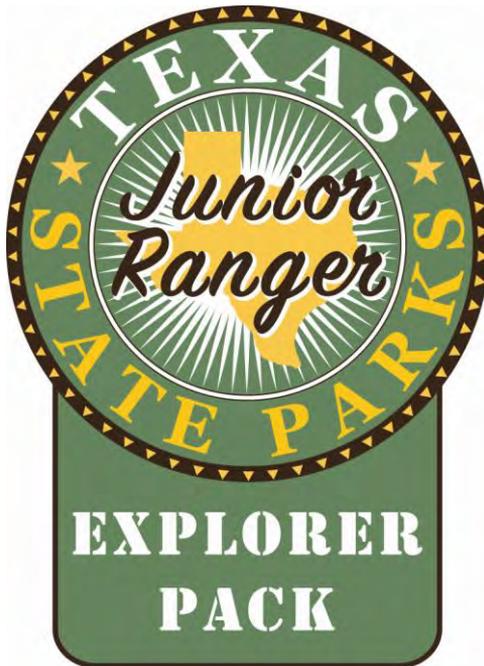




TEXAS STATE PARKS

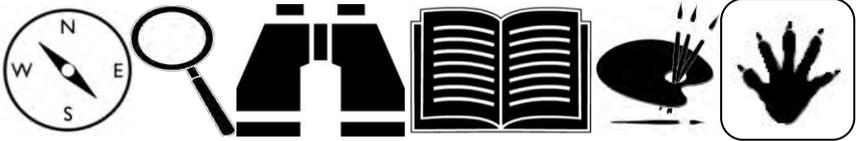
# Explorer Pack Activity Guide



*This book belongs to:*

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Inside the Explorer Pack are the tools you need to explore this park. Remember to take along water and weather gear. Always tell a ranger or another adult where you are going before you leave.



State Parks are a great place to learn about animals and their habitats. For more information about State Parks or observing animals, visit [www.texasstateparks.org](http://www.texasstateparks.org).

## Be a Nature Artist

All Ages



Sketch a picture of nature's beauty in the park. You can also use a camera to take pictures and then paste some of your pictures to make a collage.

Use the sketchbook in the Explorer Pack to sketch at least one picture of an animal and at least one picture of a plant up close. Look for interesting shapes and interesting colors.

# Senses Hike

## All Ages

Take a hike on any of the park's trails and use your senses to discover the natural world around you. Listed below are four of our five senses: *sight*, *sound*, *smell* and *touch*.

Use each one of your senses to learn about something along the trail and describe it below.

### Example:

Sound: I heard a bird singing. It had a high squeaking sound that repeats over and over.

### Sight:



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### Sound:



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### Smell:



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### Touch (with care):



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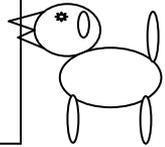
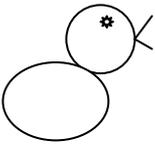
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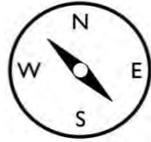
# Make a Sound Map



Directions:

1. Find a comfortable spot to sit outdoors.
2. Mark an "X" in the center of the rectangle. This shows YOU on the map.
3. Close your eyes. Listen for sounds from animals, birds, people, plants, the weather, and anything else you notice.
4. Keep listening, but now draw pictures, stick figures, or symbols on the map representing all the sounds you hear, and where they are coming from.





## Map It Out

Get a copy of the park's map and take a close look. Use the map legend to find hiking trails, water, picnic areas and roads.

Find a special spot on the map that you think would be interesting to visit. Make sure it is someplace that you have time to visit and that there is a safe way to get there.

*Where do you want to go?*

*How can you get to this special place? Write directions. What roads would you drive on? Where would you park? What trails would you have to hike on?*

*Write about your spot or draw it below:*

# Be a Nature Sleuth



All Ages

Explore the park to see what wildlife lives here. Many animals are shy or sleep during the day. Look for **clues** (but don't take) that they leave behind in their habitat.

Check off the **clues** below as you find them (try to find three). Walk quietly, listen closely and stay alert. Remember the *rule of thumb* (see the rule on the back page)!

- Trail made by animals (not rangers)
- Nests in trees (not just birds!)
- Dropped feather
- Leaf chewed by an insect
- Bird tracks
- Mammal tracks
- Reptile tracks
- Scat (poop—don't touch!)
- Spider web
- Animal tunnel
- What animal sounds do you hear?

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# What's That Bird?



All Ages

State parks are some of the best places to look for birds because of protected habitats.

There are many ways that we can tell different species of birds apart. We can look at the colors of their feathers and the shape of their bill. We can listen for their different songs. Look for two different species of birds.

Keep notes to help you tell them apart.

<b>ID clue</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Bird #1</b>	<b>Bird #2</b>
<b>Location</b> Where did you see it? Beach, forest, creek?	<i>On ground along the River trail</i>		
<b>Bill</b> Long, curved, short, black?	<i>Straight, yellow beak</i>		
<b>Size and Shape</b> Tall, short, larger or smaller than a squirrel?	<i>Medium sized, long tail</i>		
<b>Colors on Head</b> Cap, throat, eye strip?	<i>Black cap, white around eyes</i>		
<b>Color on Back</b>	<i>Dark gray</i>		
<b>Color on Chest</b>	<i>Orange</i>		
<b>Behavior</b> What was it doing? Soaring, perching?	<i>Hopping on ground, digging for worms</i>		
<b>Identify the Species</b> Look in guides or show ranger your notes.	<i>American Robin</i>		
<b>Other notes</b> Were there more than one? Was it making noise? When did you see it?	<i>I also saw one in the campground last night.</i>		

# Leave No Trace Principles

Visit [LNT.org](http://LNT.org) for more information.

Enjoy visiting the outdoors responsibly:

- Know Before You Go
- Choose The Right Path
- Trash Your Trash
- Leave What You Find
- Be Careful With Fire
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Kind To Other Visitors



A good way to see if you are too close to wildlife is to use the *rule of thumb*. If you cannot cover the animal with your thumbnail, then you are too close.



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