

BE A JUNIOR RANGER

Mother Neff State Park is looking for some junior rangers. The park is a very special place that needs special people like you to take care of it. To become a junior ranger you will need to know many things about the park and how to protect the resources. In order to earn your merit award and junior ranger badge, you must try your best to answer the questions and complete the activities. Feel free to ask a park ranger if you need some help.

1. How did the park get its name?

2. There is a bell in the center of the park near the flagpole. What was the bell used for?

3. The park is listed on the national historic register and many have contributed to its rich history. Name the group who constructed the recreation hall and the rock tabernacle.

4. What is the name of the first state park in Texas?

5. What is the historical name for a group of Native Americans who once lived in this area?

6. Why do you think this area was a good place to live as a Native American?

7. There is a spring-fed area along the upper slopes of the hiking trail commonly called the washpond. What do some believe the washpond was used for in years past?

8. The river bottom area supports a large hardwood forest. Name three trees found in the river bottom area.

9. What natural event happens periodically that forces the park to close? (Hint: it is usually very rainy when it happens.)

10. Name the river that runs along the south boundary of the park.

11. Wildlife is plentiful in this area. Insects, frogs, snakes, birds, rabbits, coyote, deer and others find their home along the bottomlands and upward slopes within the park. Observe an animal. Describe the location and tell why you think it might live there. Draw a sketch of the animal.

12. Why do you think it is important to have natural areas in a state park?

13. Over 120,000 people visit the park each year. What are some of the things we can do to protect the natural resources in the park?

14. Do one of the following projects:

Fill a small bag with litter collected within the park.

List three reasons to protect and preserve Mother Neff State Park.

What have you learned about the park?

R E T R E W O T K C O R
E G R E C A N S R A A T
V E E R N S M E O M W R
I R E T E H L N E P A A
R E S L A P A R K E K I
N V O P S O M O P R N L
O I F F E N R E H T O M
E F L O O D E E R O T E
L I S T E N G R K O O L

Find these words

___ MOTHER NEFF	___ FLOOD
___ LEON RIVER	___ TRAIL
___ ROCK TOWER	___ TREES
___ WASHPOND	___ DEER
___ CAMPER	___ PARK
___ TONKAWA	

Junior Ranger Pledge

As a junior ranger I want to be a protector of the parks. When I visit the parks, I pledge that ...

I will stay on the paths and trails.

I will help keep the park clean by not littering or polluting.

I will not feed, pet or harass wildlife.

I will not harm plants, so they will be there for other people to enjoy.

I will talk to my friends and family and encourage them to protect the park, too.

