

OC Parks

Jr. Ranger



East Region





OC Parks

OC Parks encompasses regional, wilderness, historical and coastal facilities throughout the County of Orange, California. Featuring approximately 60,000 acres of parkland, open space and shoreline, Orange County's award-winning parks and programs are enjoyed by millions of residents and visitors each year, in ways as diverse as the parks themselves.

Our Mission

We preserve and enhance OC Parks' natural and cultural resources for recreation, education and exploration.

This Book Belongs To:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Favorite OC Park: _____

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Ranger Sage



Ranger Milo



Ranger Westley



Ranger Ruby



OC Parks Jr. Ranger Program

The OC Parks Jr. Ranger Program encourages park guests to explore the outdoor world within OC Parks by developing a sense of belonging, becoming a part of nature and feeling empowered to be stewards of Orange County's natural and cultural resources.

The OC Parks Jr. Ranger Program includes 20 of OC Parks' amazing parks and historic sites throughout the County of Orange. The sites are divided into four geographic areas (north, south, east and west), with a separate activity booklet for each region.

- Complete the activities for each park to receive the park's unique Jr. Ranger badge.
- Earn badges from all five parks in the region and receive a Jr. Ranger vest.
- Earn all 20 OC Parks Jr. Ranger badges to receive the grand prize, a Jr. Ranger backpack!



Instructions

Step 1: To earn a park's Jr. Ranger badge, complete at least one "Anywhere Activity" and the specific pages for that park. Anywhere Activities can be done at any park location and are encouraged to be completed multiple times - it's a new experience each time! Additional copies of these activities can be downloaded at ocparks.com.

Step 2: Show your completed activities to staff or volunteers at the park office or nature center. They will administer the Jr. Ranger oath, sign off on your pages and present you with a park badge.

Step 3: Using this booklet, repeat steps 1 and 2 at each of the five locations in the selected region.

Step 4: To receive your east region prize, bring all five badges or your fully completed activity booklet to the Santiago Oaks Regional Park Nature Center. Be sure to check current operating hours prior to your visit. Appointments are recommended by emailing jr.ranger@ocparks.com.

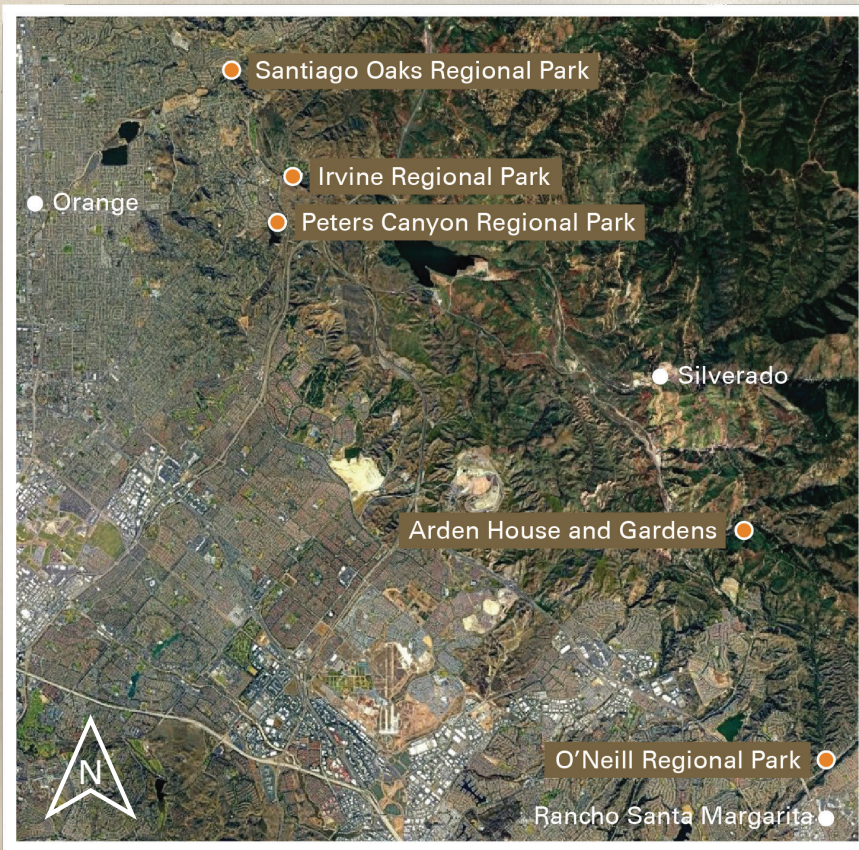
If you have already completed another regional activity booklet and have received your Jr. Ranger vest, congratulations! You're well on your way to receiving the grand prize!

Step 5: Once you have earned all 20 Jr. Ranger Program badges, bring them to OC Parks Headquarters located at Irvine Ranch Historic Park (13042 Old Myford Road, Irvine, CA 92602) to receive your grand prize. Appointments are required by emailing jr.ranger@ocparks.com.

A Note to Adults: You are strongly encouraged to let your learner take the lead on all activities. They are designed to promote curiosity and a sense of wonder. Getting correct answers is not nearly as important as having an immersive outdoor learning experience.

East Region Introduction

OC Parks in the eastern portion of Orange County are defined by the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. Rolling hills, steep canyons, remote forests and breathtaking vistas make this a popular area for those who want to adventure on foot, bicycle or horseback. Santiago Oaks, O'Neill and Peters Canyon regional parks each boast miles of beautiful trails and endless opportunities for exploration. Irvine Regional Park, California's first regional park, offers rugged foothill trails alongside picnic shelters, athletic fields and even the OC Zoo! Designated a National Historic Landmark, Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens tells the story of life in Orange County's canyons in the 19th and 20th centuries through the home of a world-renowned Shakespearean actress. These parks and historic sites are a must visit on any Jr. Ranger's list!



Meet Ranger Ruby

East Region Jr. Ranger Mascot



Knock, knock... It's Ranger Ruby and I'm so egg-cited to meet you!

I'm an acorn woodpecker, born and raised in the oak woodlands of Orange County. I can be shy at first, but once I come out of my shell, I can be a bit nutty. I love camping, history, art and of course a good pun, even if it's acorn-y one. You'll find me flitting about at my favorite parks, like O'Neill Regional Park, Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Peters Canyon Regional Park, and our oldest park, Irvine Regional Park. When I'm feeling a bit more reflective, I love spending a quiet afternoon at the beautiful Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens. I love excavating a good tree, but don't worry- I try my best to keep my beak to myself when it comes to our precious historic sites!

As you explore each of these special places, I hope you discover the wonders that make each one unique. If you find yourself struggling with the activities, my advice is to keep pecking away at it and have fun!

Essentials of Hiking

Preparedness is Key!

OC Parks are for everyone to enjoy. In the space below, draw who you are adventuring with today!

Who do you want to bring with you next time?

Have you heard of the 10 Essentials of Hiking? It's recommended you pack the items below to be prepared for any unexpected situation in the outdoors. Circle the items you brought on your adventure today.



Appropriate footwear



Maps and compass/GPS



Water



Snacks



Layered clothing



Safety items



First aid kit



Multi-tool



Sun protection












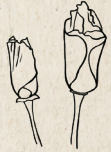









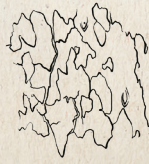




Shelter

What additional items might you bring next time?

Park Bingo

Nature is All Around

Look for each of these objects as you make your way through the park. When you find one, mark it with an X. Once you get five in a row up, down or diagonal, shout BINGO! Keep exploring and see what else you can discover and if you can get more than one BINGO!

				
Singing bird	Clouds	Flower	Worm	Tall tree
				
Nest	Compound leaf	Tall grass	Hummingbird	Flower bud
		FREE!		
Shell	Rocks	FREE!	Seed	Spider
				
Lizard	Web	Fungus	Elliptical leaf	Fish
				
Puzzle bark	Woodpecker	Broad leaf	Squirrel	Flying insect

Nature Journaling

Improve Your Observation

Nature journaling can be practiced in almost any space and can help create connections with the environment around us through focused observation.

Find an area within the park that you would like to observe and document. Spend 3-5 minutes in that location and pay attention to details you might otherwise overlook. Use your senses to focus on what you observed. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you see?

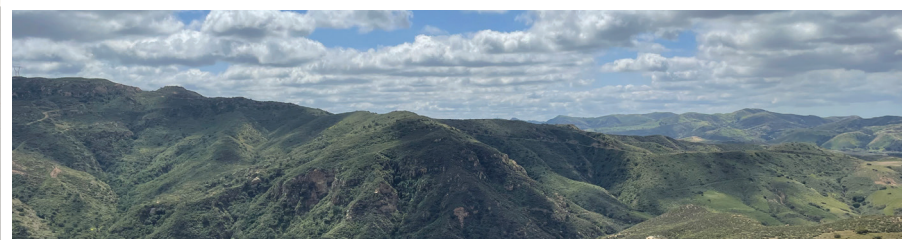
Use the space below to draw or describe your observations.



Zoom in, zoom out: Observe an organism as a whole then focus on one small feature (for example a leaf or feather). Finish by observing the organism in the big picture of its habitat.

Diversity Blitz: Find as many different organisms as possible around you and categorize them by type (for example flowers, trees, bugs, etc.).

What's Worth Preserving or Enhancing in OC Parks?



Name three things you discovered in this park today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Ask someone you know what three things they enjoy most about this park.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are they the same or different than your items?

Why are these things worth preserving?

What would you change or add to enhance this park?

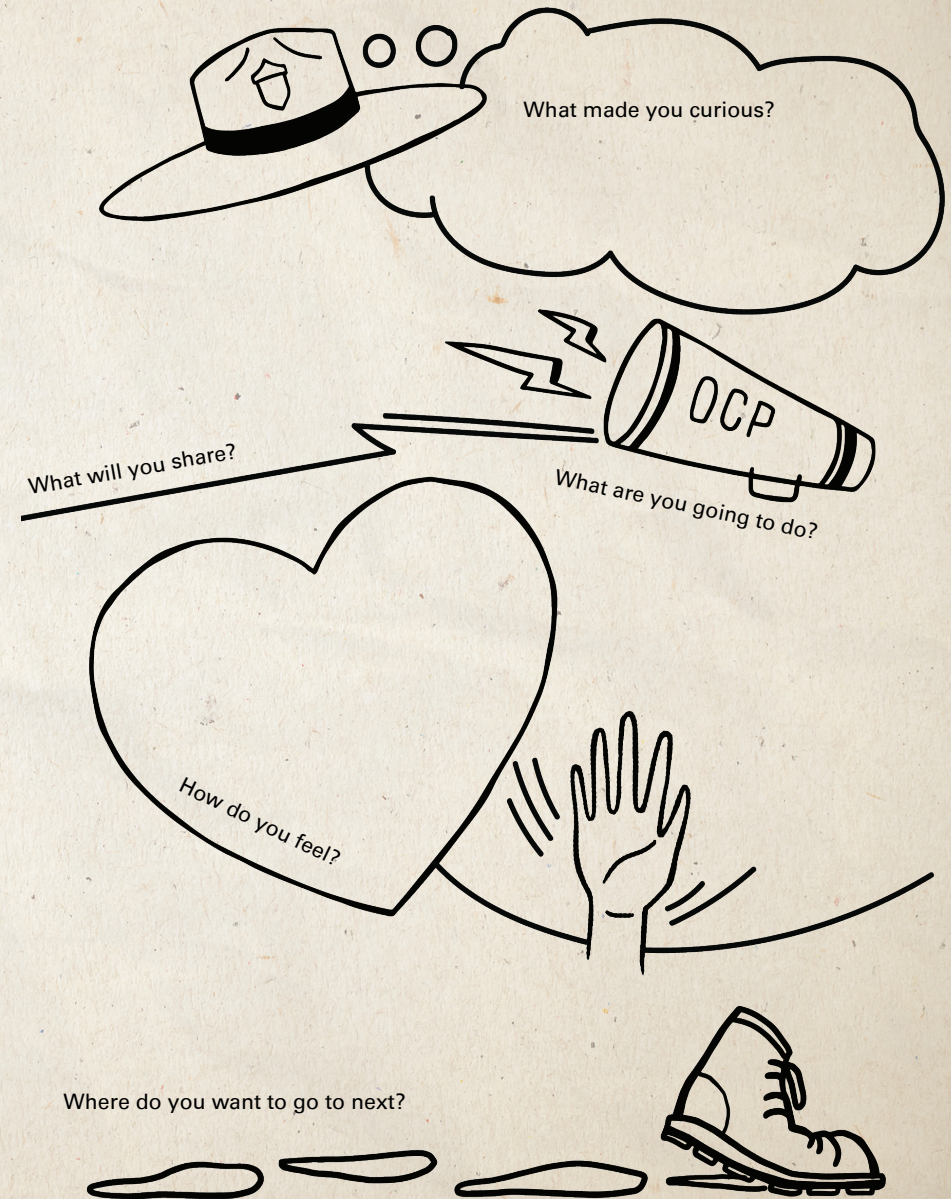
Park Protectors

OC Parks preserves and enhances the natural and cultural resources found throughout our parks for recreation, education and exploration. This includes, but is not limited to plants, animals, geological features, fossils and artifacts. Protecting these amazing resources allows future generations to enjoy them, just like you are doing today!

Draw at least three features you feel are important to protect, preserve and enhance for people to enjoy for years to come inside the orange below.



Tell Your OC Parks Jr. Ranger Story!



Arden

Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens

Designated a National Historic Landmark, this quiet, iconic site was once home to world-renowned Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska. She moved here in 1888 and named the property Arden after its resemblance to the Forest of Arden in Shakespeare's play "As You Like It." Due to its unique setting in the canyon, wildlife is often spotted nearby. Can you picture how this area looked when Helena Modjeska lived here?

Look at this historic photograph from the early 1900s. Observe the building and plants around it and compare it to what you see today. Find three things that are the same and three things that are different and note your observations on the lines below the photo.



Same:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Different:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Helena Modjeska came to America from Poland with her husband and friends in 1876 to form an agricultural colony in Anaheim. Although their colony failed after a short time, Modjeska quickly learned English and began performing on the American stage.



Imagine what Arden might look like 100 years from now. Describe or sketch your ideas:

Helena Modjeska was one of the first celebrities in America. She built Arden as a peaceful retreat from her busy life as a famous actress. Find a spot to sit in the garden and take a few minutes to relax, be quiet and attune your senses to nature.

Use this space to describe or sketch what you see, hear, smell and feel:

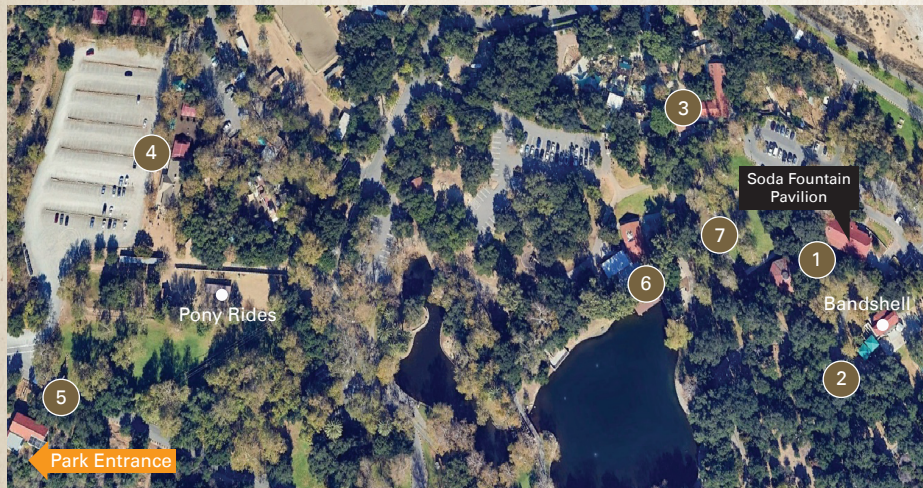
Do you feel more calm or relaxed? Why or why not?

Irvine Regional Park

Historical Happenings

Irvine Regional Park is California's first regional park and opened in 1897. That's over a century of people enjoying outdoor recreation and connecting with the natural world! Practice your map reading skills as you travel through history by visiting a few historic points of interest throughout the park.

Start at the Soda Fountain Pavilion and use the map below to uncover the answers to the questions on the next page.



- 1 These buildings were designed by Frederick Eley in the 1930s. The long building located along the edge of the parking lot is the Soda Fountain Pavilion. Visit the second circular building to learn more about Irvine Regional Park. What is the name of this building?

Soda Fountain Pavilion and _____

- 2 What man featured here donated 160 acres to the County of Orange in 1897 to use as a public park?

- 3 This facility officially opened in 1985, but traces its roots back to 1905 when foxes, birds, deer and alligators were put on display. Today it houses local animals such as birds of prey, mountain lions and reptiles!

- 4 People have explored Irvine Regional Park in many ways throughout the last century. Today, you can enjoy a loop around the park on horseback, rent a bike or buy a ticket to hop aboard this popular attraction.

- 5 Originally placed in 1997 for Irvine Regional Park's centennial, the replica entrance arch was updated in 2022 to mark the park's 125th anniversary. What is the word on the plaque hanging below the sign? Hint: It means 125th anniversary.

- 6 Built in 1914, this is the oldest building in the park and is still in use today! Hint: You may stop here to paddle around the lake.

- 7 Did you know oak trees can live for more than 200 years? This particular tree was alive during the signing of what important document?

O'Neill Regional Park

Arroyo Trabuco Creek Exploration

O'Neill Regional Park sits on the banks of the Arroyo Trabuco, one of Orange County's largest watersheds.

Trabuco Creek is home to many species of plants and animals. The water and habitat within the creek are critical resources for many living creatures.



Newt



Mountain lion



Mule deer

Arroyo Trabuco and San Juan Watersheds



The Arroyo Trabuco watershed begins 4,310 feet above sea level!



The Arroyo Trabuco, or Trabuco Creek, spans 22 miles from the Santa Ana Mountains to its intersection with San Juan Creek in San Juan Capistrano, cutting across the entire width of Orange County.



Explore Trabuco Creek!

While visiting O'Neill Regional Park, take a moment and explore the banks of the creek which can be accessed from the Featherly Day Use Area. For your safety and that of our local wildlife, please do not enter the water.

Is there water in the creek? Do you think there is water in the creek year-round? Why or why not?

Find a fossil or cool rock. Describe or draw it.

Look for an insect or animal that lives in the creek and observe it in its habitat. What did you find? What was it doing? Did it see you?

Find something man-made. Where do you think it came from?

Peters Canyon Regional Park

Creek Trail Observation

Discover the cool oasis found within Peters Canyon Regional Park! The Creek Trail is located near the center of the park and can be accessed by walking 1.3 miles south from the parking lot on Peters Canyon Trail or entering via the south entrance. Once you're there, make some observations about the trail and the organisms who live in it. How does it compare to the coastal sage scrub habitat found throughout the rest of the park?

Riparian Habitat



Land that borders a body of water such as rivers, streams and lakes.

Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat



Features low-growing shrubs and other plants that grow in coastal terraces and foothills.

Record your observations of the Creek Trail and the surrounding riparian habitat here:

Alice Chandler, the first female deputy for the Orange County Sheriff's Department, rode her horse around Peters Canyon and the Irvine Ranch in the 1950s. At age 21, she was responsible for keeping the trails and wildlife safe, before this area was patrolled by OC Parks park rangers.



After exploring the Creek Trail, pick another spot in the park and observe the drier coastal sage scrub ecosystem. What features are unique to each habitat? What features are similar? Note the differences and similarities on the notebook pages below.

Habitat: Coastal Sage Scrub
Example:

- Habitat is dry, not much water
- Plants are short

Habitat: Riparian
Example:

- Lots of water
- Plants are tall

Habitat: Both! (Similarities)
Example:

- Many kinds of plants
- Lots of insects

Black sage

Poison oak

Woodrat nest

Santiago Oaks Regional Park

Santiago Oaks' Paint Palette

Whether it's the historic Valencia orange grove, the lush green canopy along Santiago Creek, or the twisting red dirt trails, vibrant colors are splashed throughout Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Take time to explore the park and observe your surroundings. Does that bird have a bright blue body? Did that bug have shimmering orange wings? What about that snake with the bold yellow stripes? Color can be found all around you when you take the time to look.



Find at least one animal, plant or other natural object that matches each corresponding color on the palette to the right. Use a pencil or pen and draw your findings in the corresponding wedge.

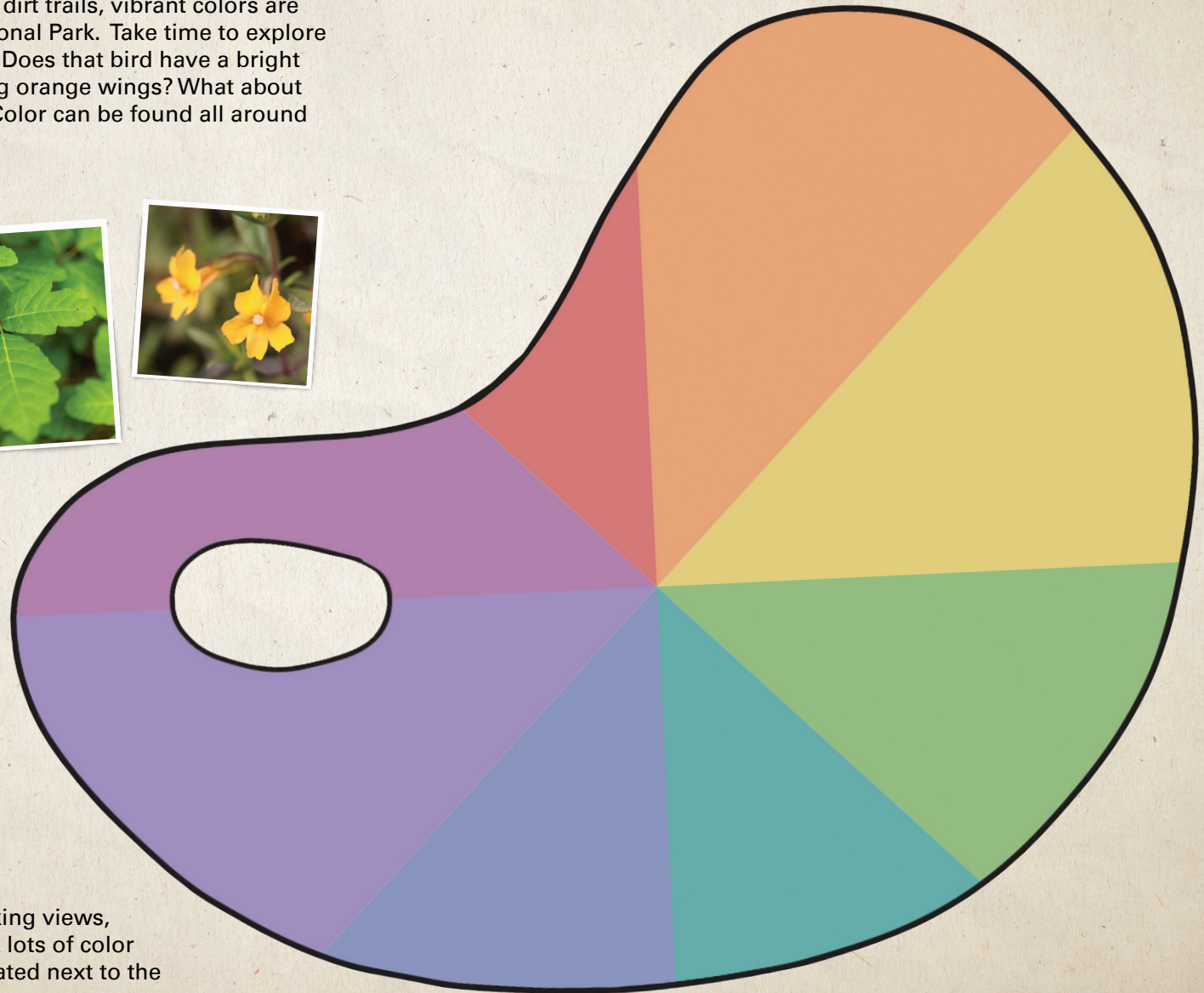
Hint: See a bird or flower with a splash of blue? Draw it in the blue section of the palette.



Artist Advice:
With rich plant biodiversity and breathtaking views, the Windes and Pacifica nature trails pack lots of color into a short distance. The trailhead is located next to the nature center.



This park sits along Santiago Creek, which got its modern name after the 1769 Spanish Portola Expedition who called the stream San lago after St. James.



Notes

Notes

Notes

East Region Checklist

Always Check Before You Go!

Anywhere Activities	Completion Date	Staff Initials
Essentials of Hiking		
Park Bingo		
Nature Journaling		
What's Worth Preserving or Enhancing in OC Parks?		
Park Protectors		
Tell Your OC Parks Jr. Ranger Story!		

Park Name	Completion Date	Staff Initials	Badge Received
Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens			
Irvine Regional Park			
O'Neill Regional Park			
Peters Canyon Regional Park			
Santiago Oaks Regional Park			

The OC Parks Jr. Ranger Oath:

As an OC Parks Jr. Ranger, I promise I will help protect our parks and help our rangers teach others about them. I will help keep our parks clean and continue to learn more about nature and conservation.



Visit all 20 OC Parks Jr. Ranger Program Locations!

North Region

- **Carbon Canyon Regional Park** | 4442 Carbon Canyon Rd., Brea
- **Ralph B. Clark Regional Park** | 8800 Rosecrans Ave., Buena Park
- **Ted Craig Regional Park** | 3300 State College Blvd., Fullerton
- **George Key Ranch Historic Park** | 625 W. Bastanchury Rd., Placentia
- **Yorba Regional Park** | 7600 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim

South Region

- **Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park** | 28373 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Niguel
- **Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park** | 33401 Ortega Hwy., San Juan Capistrano
- **Heritage Hill Historical Park** | 25151 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest
- **Laguna Niguel Regional Park** | 28241 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel
- **Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park** | 30952 Oso Parkway, Coto de Caza

East Region

- **Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens** | 29042 Modjeska Canyon Rd., Silverado
- **Irvine Regional Park** | 1 Irvine Park Rd., Orange
- **Peters Canyon Regional Park** | 8548 E. Canyon View Ave., Orange
- **O'Neill Regional Park** | 30892 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon
- **Santiago Oaks Regional Park** | 2145 N. Windes Dr., Orange

West Region

- **Laguna Coast Wilderness Park** | 18751 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach
- **William R. Mason Regional Park** | 18712 University Dr., Irvine
- **Mile Square Regional Park** | 16801 Euclid St., Fountain Valley
- **Old Orange County Courthouse** | 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana
- **Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve** | 2301 University Dr., Newport Beach



For more information, scan QR code.

Para más información, escanee el código QR.

더 많은 정보가 필요하다면, QR 코드를 스캔하세요.

Muốn có thêm thông tin, xin quét mã số QR.

欲了解更多信息, 請掃描二維碼。

