

OC Parks

Jr. Ranger



North 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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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 north region prize, bring all five badges or your fully completed activity booklet to the Interpretive Center at Clark Regional Park. 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.

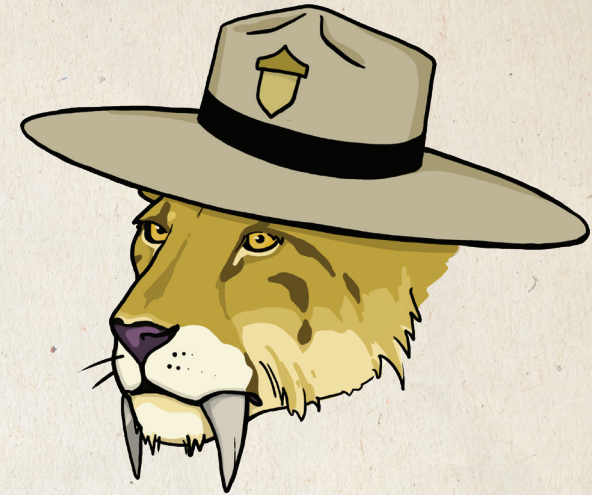
North Region Introduction

OC Parks facilities in the northern portion of Orange County tell the story of the County's early development in the 19th and 20th centuries. Prehistoric fossils on display at Clark Regional Park and artifacts from our agricultural past at George Key Ranch Historic Park highlight how Orange County has changed over time. From Spanish land grants to agricultural fields, oil boom towns and flood control basins that protect large cities, Carbon Canyon, Craig and Yorba regional parks reveal how land was used throughout our community's history. As you explore these parks, look for evidence of the past. Think about why these spaces are needed for outdoor recreation, education and habitat preservation today.



Meet Ranger Milo

North Region Jr. Ranger Mascot



Greetings, Jr. Ranger! Let's pounce right into it! I'm Ranger Milo the Smilodon and you may have heard of my family, the saber-toothed cats. I'm not the only large cat that lived here during the last ice age, but I do have the biggest grin.

A long time ago, before the vast citrus fields of George Key Ranch Historic Park were developed, you could find me on the prowl in what you now know as Orange County. Places like Clark, Carbon Canyon, Craig and Yorba regional parks give a snapshot of what our area might have looked like when I lived here. I moved in when the land in Orange County was slowly being pushed up from under the ocean less than one million years ago and stayed up until about 10,000 years ago.

My fossils are not as common as those of my prey like giant ground sloths, camels, bison and young mammoths and mastodons, but paleontologists have found enough to know that I made an impact with my 7-inch long teeth, if you get my point!

As you enjoy the activities in your Jr. Ranger activity book, don't forget to keep your eyes open for any interesting fossils and rocks along the way. I hope you have a big smile wherever your adventures take you!

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












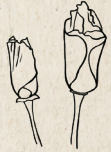









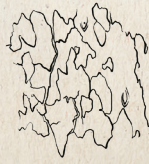




Shelter

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

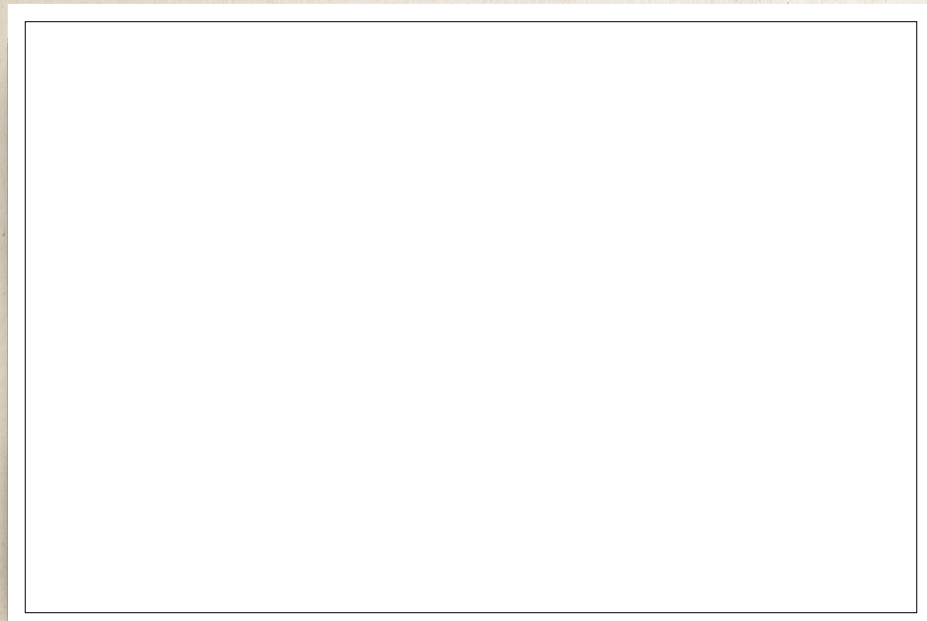
Nature Journaling

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?

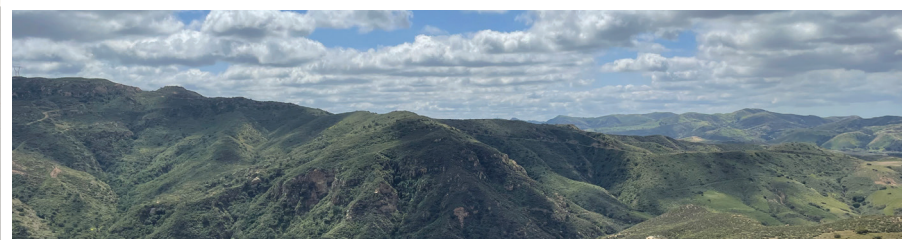
Use the space below to draw or describe your observations.



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?

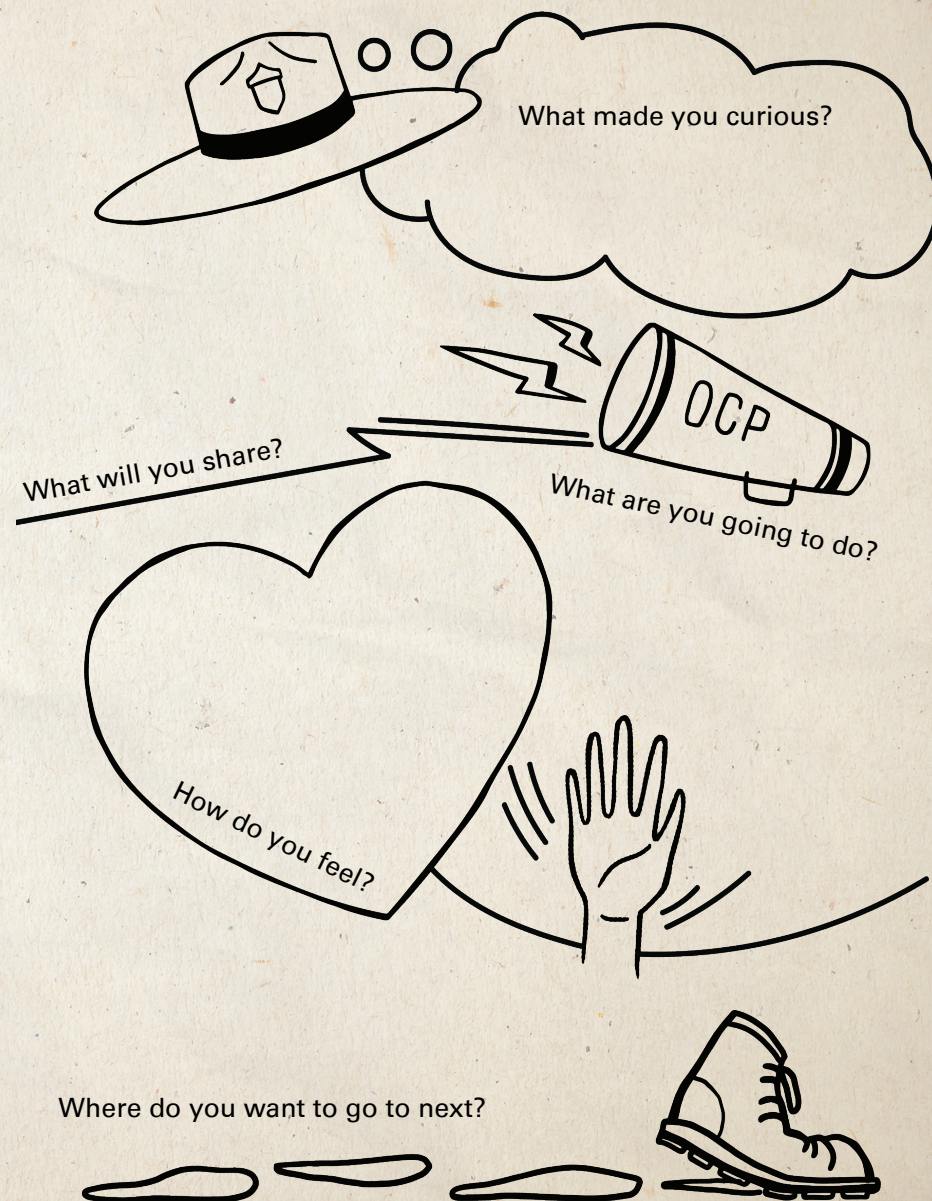
Park Protectors

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!

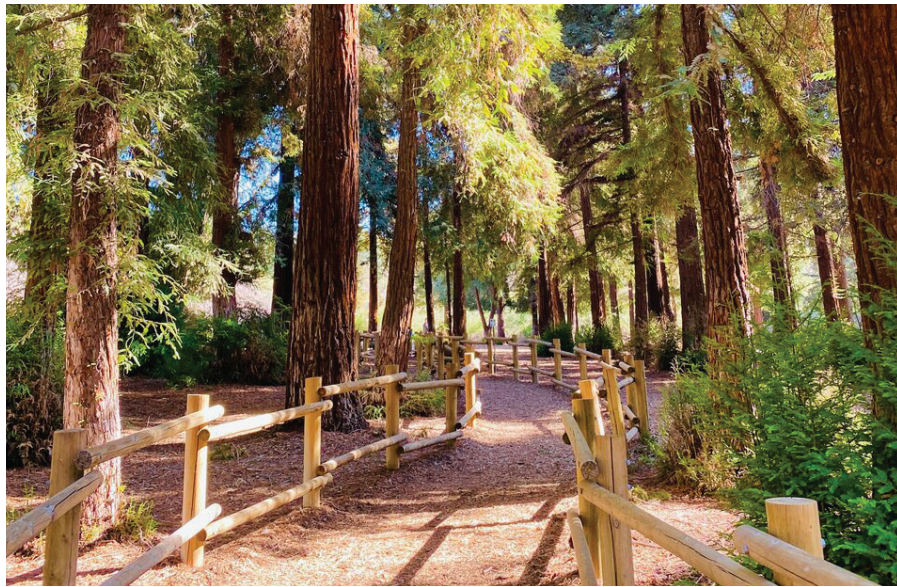


Carbon Canyon Regional Park

Out of this World Redwood Grove

Did you know Carbon Canyon Regional Park has a grove of redwood trees? Look at a park map, follow the signs and hike a half-mile to the south to find these ancient giants native to Northern California.

As you walk toward the grove, notice how the air feels along the way. What does the temperature feel like? What height are the plants around the trail? What do they smell like?



You may experience changes in the temperature and other conditions once you enter the grove. Record the differences here:



Coast redwood needle

Here in Southern California, very tall trees are rare and require human help to grow! These redwoods are not native to this area but were brought here intentionally.

When non-native plants are moved to a location that is not historically their home, they are called introduced species. Sometimes an introduced species can cause harm to the other plants or animals in its new location. When this happens, these plants are called invasive species.

Invasive Species



Artichoke
thistle



Black
mustard



Castor
bean

Introduced Species



Coast redwood

Redwoods are an introduced species but are not considered invasive since they do not spread quickly or cause harm to their surrounding environment. In fact, they cannot spread on their own and could not survive here without help from people!

Can you guess how park staff help these redwoods grow?

Explore the grove and look for evidence of humans helping the redwoods. Note your findings in the space below.

Clark Regional Park

Solve a History Mystery

Throughout its long history, Earth has experienced significant and exciting geological events. Fossils and rocks found in OC Parks provide clues to help scientists solve the mysteries of prehistory.

Take a half-mile walk beginning at the Interpretive Center. Follow the map and arrows to various trail markers to discover some of Earth's major events throughout the geological record. Keep an eye out for letters along the way that correspond to the symbols on the following page to decode the secret messages!



The rich fossil beds found within and around Clark Regional Park were revealed when the California Division of Highways excavated sand and gravel from the site for use in construction of the Santa Ana and Riverside freeways from 1956 to 1973.



Travel Through Geological Time!

Sands of Time

I grow layer by layer and hold within me

Stories recent through ancient prehistory.

I thrive under pressure, cementing in time

What am I, the foundation of this rhyme?





What do mastodons wear when they go swimming?





Craig Regional Park

Get to Know a Tree



Craig Regional Park is known for its tall, mature trees. Many of them were planted approximately 70 years ago and are much older than most trees in OC Parks' regional parks. Explore the park, choose a tree and see what it has to teach you.

Describe your tree:

Compare your tree to those around it. Is it similar or different? How so?

Are animals using your tree? If so, what animals do you see and what are they doing?

Why did you choose this tree?

Zoom out: Draw your entire tree.

Zoom in: Draw a leaf.

Zoom in: Draw or make a rubbing of the bark.

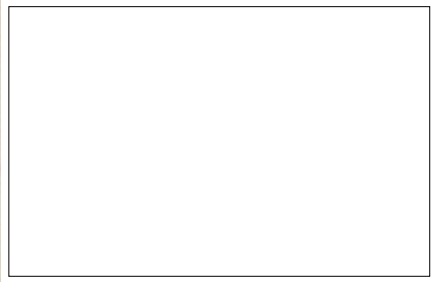
The world has changed significantly since these trees were planted roughly 70 years ago. There was no internet, cellphones or color television, and Orange County was populated by more orange trees than people! What do you think this landscape will look like 70 years from now? Write or draw your answer in the box below.

George Key Ranch Historic Park

A Family's Citrus Legacy

Built in 1898, George Key Ranch Historic Park transports you back in time to the early 20th century. Here you can learn about citrus farming, how the agricultural industry shaped present-day Orange County and get a glimpse of what life was like here more than 120 years ago!

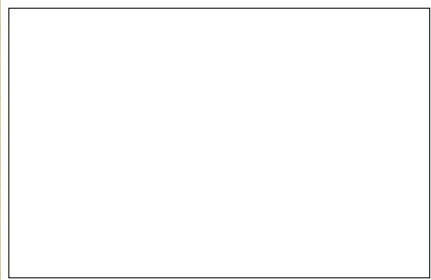
Over the last century, tools used for farming and around the house have changed drastically. Explore the grounds and the historic home to find four items or tools you don't recognize. Sketch them, then answer the questions below. If you don't know an answer, take your best guess.



Location: _____

Material: _____

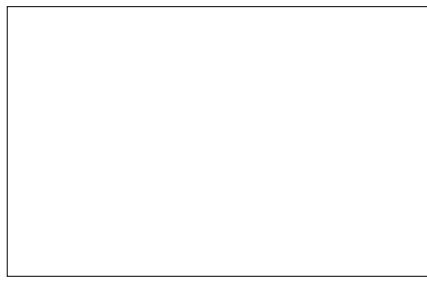
Used for: _____



Location: _____

Material: _____

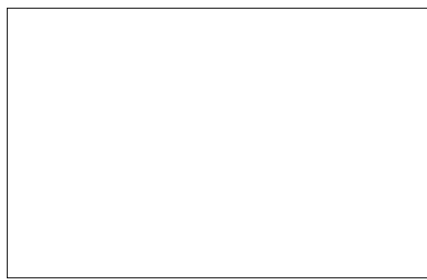
Used for: _____



Location: _____

Material: _____

Used for: _____



Location: _____

Material: _____

Used for: _____

Decorative fruit crate labels were used in the late 1800s to 1950s as visual advertisements by various California growers. Colorful and fun imagery enticed people to buy the product by creating a sense of wonder and whimsy. Eye catching fonts, detailed scenery and stylized depictions of agricultural products tell a story for the audience to see. Various examples of such vibrant designs are found throughout the historic home.

Imagine you are a citrus farmer in the early 20th century and design your own crate label. Historically, labels include the product, unique fonts, mascots, scenic imagery and tell a story.



Design your own crate label!

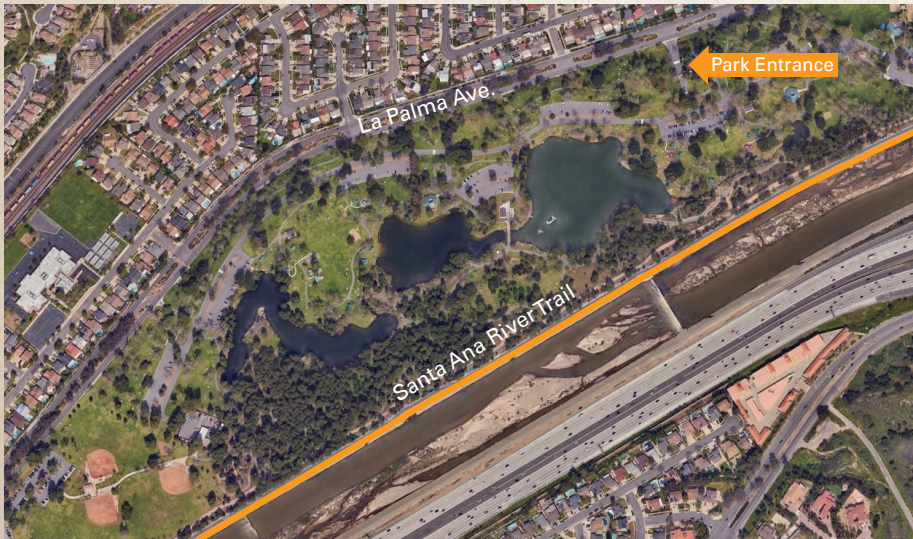
Yorba Regional Park

The Life and Times of the Santa Ana River

Yorba Regional Park borders the Santa Ana River, an important waterway that has been critical to people throughout Orange County's history. This natural river has shaped the lives of Native tribal groups, Franciscan missionaries, Spanish and Mexican rancheros and European and American settlers, and remains an important resource today.



Starting at any point in the park, walk the trails that pass between two bodies of water. Discover the life that thrives in this space. You may find birds and butterflies, trees and shrubs, or water-dwelling plants and animals. The ecosystem is teeming with life all around you!

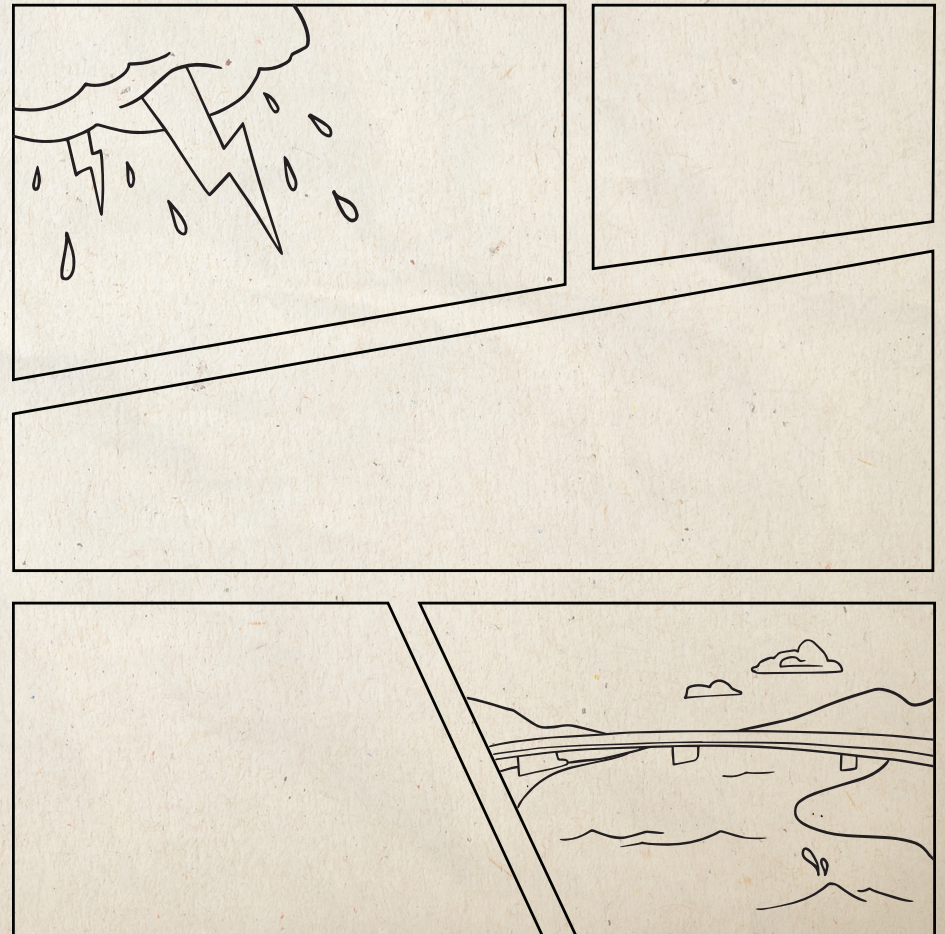


The Santa Ana River begins in the San Bernardino Mountains and flows for 96 miles, all the way to the Pacific Ocean!



Take a moment to observe your surroundings. Inspiration is all around you!

Picture a single drop of water in a rainstorm falling into the Santa Ana River way up in the mountains. Imagine its path and use the template below to write or draw a comic book page about what the drop may experience from the moment it falls to Earth, until it reaches the ocean. What kinds of animals and plants might it encounter?



Notes

Notes

Notes

North 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
Carbon Canyon Regional Park			
Ralph B. Clark Regional Park			
Ted Craig Regional Park			
George Key Ranch Historic Park			
Yorba 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。

