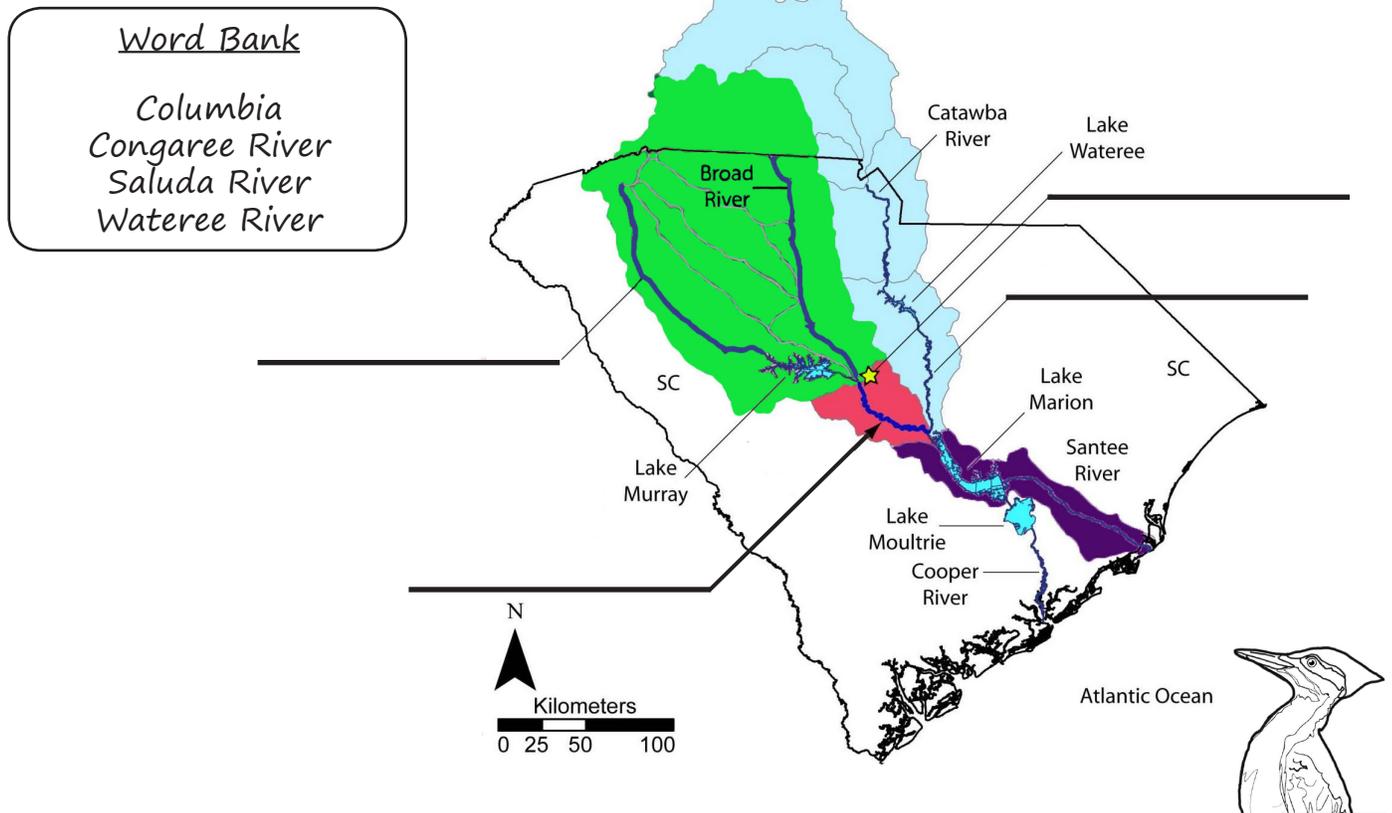
A watershed is any place where water comes in contact with land. This water can be on the surface or underground. Our earth is made up of many watersheds that join together to form larger watersheds. The picture below shows the Santee River basin watershed in South Carolina, which includes the watershed at Congaree National Park.

The green watershed includes two rivers: the Saluda River and the Broad River.

These rivers join in the state capital, Columbia, and form the red watershed: the Congaree River watershed.

From the blue watershed, the Wateree River joins with the Congaree River to form the Santee River (purple watershed).

Finally, it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.





# What Do Rangers Do?



Rangers work on teams called divisions, based on the jobs they do:

**Administration Rangers** – Purchase equipment, pay bills for the park, solve office problems, hire rangers.

**Interpretation Rangers** – Assist and educate visitors, and present programs such as guided walks and canoe tours.

**Law Enforcement Rangers** – Make sure the park is safe for plants, animals, and people by enforcing rules and helping visitors in need.

**Maintenance Rangers** – Keep the park clean and safe for visitors, plants, and animals by helping to fix problems in the park.

**Resource Management Rangers** – Study and keep track of living things and historic places at the park and help to protect resources such as trees, creeks, rivers, and historic structures.

**Superintendent** – In charge of all of the divisions. Makes sure rangers are doing their jobs well, resources are protected, and the public knows about the park and its resources.

Choose which division you would want to work for as a park ranger at Congaree. Draw yourself as a park ranger in the space below and answer the questions:

Which division do you choose?

\_\_\_\_\_

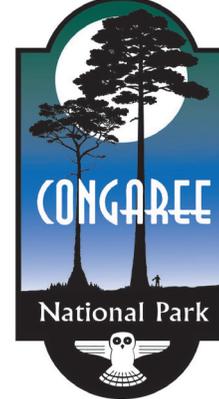
Which part of this job would be your favorite?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Congaree National Park

*is proud to bestow upon*

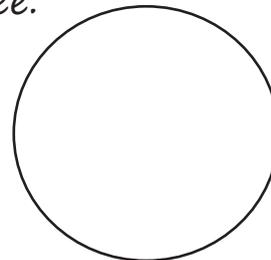
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*the title of*

## Junior Ranger

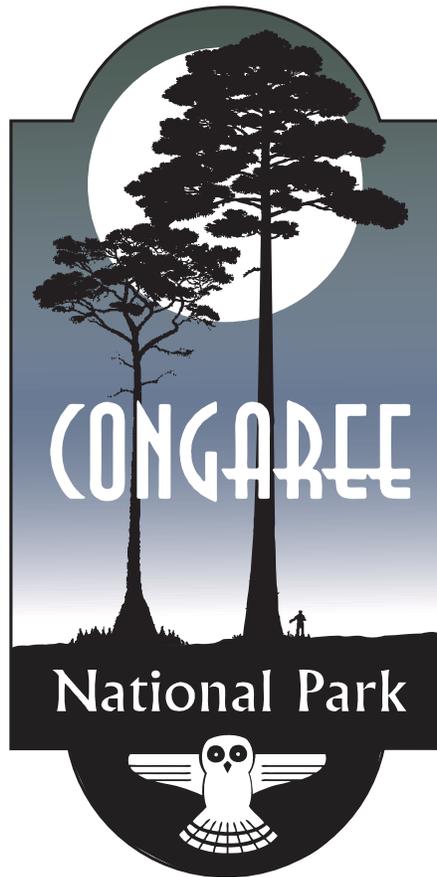


*Pledge: As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect and preserve every animal and tree, and the history of Congaree for all to see.*



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Park Ranger/Volunteer



Created by SCA Junior Ranger Ambassador, Hailey Corthell, 2012

Student Conservation Association  [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)