



## Congaree National Park

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet  
Ages 6 and under

This Book Belongs To:

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Barred Owl

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.

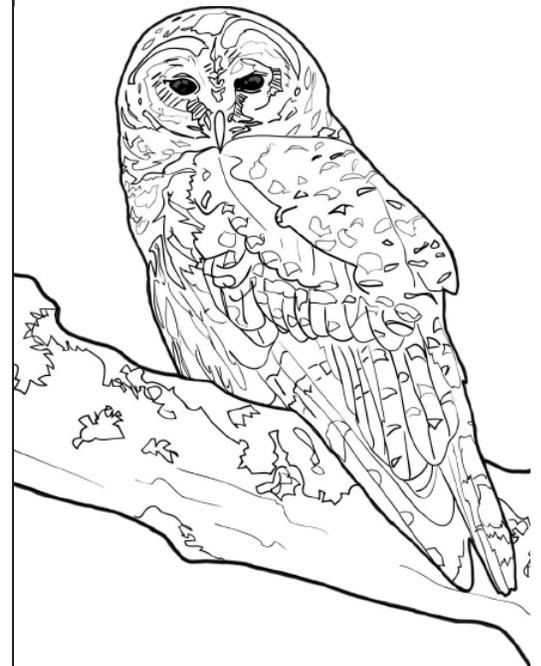
The Barred Owl Junior Ranger Booklet is intended for ages 6 and under. To become a Junior Ranger:

- 1) complete as many activities as you can in this booklet. Pages 2 & 3 can be completed in the Visitor Center. Page 7 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!

### Whoooo is the Barred Owl?

I am a large owl, and I like to eat mice, rats, birds, fish, amphibians, crayfish and reptiles. I have to watch out for the Great Horned Owls who try to eat me. I have dark eyes and soft feathers.

I like to hunt at night, and I use my sharp talons to snatch my food. I live in holes in trees or abandoned nests. I am good friends with Red-shouldered Hawks. My call often sounds like "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?" You may be able to see or hear me on the hiking trails during your visit!

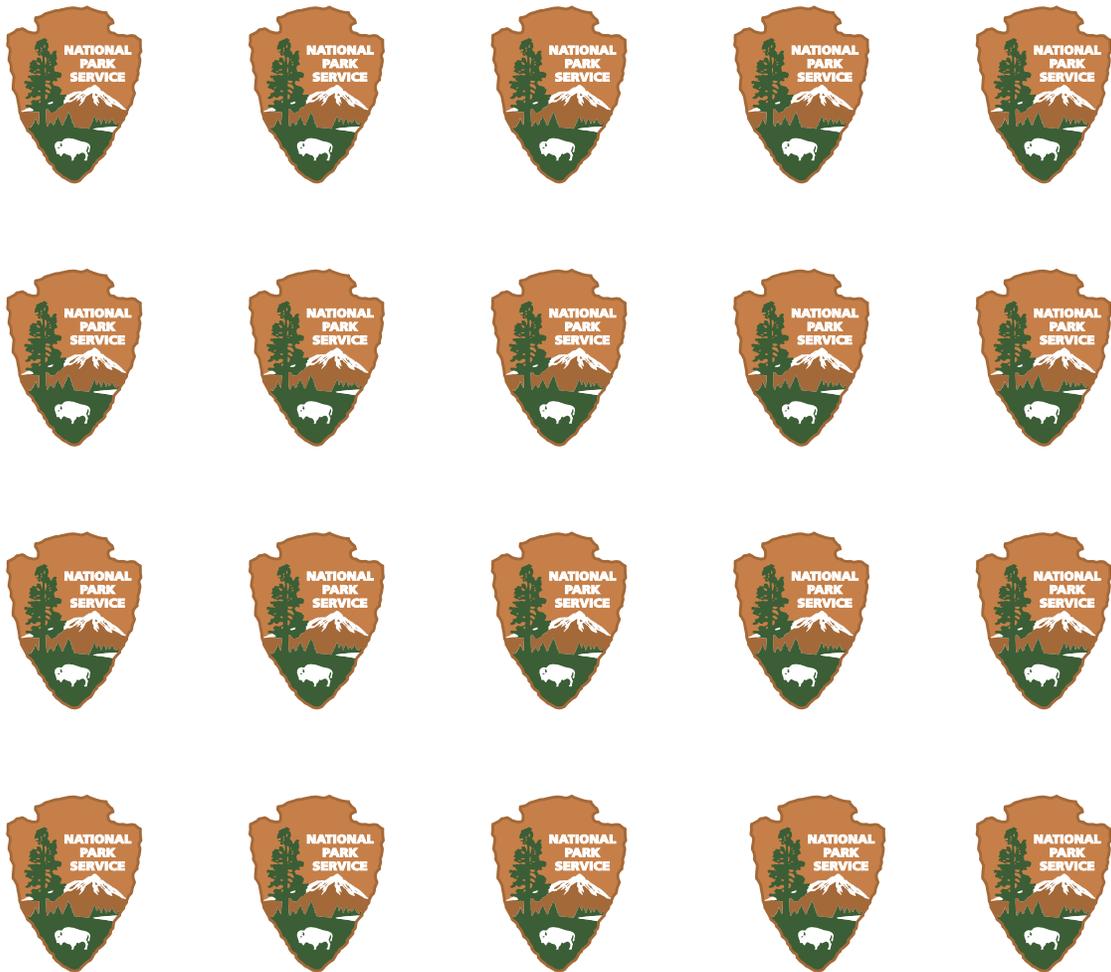


# The Arrowhead

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

The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service. It represents the plants, animals, human history, water and landscapes that the National Park Service preserves and protects.

How many of these arrowheads can you find in the visitor center? For every arrowhead you find, circle one below:



# Animal Acting

Places like Congaree are a home and refuge for plants and animals. As a Junior Ranger, you can help protect Congaree for them.

Pick an animal you see in the visitor center.  
Draw it here:



Now pretend you are that animal.  
Think about where you live and what you eat.

Read about what could happen to you below.  
Circle if you would feel

 happy or sad if: 

1) your house is taken from you.



2) you forget how to find your own food because humans feed you.



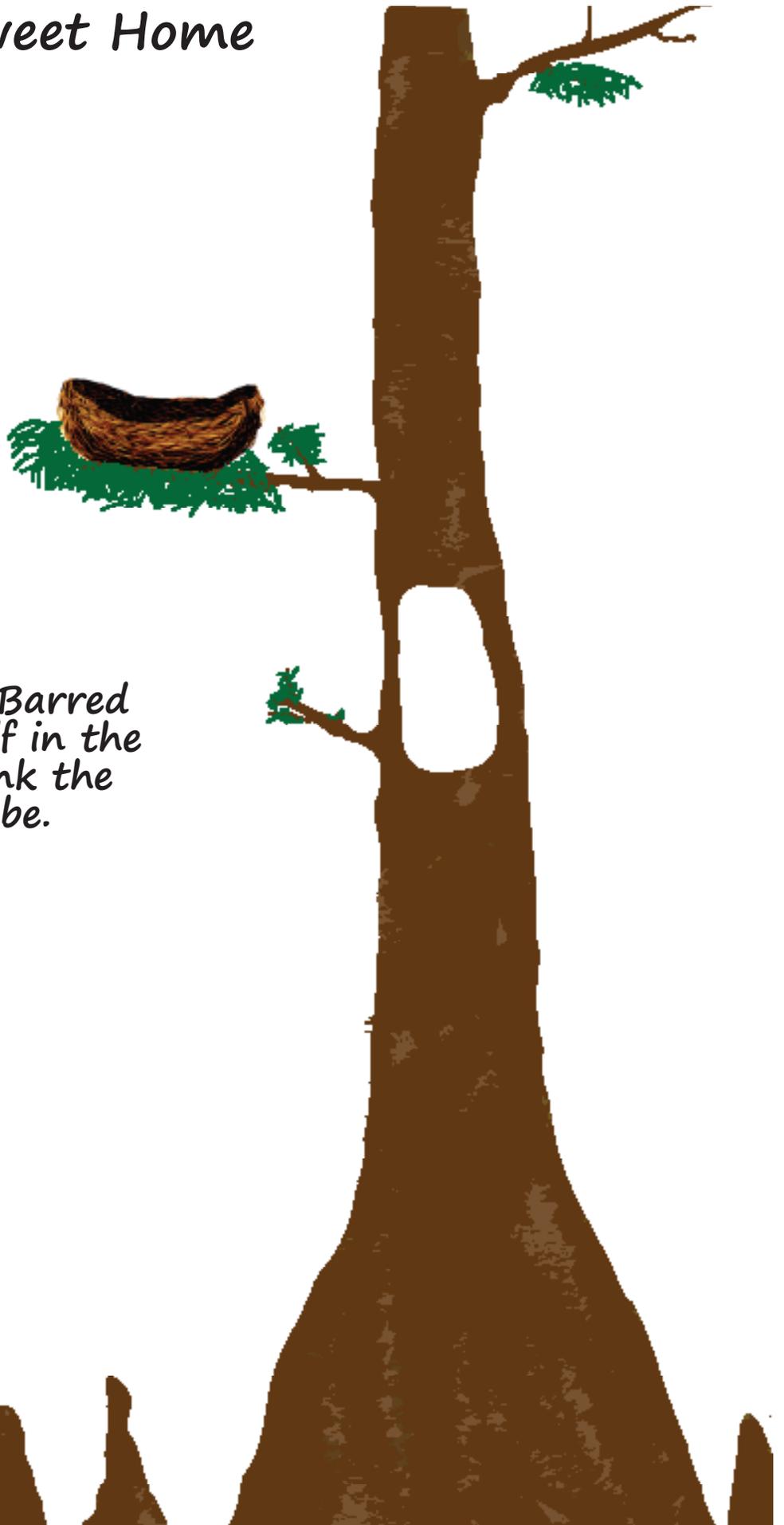
3) your babies are safe.



4) a Junior Ranger helps to protect your home.



# Home Sweet Home



Pretend you are a Barred Owl. Draw yourself in the tree where you think the safest home would be.

# Let's Move!

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



Hiking and Canoeing are outdoor recreation activities that get your body moving and your heart pumping. Recreation helps you stay healthy!

Circle the pictures below that show other types of outdoor recreation in National Parks. X out the pictures that do not.



## Ranger Challenge:

Complete the activity about hiking safely on the next page. Then, explore the boardwalk trail at the park!



# Hiking Safely



When Junior Rangers hike safely, they should:

- 1) wear good hiking shoes
- 2) bring plenty of water
- 3) stay on the hiking trails
- 4) watch out for poison ivy:  
Leaves of 3...let it be!  
If the vine is hairy,  
it's scary!
- 5) pick up litter
- 6) not feed animals
- 7) bring a buddy
- 8) have fun!

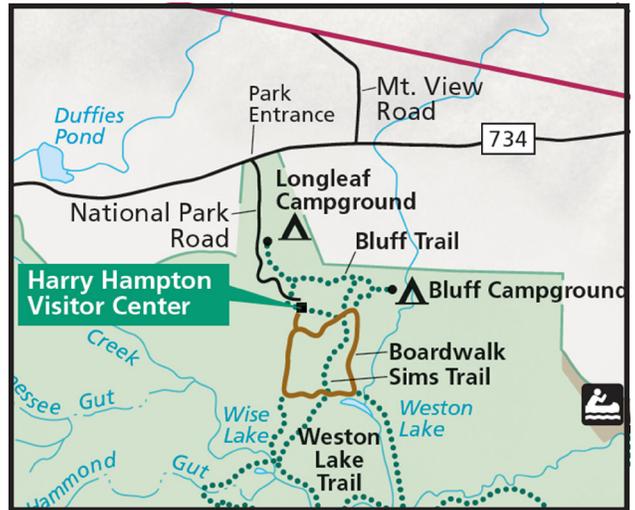
Circle the hiking activities or supplies which are safe.  
X out those which are not safe.



# Bingo

Explore the boardwalk trail and look for the things listed in the squares.

As you find each one, draw a picture of it. Can you find three in a row - down, across, or diagonally? Can you find all of them?



something that feels rough	something smaller than you	something taller than your house
something you can hear	something that can fly	something wet
something with 8 legs	something made by people	a leaf as big as your hand





# Owl Maze



It's nighttime and Betty the Barred Owl has been out hunting.

The great horned owls are out hunting for smaller owls like Betty and owllet eggs.

Help Betty find her way through the maze and to her nest safely by avoiding her predators.

Draw a line showing the route she should take.





# What Do Rangers Do?



There are different types of Park Rangers at Congaree and within the National Park Service. Rangers work in teams called divisions, based on the jobs they do.

Read about the 6 divisions below. Then draw a line matching each division with the corresponding picture.

**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** - Protect the plants, animals, and people in the park by enforcing rules and helping visitors in need.



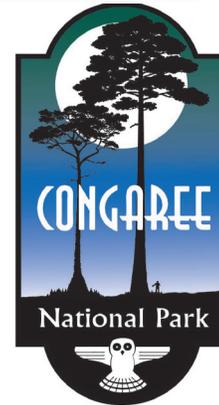
**Maintenance Rangers** - Keep the park clean and safe for visitors, plants, and animals by helping to fix problems in the park.

**Resource Management Rangers** - Study and keep track of living and non-living things and natural and cultural resources. They 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.





# Congaree National Park

*is proud to bestow upon*

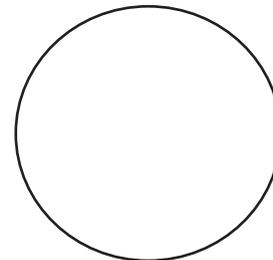
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*the title of*

## Junior Ranger

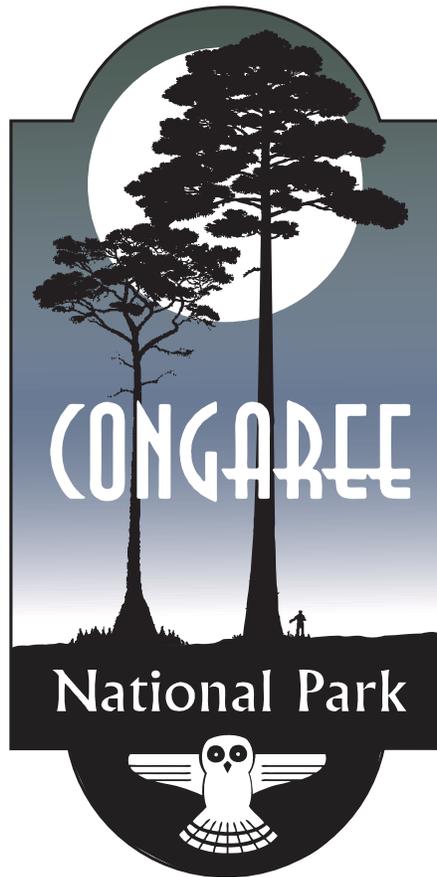


*Pledge: As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect and preserve every animal and tree, and the history of Congaree for all to see.*



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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)