

Check out details inside about the  
GET OUTDOORS GEORGIA badge!



# Junior Ranger

A c t i v i t y B o o k



**GEORGIA**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

# Dear Parents:

**W**elcome! We are pleased that you and your family are participating in the Junior Ranger program. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to share time together in the outdoors and learn more about Georgia's wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources. Please keep in mind that it is not necessary to be trained in the natural sciences to assist your child in their efforts to become a Junior Ranger. No individual, regardless of their expertise, can answer all of the questions generated by a curious child. Your willingness to provide encouragement and help your child find his/her own answers is what matters most of all.

Many of the activities required for the Junior Ranger program may be completed at sites other than Georgia's State Parks & Historic Sites—from other public lands to your own backyard. Public lands include national parks, national historic sites, wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, local parks and historic homes. Keep in mind that our historic sites may also have unique natural resources and each park has its' own history. Some Parks and Historic Sites offer Junior Ranger Day Camps in the summer months. A complete listing of camp offerings can be found on our website.

The Georgia State Park system is one of the finest in the country. It is rich in many ways—from its natural and cultural resources to the talented and devoted people who work there. The staff at Georgia's State Parks & Historic Sites are committed to protecting our parks and sharing them with you and your family.

We would love to hear any comments you wish to share with us regarding your experience with the Junior Ranger Program. Have fun!

Sincerely,

*The Staff at Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites*



STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

[www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org)

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Cindy Reittinger, Chief Naturalist for Georgia State Parks.

Designed by Lenz Design, Decatur, Georgia.

# Welcome to the Junior Ranger Program

Georgia is rich in natural, cultural and recreational resources. As a Junior Ranger you will experience nature first-hand, explore Georgia's fascinating history and have fun enjoying recreational activities in the outdoors.

## How to Become a Junior Ranger

Using this activity book as your guide, complete the checklist below. When you complete each activity a parent or guardian must initial the item. There is no deadline for completing the program. The same book can be used as Junior Rangers progress from level to level.

When you have completed all of the requirements, you may present this page at any Georgia State Park or Historic Site office to receive your badge OR send this page or a photocopy of this page to: **Chief Naturalist, Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, 2600 Highway 155 SW, Suite C, Stockbridge, GA 30281.** You will receive your badge in 2-4 weeks.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Home State \_\_\_\_\_

Provide your e-mail address below to receive the free Junior Ranger E-Newsletter

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Level I Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia State Park or Historic Site Representative/Name of Site

Level II Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia State Park or Historic Site Representative/Name of Site

Level III Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia State Park or Historic Site Representative/Name of Site

### Check the Level You Want to Achieve

(Only one badge may be earned at a time.)



**Level I:**  
 (Recommended for ages 6-7)  
 Must complete at least 7 activities



**Level II:**  
 (Recommended for ages 8-10)  
 Must complete at least 10 activities



**Level III:**  
 (Recommended for ages 11-12)  
 Must complete at least 14 activities

### Junior Ranger Checklist

Activity	Page	Level I	Level II	Level III
		Parent's Initials		
Be Aware	2-3	_____	_____	_____
Georgia Pines	4	_____	_____	_____
Water	5	_____	_____	_____
Gone Fishing	6	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor Fun	7	_____	_____	_____
Wildlife	8	_____	_____	_____
Fruits & Flowers	9	_____	_____	_____
Long Ago	10	_____	_____	_____
Whooo	11	_____	_____	_____
Look Up	12	_____	_____	_____
Circle of Life	13	_____	_____	_____
Forts	14	_____	_____	_____
Bird Watching	15	_____	_____	_____
Early Georgians	16	_____	_____	_____

The following are for Level II & III only

Rare Treasures	17	_____	_____
Get Involved	18	_____	_____
Dear Friend	19	_____	_____
Natural Features	20	_____	_____
Pushy Plants	21	_____	_____



# Be Aware

Junior Rangers need to be aware of potential dangers and use good common sense when exploring in the outdoors. To meet this Junior Ranger requirement you must ask an adult to read the following aloud while you listen carefully.



Poison Ivy

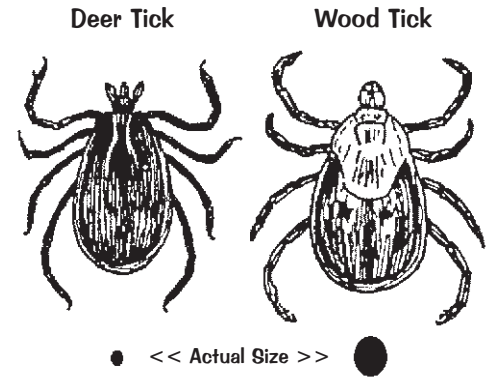
## Poison Ivy

Poison ivy is commonly found in Georgia's State Parks. It may be found growing on the ground or as a hairy vine climbing up a tree trunk. Each leaf is divided into three leaflets which may be smooth or notched. Many people develop a rash when they come in contact with this plant. Although it is not popular with people, poison ivy berries are an important food for wildlife. Find and identify poison ivy, but do not touch it.

## Ticks

A small percentage of deer ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Wood ticks may carry the bacteria that causes Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Although it was first identified in the Rocky Mountains, most cases occur in the southeastern United States. Be sure to check for

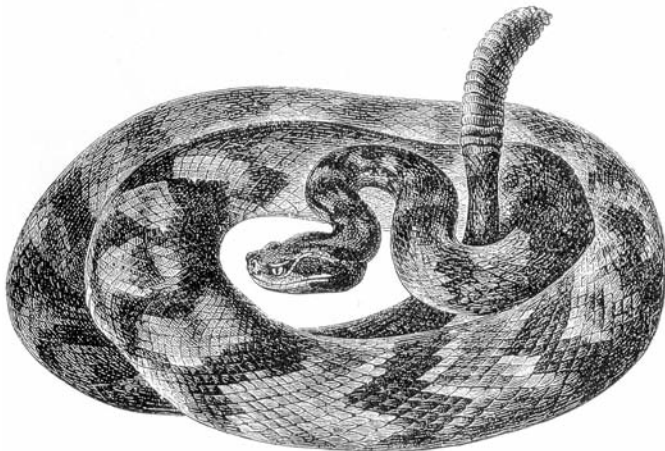
and remove any ticks after spending time in the outdoors.



## Snakes

It is very unlikely that you will encounter a snake in the wild. If, however, you should come across a snake give it plenty of space. A snake's most common form of defense is avoidance, so you need to give them room to flee. Look where you are stepping, and never reach under rocks or into openings.

Six species of venomous snake occur in Georgia: eastern coral snake, timber rattlesnake (and subspecies canebrake rattlesnake), eastern diamondback rattlesnake, pygmy rattlesnake, cottonmouth (water moccasin) and copperhead.



Rattlesnake



Copperhead



## Be Prepared

Wear appropriate dress and comfortable walking shoes in the outdoors. It is wise to dress in layers so that you may remove or add layers as needed. Pay attention to local weather reports and have rain gear available if needed. Know your abilities and physical limits. Before setting out on a hike be aware of distances and trail conditions. Carry water with you when walking for extended periods of time. Hike with a buddy and always let someone know where you are going.

Exhaustion and exposure to cold temperatures, aggravated by wind and getting wet can cause hypothermia, the number one killer of outdoor recreationists. Heat stroke on the other hand, can be caused by excessive heat and a lack of fluids.

## Collecting

Collecting plants and animals or their parts is illegal in a state park unless you have been issued a **Scientific Research & Collection Permit**. We have made an exception on the Georgia Pines activity page.

## Do Not Eat Berries or Other Wild-Collected Foods

It is dangerous to eat wild-collected foods as they may be poisonous.

## Lost Prevention Programs

Some Georgia State Parks offer programs on how to avoid getting lost in the wilderness. Check with the parks you visit to see if they offer such a program, or if they can refer you to a park that does.

When you are hiking you should always stay on the trails and stay with your group.

## Museum Manners at Historic Sites

Our Historic Site museums display a variety of artifacts. Artifacts are objects remaining from a particular time period. The artifacts you see on display in our museums and historic buildings range from clothing and books to weapons and furniture. Most of these items are centuries old and very fragile. Help us to preserve these items by following these simple rules:

- Please do not touch the exhibits. Your hands leave dirt and oils on the artifacts.
- Avoid using flash photography. It fades the artifacts.

## Leave No Trace

All visitors to Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites are asked to abide by *Leave No Trace* principles. These guiding principles help us protect our natural and cultural resources and preserve them for all to enjoy.

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Stay on trails & camp only on designated campsites
- Trash your trash
- Leave what you find
- Be careful with fire
- Respect wildlife - observe from a distance and don't feed wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Poisonous  
Mushroom

# Georgia Pines

**P**ine trees are common in Georgia. Pine trees have specialized leaves called needles. Most pines can be identified by measuring the length of the pine's needles and counting the number of needles bundled together. There are ten kinds of pine trees found in our state.

## Identify Pine Trees



**LEVEL I:** Find and identify at least one kind of pine tree.



**LEVEL II:** Find and identify at least two kinds of pine trees.



**LEVEL III:** Find and identify at least three kinds of pine trees.

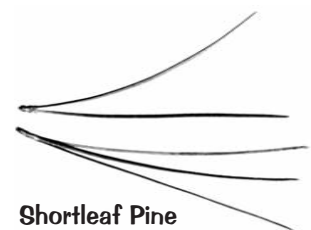
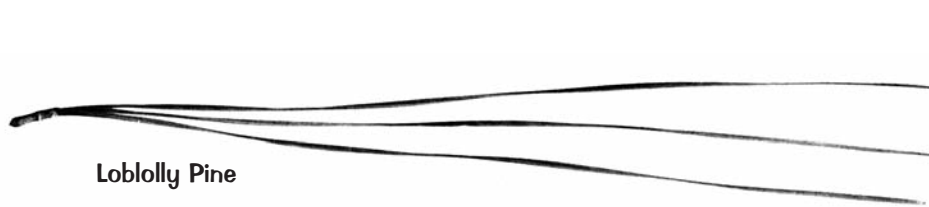
Tape the pine needles next to the name of the tree. To measure the length of the needles refer to the ruler on the back cover.



Name of Pine Tree	Tape Needle Above
Name of Pine Tree	Tape Needle Above
Name of Pine Tree	Tape Needle Above

## Common Georgia Pine Trees

Species	Number of Needles in Bundle	Length of Needles	Habitat
Virginia	2	1.5"-3"	mountains & upper Piedmont
Shortleaf	2 & 3	3"-5"	throughout Georgia
Pitch	3	3"-5"	mountains of northeast Georgia
Eastern White	5	3"-5"	mountains of north Georgia
Loblolly	3	6"-9"	throughout Georgia except high mountains
Slash	2 & 3	8"-12"	lower coastal plain
Longleaf	3	12"	coastal plain



# Water

**W**ater is important to all living things. It comes down from the clouds as precipitation (rain and snow) and collects in many places. When raindrops hit the ground, they may percolate down through the soil or travel over the land. They may also be taken up through plant roots in the soil. An area of land that collects runoff from precipitation is referred to as a watershed.

Run off from a watershed eventually ends up in bodies of water. In Georgia we have access to many bodies of water. Some occur naturally and some are created by man. By blocking the flow of water using a dam we may create a collected body of water such as a pond or lake.

## Observe and Study Bodies of Water



**LEVEL I:** Complete one of the following observation activities.



**LEVEL II:** Complete one observation activity and one water study activity.



**LEVEL III:** Complete observation activities at two different bodies of water and two water study activities.

### Observation Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Identify plant and animal life in a body of water: lake/pond, marsh/swamp, or river/stream

	Body of Water and Name of Site	Plant/Animal Living in Water	Animal Traveling on Water	Plant/Animal at Water's Edge
Observation 1				
Observation 2				

### Water Study Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Observe wave action at the beach. Walk along the shore and identify at least three things that wash in with the waves.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit a stream or river. Look upstream (the direction the water comes from) and down stream. List one living thing you see in the water: \_\_\_\_\_. List one nonliving thing you see in the water: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Visit a dam. Where does the water come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the water go? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the body of water created by the dam? \_\_\_\_\_

# Gone Fishing

**H**ere are some tips for catching fish: 1. Fishing is good early in the morning and early in the evening. 2. If fish aren't biting move to a new spot. 3. Fish like cover, so fish in likely protected places.

## Go On a Fishing Trip



**LEVEL I:** Go fishing. Have your picture taken and paste the photo on this page.



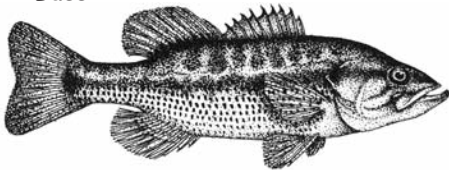
**LEVEL II:** Go fishing and catch a fish. You must bait your own hook and cast accurately. Take a picture of the fish you caught and paste it on this page. Identify the fish and record its weight and length under the photo.



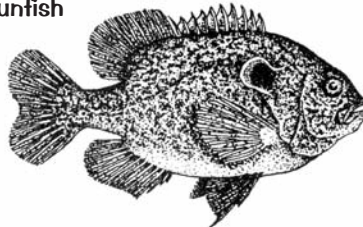
**LEVEL III:** Go fishing and catch a fish. You must bait your own hook and cast accurately. Visit a fish hatchery—a site where fish are raised in pools for later release into lakes and streams. Have your picture taken at the fish hatchery and paste it on this page. Identify where the fish hatchery is located and what kind(s) of fish are raised there under the photo. To locate the nearest fish hatchery refer to the inside back cover.



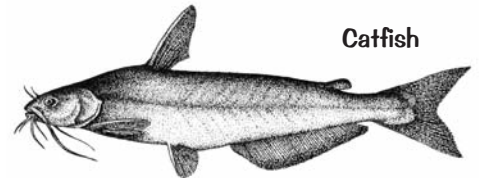
Bass



Sunfish



Catfish



Staple/Paste Photo(s) Here

# Outdoor Fun

The following is a listing of recreational activities available in Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites. Match the activity to the appropriate icon and circle the activities in which you have participated. For each circled item write where you participated in the activity.

## Have Fun in the Outdoors



**LEVEL I:** Must match all activities with icons and participate in at least two activities.



**LEVEL II:** Must match all activities with icons and participate in at least four activities.



**LEVEL III:** Must match all activities with icons and participate in at least six activities.

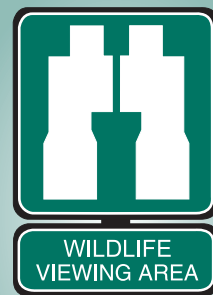
Icon	Activity	Where You Participated
	Fishing	_____
	Guided Tour/Walk	_____
	Tennis	_____
	Swimming	_____
	Picnicking	_____
	Hiking	_____
	Bird-watching	_____
	Horseback riding	_____
	Boating	_____
	Golf	_____
	Backpacking	_____
	Biking	_____
	Camping	_____
	Geocoaching	_____

# Wildlife

**M**ore than 900 different kinds of amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals live in Georgia. They range from salamanders and snakes to wood storks and bears.

If you want to observe wild animals, you must be patient. Many wild creatures are wary of people, so you will need to move slowly and quietly. Listen carefully for sounds of movement, calls or other animal sounds. The best time to see wild animals is usually early morning and early evening. Binoculars are helpful. Remember, do not feed wildlife or approach too closely.

Even if you do not see animals you may see signs of wildlife, including tracks (footprints), scat (droppings), evidence of feeding, feathers, nests, and burrows.



Look for this sign...  
it indicates a good site  
for viewing wildlife.

## Observe Wildlife



**LEVEL I:** Must make at least three observations of wild animals or evidence of wildlife.



**LEVEL II:** Must make at least five observations of wild animals or evidence of wildlife.



**LEVEL III:** Must make at least seven observations of wild animals or evidence of wildlife.

You may want to visit one of more than 80 wildlife management areas around the state. (*See Wildlife listing inside back cover.*)

### List Your Observations Below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

# Fruits & Flowers

**M**ore than 3,500 different kinds of plants grow in Georgia. Unlike animals, plants are easy to observe since they cannot run away! They do, however, change from season to season, so plant watching offers different opportunities at different times of the year. Spring is usually the best time to look for wildflowers, although there are some that bloom in summer and fall. Fall is usually the best time to see fruits and their seeds.

Not all plants produce flowers. Non-flowering plants include ferns and mosses. Flowering plants include trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

## Go On a Plant Scavenger Hunt



**LEVEL I:** Must find three of the plants, fruits, or flowers described below.



**LEVEL II:** Must find five plants, fruits, or flowers as described below.

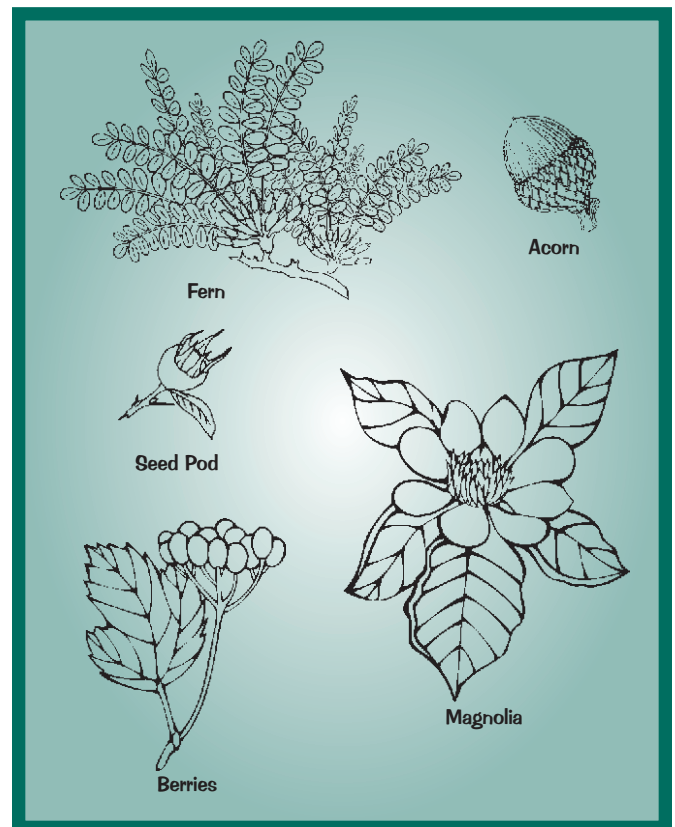


**LEVEL III:** Must find seven plants, fruits, or flowers as described below.

Remember collecting in State Parks is not allowed—see page 2.

### Put an X Next to the Plant, Fruit, or Flowers You Find:

- A nut or acorn (fruits from trees)
- A red flower or fruit—(red attracts hummingbirds)
- A flower with at least 5 petals
- A fuzzy seed that can be carried on the wind
- A fern
- A grass (their flowers are tiny)
- Spanish moss hanging on a tree (it is a flowering plant and not really a moss)
- A berry—look inside for seeds (Don't taste or put your fingers in your mouth)
- A vine
- A flower that attracts bees or butterflies
- A fruit with tiny hooks—like burdock. These fruits stick to animals, helping to spread their seeds.
- Seeds inside a pine cone



# Long Ago

Georgia has a rich and fascinating history—from ancient Indian Mounds and Revolutionary War forts to Native American settlements and Civil War battle sites. See history come to life by visiting a Historic Site or by investigating the history of a Georgia State Park site.

## Investigate History



**LEVEL I:** Complete two activities.



**LEVEL II:** Complete four activities.



**LEVEL III:** Complete six activities.



Historic markers can be found along roadsides all over Georgia. They mark the site of an important event in Georgia's history.

## Check Completed Activities and Attach a Brochure, Map or Other Evidence that You Have Visited the Site.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit an historic marker. Write the title of the marker: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit the first state park in Georgia and drink from the spring—Indian Springs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit Indian Mounds: Etowah Mounds, Kolomoki Mounds or other
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tour an historic mill: Hamburg State Park, George L. Smith State Park, Sweetwater Creek State Park, High Falls State Park or other
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit a Civil War Site: Pickett's Mill Battlefield, Fort McAllister, A. H. Stephens, Magnolia Springs, or other
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit an 18th Century Fort: Fort Yargo, Fort Morris, Fort King George
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit an historic home: Chief Vann House, Little White House, or other
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit a Plantation: Jarrell Plantation, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, or Traveler's Rest
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit the site of this country's first gold rush: Dahlonega Gold Museum
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend or participate in a living history program (people dressed in period costume)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many of the oldest structures on our State Parks were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) in the 1930's. Visit the CCC Museum at Vogel State Park or look for prominent CCC structures at other parks like FD Roosevelt, Hard Labor Creek, A.H. Stephens, Indian Springs, and Little Ocmulgee. What was the CCC?

# Get Outdoors Georgia

Why “get outdoors”? Because it’s good fun and good for you. Turn off the TV, step away from the computer, put down the iPod and spend some time in nature. You’ll feel better - physically and mentally.

So, “Get Out, Get Dirty and Get Fit” in the safety and scenery of Georgia’s exceptional state parks. Our fun, fitness-loving gopher character challenges you to “go for” a walk, a hike or a day in the park and to participate in planned promotional and recreational events and activities.

Have fun learning in the outdoors as you work toward earning a Get Outdoors (GO) Georgia badge with a fun Gopher mascot pictured on it. By following the guidelines and activities listed here, you will experience nature first-hand, explore Georgia’s fascinating history and enjoy outdoor recreational activities.



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## To earn your Get Outdoors Badge you must complete the required number of activities stated below:

- Age 7-10 Must complete at least 5 activities
- Age 11-14 Must complete at least 8 activities

To receive your free badge you can present this checklist to any Georgia State Park or Historic Site OR mail it to: Chief Naturalist, Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites, 2600 Highway 155 SW, Suite C, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281.



### Please Print Clearly:

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or other adult to verify that the required activities have been completed

Provide your email address below and subscribe to the free Junior Ranger E-Newsletter

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## Activity Checklist:

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### Hike Near Home

Find a trail within 15 miles of your neighborhood and take a walk/hike there with your family or friends. Many urban areas have local parks and recreational trails. Other areas to consider include state parks and state historic sites, wildlife management areas, nature centers, national forests, national parks, national recreation areas, national wildlife refuges, and public fishing areas.

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### Make a Snack to Enjoy on Hikes

It is important to take a high energy snack and water with you on a hike. Make a batch of trail mix for your family to enjoy on an outing and pack it in a zip-lock bag. This high energy food (sometimes called GORP - Good Old Raisins and Peanuts) is easy to make and can be eaten on the go. Your trail mix should include 1 part raisins or other dried fruit, 1 part salted nuts (peanuts, almonds or other favorites) and 1 part M&Ms.

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### Learn a New Outdoors Skill

Take lessons in swimming, tennis, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, sailing or golf. Lessons can be taken in formal classes (city/county recreation departments usually have quarterly publications of their outdoor classes) or from an experienced friend or family member. Go to a public park or natural area and use the new skills you have learned.

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### Enjoy a Sunrise or Sunset

Enjoy the exciting events that happen as the sun is rising or setting. To plan your activity, look in the newspaper to find out what time the sun sets and rises each day. Find an open field or area away from bright lights. Take a blanket to sit on and a flashlight. Things to watch and listen for are: bird song either increasing or getting quiet, sky color changes, shadows shifting, colors beginning to appear or fade, temperature getting cooler or warmer, stars appearing or fading, fluttering bats, wind speed or wind direction changes, artificial lights appear or fade. Remember to look to the east and the west to observe changes.

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### Walk Instead of Riding

Walk to an activity in your neighborhood instead of riding a bus or having someone drive you there. This may include walking to school, walking to the store or walking to a friend's house. Talk to a parent or guardian before selecting this activity to be sure that there are no safety concerns.

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### Set-up a Campsite

Learn how to put up a tent and make a checklist of items to bring on a camping trip. Camp out in a tent for at least one night – it can even be in your backyard!

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### Go on a Club Outing

Go on a field trip with a recreation or nature club. Club members are always eager to welcome new attendees. Select a club that offers activities that you enjoy. Possibilities include: The Appalachian Trail Club ([www.georgia-atclub.org](http://www.georgia-atclub.org)), Pine Mountain Trail Association ([www.pinemountaintrail.org](http://www.pinemountaintrail.org)), The Georgia Botanical Society - for plant lovers ([www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org)), The Audubon Society - for bird lovers ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)).

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### Document Your Outdoor Adventures with Writing and Sketches or Photos

Much about the natural history of Georgia is known today because naturalists and explorers wrote about what they saw in journals. Take a hike and write about what you saw. You can also use sketches or photographs to illustrate your journal. To see how others have done it visit your local library and look at journals written by two famous naturalists who wrote about their hikes in Georgia: William Bartram and John Muir. To learn more about sketching in the outdoors look for books written by Claire Walker Leslie.

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## Hike on the AT

Take a hike on the Appalachian Trail with your family or friends. This famous trail, sometimes call “The AT”, stretches from Springer Mountain in north Georgia all the way to Maine. There are several access points in north Georgia. Since 1936 more than 9,000 hikers have completed the entire 2,160-mile trail. For more information go to [www.appalachiantrail.com](http://www.appalachiantrail.com).

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## Participate in a Rivers Alive Cleanup

Rivers Alive is Georgia’s annual volunteer river clean-up that targets all waterways in the state including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches and wetlands. It happens every year in October and is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Environmental Protection Division and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. For details go to [www.riversalive.com](http://www.riversalive.com).

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## Attend a Public Fishing Event

Participate in a fishing derby or other public fishing event at any state park or public fishing area. To find an event at a Georgia State Park check the event calendar at [www.georgiastateparks.org](http://www.georgiastateparks.org). To find an event at a Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources Public Fishing Area go to [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com).

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## Attend a Junior Ranger Camp

Attend a Junior Ranger Day Camp at a Georgia State Park or Historic Site. Many parks and historic sites offer day camps in the summer months. For a listing of camp offerings go to the Junior Ranger webpage: [www.georgiastateparks.org/juniorranger](http://www.georgiastateparks.org/juniorranger).

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## Enter a Golf Tournament

Participate in a Junior Golf tournament in your community or at any of Georgia State Parks’ eight golf courses. Our State Park tournaments are for girls and boys age 6-18. For more information go to [www.georgiagolf.com](http://www.georgiagolf.com).

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## Climb a Canyon

Join the Georgia State Parks’ Canyon Climber’s Club. Hike the “canyons” at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Providence Canyon State Park and Tallulah Gorge State Park and earn a free t-shirt. Tell state park staff you are working on your Get Outdoors Badge and the fee to join will be waived. For more information go to [www.georgiastateparks.org](http://www.georgiastateparks.org).

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## Check Out our Bike Trails

Join the Georgia State Parks’ Muddy Spokes Club. Visit 3 of the 11 state parks in the Muddy Spokes Club, ride the designated bicycle trail at each and earn a free t-shirt. Tell state park staff you are working on your Get Outdoors Badge and the fee to join will be waived. For more information go to [www.georgiastateparks.org](http://www.georgiastateparks.org).



# Whooo...!

**V**enturing out into the natural world at night is a new experience for many people. In a safe outdoor environment, exploring nighttime wonders can be fun and exciting. To complete this Junior Ranger requirement you must attend a Ranger-led Night Hike OR take a 30 min. walk outside at night with an adult. You will need to get away from lights and noise to best enjoy your night hike.

Since you cannot see at night, you need to use your ears and your senses of touch and smell. Listen for owls, insects and other creatures rustling around on the ground. Does the air smell different at night? (*Wetting your nose will increase your smelling ability!*) Can you distinguish between two trees by the feel of their bark?

## Experience the Natural World at Night



**LEVEL I:** Take a night hike and see, hear or smell at least two night creatures.



**LEVEL II:** Take a night hike and see, hear or smell at least three night creatures.

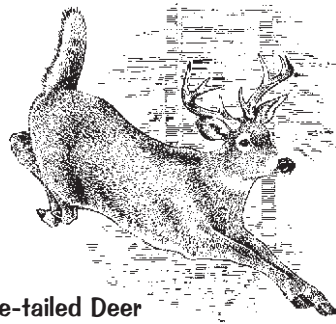


**LEVEL III:** Take a night hike and see, hear or smell at least four night creatures.

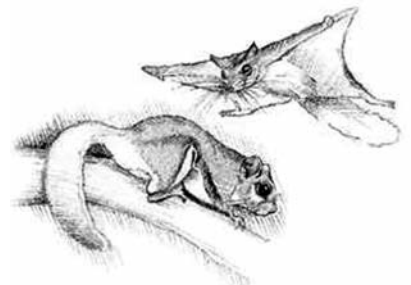
**Circle the Creatures that you Heard, Saw, or Smelled on Your Night Hike.**



Bat



White-tailed Deer



Flying Squirrel



Cricket



Firefly



Katydid—sounds like rough sandpaper rubbing together



Raccoon



Wolf Spider



Owl



Frog or Toad



Skunk



Opossum

# Look Up

**D**ay or night there is something of interest in the sky above you. You can gaze at the moon and watch vultures circle, hawks soar, clouds float by, stars twinkle and bats flutter.

## View Nature Above You



**LEVEL I:** Find one item on the daytime checklist and one item on the nighttime checklist



**LEVEL II:** Find two items on the daytime checklist and two items on the nighttime checklist.



**LEVEL III:** Find three items on each checklist.

### Nighttime

\_\_\_\_\_ Observe the moon. What phase is the moon:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why does the moon change shape?  
It doesn't. When we look at the moon we see the front of the moon—part is lit by sunlight and part is in shade.

\_\_\_\_\_ Observe a blue moon, shooting star or meteor shower. A blue moon is a second full moon occurring within one month. It is a rare occurrence

\_\_\_\_\_ Find the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper and the North Star. The North Star is at the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper.

\_\_\_\_\_ At dusk look for bats fluttering in the sky.

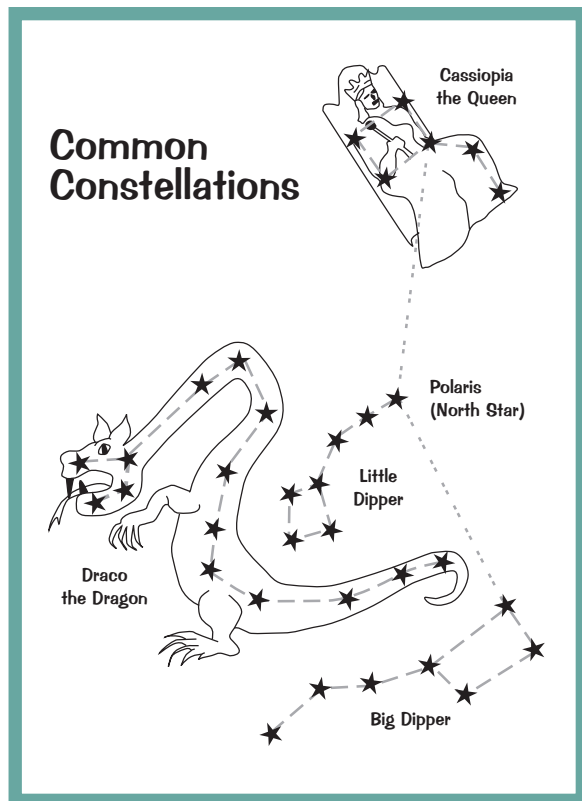
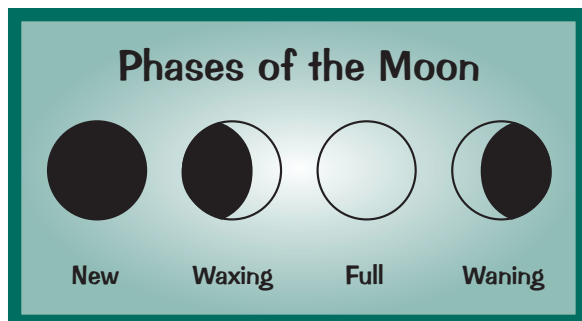
### Daytime

\_\_\_\_\_ Lie down on your back and look at the clouds for at least 15 minutes. Think about this while you are cloud-watching—clouds are there because of the large and mighty oceans—what does that mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ Watch a hawk soaring in the sky. Hawks generally hold their wings flat as they soar.

\_\_\_\_\_ Watch vultures circling in the sky. Some vultures hold their wings in a V shape and teeter back and forth

\_\_\_\_\_ Find the moon in the daytime sky. Some days during each month you can see the moon in the daytime sky.



# Circle of Life

As you have probably heard many times, everything in nature is connected. It is, however, such an important message that it bears repeating. Life begins and ends, animals eat plants and big animals eat small animals. Insects, bacteria and fungi (like mushrooms) break down dead things and recycle them back into the soil. This enriches the soil and helps plants grow. Mother Nature is a great recycler. Nothing is wasted.

As a Junior Ranger you can help the earth by recycling at home. You should recycle newspaper, aluminum cans, glass containers and anything else that your community recycles. You can also recycle kitchen scraps like fruit and vegetable peelings by building a compost pile.

## Draw Nature's Recyclers



**LEVEL I:** Find and draw one of the following. Find and recycle one item.



**LEVEL II:** Find and draw two of the following. Find and recycle two items.



**LEVEL III:** Find and draw all of the following. Find and recycle three items or build a compost pile.

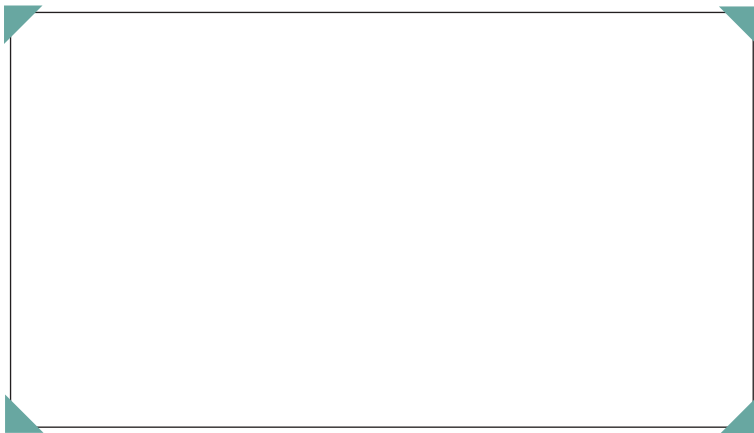
Visit a State Park/Historic Site or Other Natural Area and Look for Examples of the Following. Use the Space Below for Drawing.



An earthworm or a creature smaller than an earthworm that lives in the soil



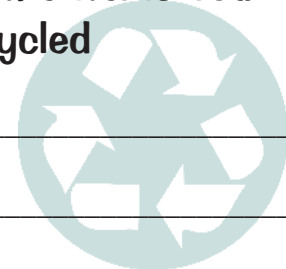
Life on a rotting log.



An animal eating a plant

List the Items You Recycled

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Forts, Wars and Weapons

Early Georgians had to protect their land. It is believed that Indians built the stone wall at Fort Mountain to protect themselves from invading groups. Fort King George was built to protect the English from the Spanish and Fort Morris was used during the Revolutionary War. Fort McAllister was built to guard the Ogeechee River and protect Savannah from Union troops and ships during the Civil War.

Weapons have been used by people since the beginning of time. They have been used for protection as well as to hunt animals for food. The earliest weapons were made of stone. Later, metal such as iron and steel were used. The use of gunpowder in weapons such as cannons and guns changed the way wars were fought. Combat was no longer man-to-man but could be conducted from a distance.



## Learn About Past Wars and Weapons Used



**LEVEL I:** Visit a historic site and examine the weapons found in the exhibits.

List the types of weapons you saw: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Weapons are displayed at several State Parks & Historic Sites including: Pickett's Mill Battlefield, A.H Stephens, Fort McAllister, Fort King George, Fort Morris, Georgia Veterans Memorial, New Echota, and Chief Vann House.*



**LEVEL II:** Visit a fort: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Fort

What materials were used to build the fort: \_\_\_\_\_

List the weapons they used: \_\_\_\_\_



**LEVEL III:** Visit a military reenactment of a battle: \_\_\_\_\_

Site of reenactment

Describe who was fighting and the types of weapons they used to fight the battle

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Bird Watching

**W**atching birds is fun and it can be done anywhere. You can set up a bird feeder in your backyard to better view the birds in your neighborhood. Or, you can travel to different habitats to observe different kinds of birds. It is helpful to use binoculars and a book called a *field guide* to identify the birds you see.

About 400 different kinds of birds can be found in Georgia. Some of them live here year-round, others are here in spring and summer only and some just spend the winter. A few are seen only when they pass through on migration.

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## Observe Bird Behavior in Different Habitats



**LEVEL I:** Visit one of the habitats listed and observe at least four bird behaviors.



**LEVEL II:** Visit two different habitats and observe at least six bird behaviors.



**LEVEL III:** Visit three different habitats and observe at least six bird behaviors. Go on a field trip with other bird watchers, attend a bird festival or participate in Georgia's Youth Birding Competition.

### Habitat Checklist (Birds to look for)

- Open Fields and Meadows (sparrows, eastern bluebird)
- Forests (woodpeckers, warblers)
- Wetlands - swamps, marshes (egrets, red-winged blackbird)
- Beaches (gulls, terns)
- Lakes and Ponds (ducks, herons)
- Backyards (carolina chickadee, cardinal, tufted titmouse)

### Bird Behavior Checklist

- Singing or calling
- Bathing in water or taking a dust bath
- Walking or hopping on the ground
- Preening (grooming its feathers with its beak)
- Flying with food or nest material in its mouth
- A group of birds perched together on a wire
- Wading in water
- Perched on a branch
- Flying (flapping wings)
- Soaring (no flapping)
- Swimming
- Feeding
- Climbing a tree trunk
- Sitting on a nest
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Great Egret



Wood Duck



Pileated Woodpecker

# Early Georgians

People from many different places have migrated to the land we now recognize as the State of Georgia. Four of the earliest migrations are described below.

People continue to migrate to Georgia. When did your family first settle in Georgia and where did they come from? \_\_\_\_\_

## Learn About Four Waves of Migration to Georgia



**LEVEL I:** Complete one activity below.



**LEVEL II:** Complete two activities below.



**LEVEL III:** Complete three activities below.



\_\_\_\_\_ **Indians:** The first people to arrive in Georgia were Indians. They began to settle here over 10,000 years ago. Imagine what it was like to travel to a place no one had seen before! Many of our State Parks have names derived from Indian words. Visit a site with an Indian name and find out what the word means: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Name of Site – meaning

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish:** The second wave of immigration came from Spain. Hernando de Soto was the first European to explore Georgia in 1540. The Spanish established Catholic missions throughout southern Georgia including one near the modern day site of Fort King George State Historic Site. Visit the Spanish Mission exhibit at the Fort King George museum. What was the name of the Mission? \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ **English:** In 1733 James Oglethorpe and 114 colonists arrived from England and settled in the area of present day Savannah. One of these first colonists, Noble Jones, built a house at what is now Wormsloe State Historic Site. Visit the ruins of the home of Noble Jones. What was his home made of? \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ **African Slaves:** Slavery was originally banned in Georgia. The law was later overturned and slaves began arriving in Georgia in 1751. Many worked on plantations along the coast including at the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation which is now a State Historic Site. Visit the site and find out what crop was grown there and what tasks were performed by slaves: \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

Visit another historic site where slaves once lived and find out what tasks they performed. State Historic sites: A.H. Stephens, Jarrell Plantation, Chief Vann House or other \_\_\_\_\_.

# Rare Treasures

(LEVEL II AND III ONLY)

**D**id you know that of Georgia's 3,600 species of plants approximately 600 are considered rare and that more than 200 of our 930 animal species are rare? Many of these rare creatures are endangered species or at risk of becoming endangered. They need our protection. It is getting harder and harder to find them in the wild. See if you can find their names in this word search.

## Rare and Endangered Species Word Search



**LEVEL II:** Find and circle the names of all of the protected species in the word search.



**LEVEL III:** Find and circle the names of all of the protected species in the word search. Highlight the plant names in green, the birds in blue, mammals in yellow, reptiles in pink, amphibians in purple

**Note: The Words in Parentheses are not Included in the Word Search.**

▶ Bald Eagle	R	A	D	E	C	G	N	I	K	N	I	T	S	G	G
▶ Gopher Tortoise	E	K	A	N	S	O	G	I	D	N	I	A	R	S	G
▶ Gray Bat	E	L	A	H	W	T	H	G	I	R	B	E	B	T	O
▶ Green Fly Orchid	E	C	B	A	L	D	E	A	G	L	E	T	P	R	P
▶ Green Salamander	K	R	O	T	S	D	O	O	W	N	O	I	O	I	H
▶ (Eastern) Indigo Snake	E	E	T	A	N	A	M	P	F	T	B	K	N	P	E
▶ (Swallow-tailed) Kite	G	R	E	E	N	S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R
▶ Manatee	T	B	J	M	E	Z	Y	I	T	B	T	F	B	D	T
▶ Pitcher Plant (Green, Purple, Red)	X	R	E	D	C	O	C	K	A	D	E	D	E	N	O
▶ Plum Leaf Azalea	J	E	L	T	R	U	T	A	E	S	J	U	R	E	R
▶ Pondberry	P	I	T	C	H	E	R	P	L	A	N	T	R	W	T
▶ Red-cockaded (Woodpecker)	B	K	H	S	W	A	M	P	P	I	N	K	Y	T	O
▶ (Northern) Right Whale	E	I	V	O	F	B	G	R	A	Y	B	A	T	R	I
▶ Sea Turtle (Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback, Ridley)	D	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	T	U	R	T	L	E	S
▶ Spotted Turtle	A	E	L	A	Z	A	F	A	E	L	M	U	L	P	E
▶ Stinking Cedar															
▶ Striped Newt															
▶ Swamp Pink															
▶ Wood Stork															

# Get Involved

(LEVEL II AND III ONLY)

A good way to get more involved in Georgia's State Park system is to talk to the park staff and volunteer to help out at a State Park. State Park Volunteer Days are scheduled at different times for each individual park; most but not all parks have a Volunteer Day. You will need to contact a park directly to find out more.

## Interview Someone and Help Out by Volunteering



**LEVEL II:** Interview a park visitor, park staff member or park volunteer.



**LEVEL III:** Volunteer at a State Park or Historic Site and interview a park staff member or volunteer. Name of Park Where you Volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_

### Fill Out the Following:

Person Interviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitor     Volunteer     Staff, position: \_\_\_\_\_

### Interview Questions:

What do you like most about visiting (or working in) this park?

How many times have you visited or (how long have you worked with) this Georgia State Park?

What does the name of this Park mean?

What wildlife have you seen in this park?

Your own question: \_\_\_\_\_

# Dear Friend

Complete the letter below and send it to someone you know. If you do not want to tear this page out of your book, you may send a photocopy. You may use as many words as you like to fill in blanks.

## Write a Letter to a Friend

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I enjoyed my visit to \_\_\_\_\_ located near \_\_\_\_\_, Ga.

The site is about \_\_\_\_\_ miles from my home in \_\_\_\_\_.

Write a few sentences about the park or historic site and describe the things you did during your visit.

There is a state park within 50 miles of every Georgia resident. The nearest parks to you are \_\_\_\_\_ (refer to the map on the back). You may want to visit one some time!

Georgia is home to many different plants and animals. I've seen \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know there are threatened and endangered species right here in Georgia? Some of the ones I have read about include \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Refer to Rare Treasures page 18)

Yours truly,  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Natural Features of Georgia

(LEVEL II AND III ONLY)

**W**ind, water and fire over time have created the landscape we see in Georgia today. The diversity of natural environments found here range from mountains to seashore.

The southern tip of the Appalachian Mountains can be seen in northeast Georgia, in an area called the **Blue Ridge**. Because they are very old mountains they have experienced more weathering and are therefore not as tall as mountains in the western U.S. In the **Piedmont**, an area of rolling hills just south of the mountains, you can find large areas of exposed rock called granite outcrops. Georgia's Stone Mountain is the largest granite outcrop in the world.

Below the fall line (an imaginary line that stretches from Columbus to Augusta) is the **Coastal Plain** area. The fall line represents the coastline of long ago when what is now south Georgia was underwater. The soil in the Coastal Plain is sandy.

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## Visit Unique Natural Areas and Plot Their Location on a Map



**LEVEL II:** Visit one of the natural features described below and mark the site on the map.



**LEVEL III:** Visit two of the natural features described below and mark them on the map.

\_\_\_\_ Visit a mountain stream in the Blue Ridge area and look for trout: Moccasin Creek State Park, Smithgall Woods, Unicoi State Park or other.

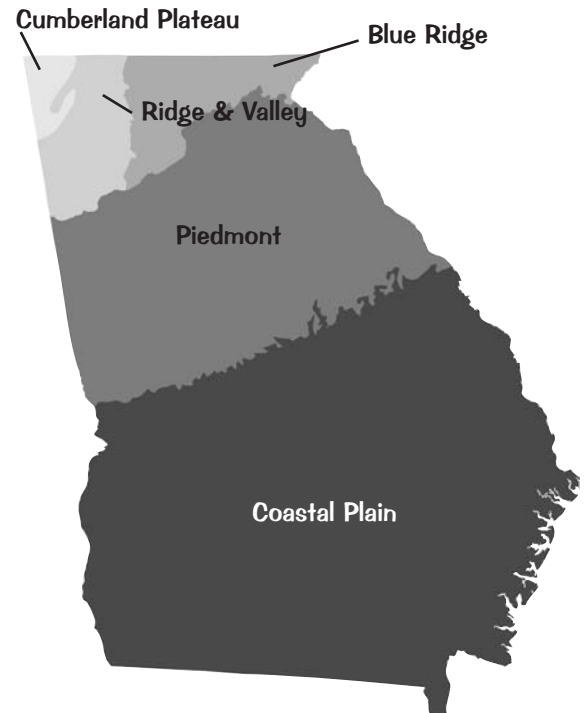
\_\_\_\_ Visit a granite outcrop in Georgia's Piedmont and see lichen growing on the exposed rock: Panola Mountain State Park, Stone Mountain, Arabia Mountain or other.

\_\_\_\_ Visit a longleaf pine and wiregrass community and look for gopher tortoise. This rare natural community cannot persist without fire: General Coffee State Park, George L. Smith State Park, Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, Reed Bingham State Park, Seminole State Park.

\_\_\_\_ Visit a salt marsh on the coast and look for fiddler crabs: Crooked River State Park, Skidaway Island State Park, Fort McAllister State Historic Site, Wormsloe State Historic Site.

\_\_\_\_ Visit Cloudland Canyon State Park located in the Cumberland Plateau region. Take a hike in the canyon, it looks unlike any other part of Georgia.

\_\_\_\_ Visit Providence Canyon, Tallulah Gorge, Amicalola Falls or the Okefenokee Swamp (Stephen C. Foster State Park) and see why each is listed as one of Georgia's Seven Natural Wonders.



# Pushy Plants

(LEVEL II AND III ONLY)

The staff at Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites are responsible for taking care of the land and protecting the plants and animals that live there. Sometimes this requires getting rid of pushy plants that don't belong there.

## Pushy Plants

Some of the plants that live in Georgia were brought here from other countries and from other parts of the United States. A few of these newcomers have gotten "pushy"; they are crowding out the **native plants** that are supposed to be here. These pushy plants upset the balance of nature.

Some pushy plants grow so thick that they cover up other plants and block out the sunlight they need to grow. Pushy plants also have a negative effect on wildlife because animals need native plants for food and shelter.

---

## Spread the Word About Pushy Plants

Getting rid of pushy plants is a new way of helping nature that many people don't yet understand. You can help by telling other people about them and making sure that you never plant pushy plants in your yard. They may spread or, the seeds may be carried to other places and start new plants.



**LEVEL II:** Find at least two pushy plants from the list below. Collect leaves from each and make a leaf rubbing by placing the leaves under a piece of paper and rubbing a crayon across the paper. Label your rubbings and make a poster to educate others about pushy plants.



**LEVEL III:** Find at least three pushy plants from the list below. Collect leaves from each and make a leaf rubbing. Label your rubbings and make a poster to educate others about pushy plants.

Pushy Plants that can be found in Georgia State Parks include:

\_\_\_ Chinese Privet

\_\_\_ English Ivy

\_\_\_ Kudzu

\_\_\_ Water Hyacinth

\_\_\_ Chinese Wisteria

\_\_\_ Japanese Honeysuckle

\_\_\_ Mimosa Tree

\_\_\_ Tallow Tree (also called Popcorn Tree)

*You may need to ask a ranger to direct you to where pushy plants can be found.*



Kudzu



Chinese Wisteria



Mimosa Tree

Photographs courtesy of University of Georgia  
www.invasive.org

# Pledge Your Support

## Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites - Junior Ranger Program

Visit the Junior Ranger page on our website: [www.gastateparks.org/juniorranger](http://www.gastateparks.org/juniorranger)

- Check out our statewide listing of Junior Ranger Day Camps.
- Subscribe to *The Georgia Junior Ranger*, a free quarterly electronic newsletter for Junior Rangers.

### *Junior Ranger Pledge*

*As a Junior Ranger I promise to be a friend to  
Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites.*

*I promise that...*

- 1. I will respect wildlife.*
- 2. I will continue to explore and learn more about nature and history and share my discoveries with others.*
- 3. I will not litter.*
- 4. I will encourage my friends and family to protect Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites as well as other wild and special places.*
- 5. I will continue to enjoy outdoor activities -- in my neighborhood and other places.*

---

*(Signature of Junior Ranger)*

