

Claytor Lake State Park

**JUNIOR  
RANGER**

2023 Program



# What Do Rangers Do?

Virginia State Parks rangers do a variety of jobs. What kind of ranger would you like to be?

Maintenance rangers keep the park clean and operating properly. If you enjoy how the park looks today, thank a maintenance ranger. If you see something that needs some attention, let us know!

## Maintenance Ranger

## Contact Ranger

Contact rangers welcome our guests at entrance points, visitor centers, and the gift shop. They are typically the first person guests will encounter and interact with.

Law Enforcement rangers preserve the environment and keep our guests safe by enforcing the rules and responding to emergencies. These rangers are here to help!

## Law Enforcement Ranger

## Interpretive Ranger

Interpretive rangers educate park guests and lead activities that help people understand the natural, historical, and cultural resources that make Claytor Lake so special.

# Junior Ranger, you are on your way!

To become a Claytor Lake State Park Junior Ranger simply complete a total of ten items found in this packet. This can include any combination of items found in the following sections:

Ranger Guided Programs

Self-guided Programs

Activities

Fun and Games



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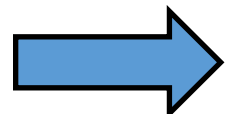
When you have completed this part of your journey, bring your packet to the Park Office, Water's Edge Meeting Facility, or Contact Station to receive your Junior Ranger patch and certificate.

To begin your journey sign the Junior Ranger Pledge found below:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to

- Preserve and protect Claytor Lake State Park
- Care for my natural and historical resources
- Share what I learn with others
- Obey all safety rules
- Continue to explore and discover

Continue your Junior Ranger journey by turning to the next page.



# Self-Guided Programs

**Howe House Audio Tour** - Download the free UniGuide app and begin listening to the fascinating history of the lake's past inhabitants. There are 8 marked listening spots located around the house. You can also download the Haven B. Howe House Audio Tour ahead of time!

**Then and Now History Tour** - Take a hike back in time by visiting the location of our collection of photos and videos from past years at Claytor Lake State Park. Enjoy your tour either in person or from the comfort of your own cabin, tent, or yurt by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/clsphistory>.

**Virtual Tree and Plant Tour** - Open your eyes to the diversity of plant life at Claytor Lake State Park by joining us on this virtual tour! Head over to the Howe House and visit: <https://tinyurl.com/clsppplants>.

**Scavenger Hunt Hikes** - Scavenger hunt hike brochures are available at kiosks throughout the park. There are 3 levels of hunts which include those suitable for both Pre-K and elementary aged visitors. There is also a 'Scavenger Hunt Challenge', which will test your skills and includes educational hints. Feel free to also create your own scavenger hunt!

**5K Cross Country Trail** - Within Claytor Lake State Park's trail system, lies the Troop 244 5K Cross Country Trail. This designated 5K trail is perfect for both new and seasoned runners to enjoy. The 5K trail begins on the Lakeview Trail in front of the Water' Edge Meeting Facility and ends on Lakeview Trail in front of the lodges. 5K trail maps are available at the trail entrance.

**TRACK Trail Adventures** - These adventures are designed to help kids explore nature through the use of self-guided brochures. The brochures are located at the Shady Ridge Trailhead. Claytor Lake State Park's trail adventures include: Animal Athletes, Bug Out, Flower Power, and Fun With Fungi. You can also view or print brochures in advance or complete an e-Adventure online. Remember to TRACK our adventure online at [kidsinparks.com](http://kidsinparks.com) to win free prizes!

**Little Free Library** - Feel free to grab a book or leave one behind for someone else. Our Little Free Library is currently located in the Water's Edge Meeting Facility lobby.



# Ranger Guided Programs

Attend any of the following ranger-guided programs and have a ranger sign next to the program you attended. Weekly program schedules are posted throughout the park, online, and on the small weekly fliers available at the contact station.

<u>Program Attended</u>	<u>Date Attended</u>	<u>Ranger Signature</u>
Campfire Program	_____	_____
Claytor Crafts	_____	_____
Claytor Lake History Tour	_____	_____
Frog Walk	_____	_____
Goodnight Park	_____	_____
Native American Culture	_____	_____
Nature Hike	_____	_____
Owl Prowl	_____	_____
Wetland Hike	_____	_____
Roaming Ranger	_____	_____
Sky Fishing	_____	_____
Survival 101- Edible/Medicinal Plants	_____	_____
Survival 101- Shelter Building	_____	_____
Survival 101-Fire Starting	_____	_____
Light Up The Lake	_____	_____
Visit the Discovery Center	_____	_____
What's Your Wingspan?	_____	_____
Animal Feeding	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# Activity 1-Ecosystem Give and Take

Word Bank - words may be used more than once

food            nutrients        nesting site     shelter  
oxygen        disperses        moisture        energy  
stabilizes     carbon dioxide



Eastern White Pine  
*Pinus strobus*

Copyright © Robert O'Brien

- [1] The sun transfers \_\_\_\_\_ to the pine tree.
- [2] The air gives \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the pine tree.
- [3] The pine tree releases \_\_\_\_\_ to the air.
- [4] The soil provides \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the pine tree.
- [5] In return, the pine tree \_\_\_\_\_ the soil with its roots.
- [6] The pine tree provides a \_\_\_\_\_ for a robin.
- [7] The pine tree gives \_\_\_\_\_ to a field mouse.
- [8] In exchange, the field mouse \_\_\_\_\_ the seeds of the pine tree.
- [9] The mouse might become \_\_\_\_\_ for a black rat snake.
- [10] A dead branch of the pine tree becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ for termites.
- [11] As the branch decays it gives \_\_\_\_\_ back to the soil.
- [12] Later, the termites might become \_\_\_\_\_ for a striped skunk.

Can you think of more transactions that might take place in this ecosystem?

Write or draw them here:

Answers: {1} energy {2} carbon dioxide and water {3} oxygen  
{4} nutrients and moisture {5} stabilizes {6} nesting site  
{7} shelter {8} disperses {9} food {10} nesting site  
{11} nutrients {12} food

## Activity 2-Explore Native Plants through Journaling

A journal is a record of what you see or observe and cover a variety of topics. In this journal we will be studying plants. You may include notes, drawings, photographs, the location and time of year.

Use the space provided to describe plants you find in the park. Include the color and size of the plant as well as a sketch and any other details you think are important.

Remember to leave the plant as you found it.

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### Example:

Name: lady slipper orchid

Location: Hidden Valley Trail, Claytor Lake State Park, Dublin, VA

Date: May 23, 2023

Description:

Flowers are pink

Leaves are dark green or mottled



**Plant 1.**

### Activity 2 Continued:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Plant 2.

Plant 3.



## Activity 3-Sit, Look, Listen

**Even if we can't see them, there are always animals around us!**

If you want to find animals, sometimes it is as easy as sitting quietly somewhere for a few minutes and listening.

By drawing a sound map you can create a record of the sounds you hear.

Imagine that you are in the center of the rectangle. Mark X's around you on the map where you hear sounds. Mark ALL sounds.



Make a list below of everything you heard:

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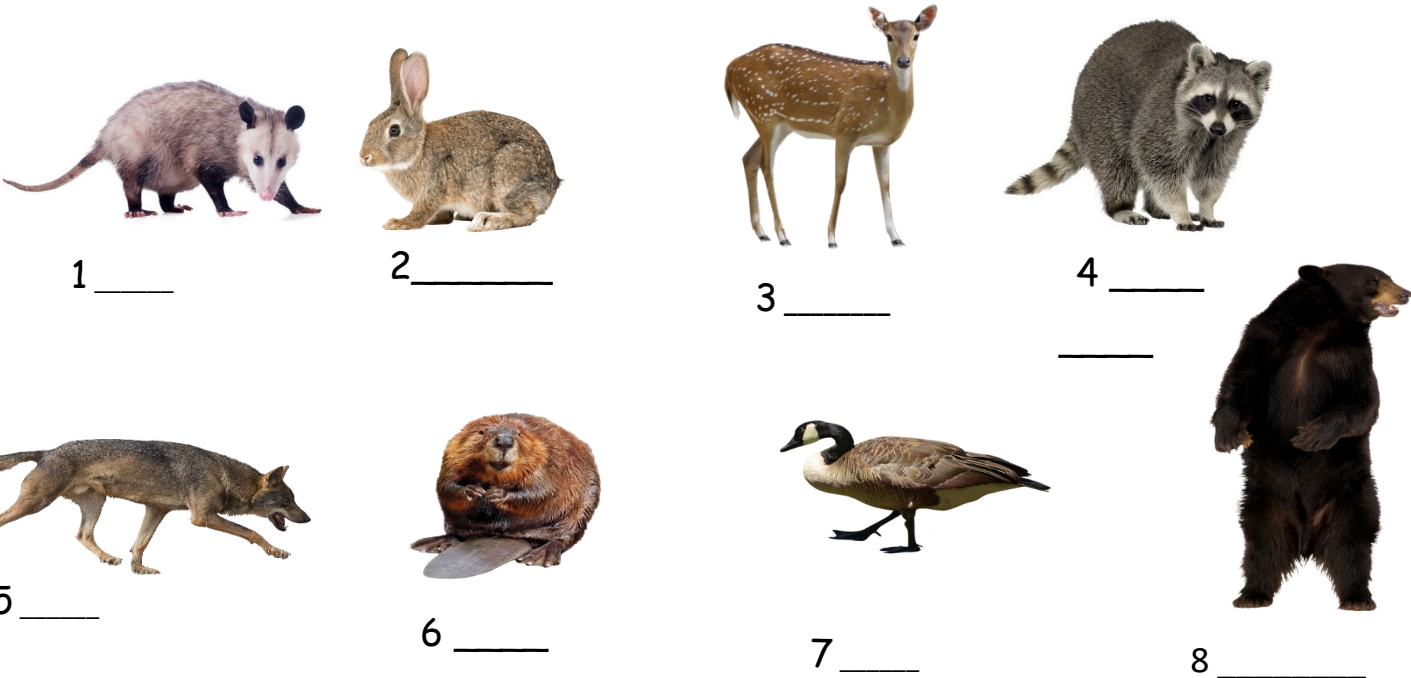
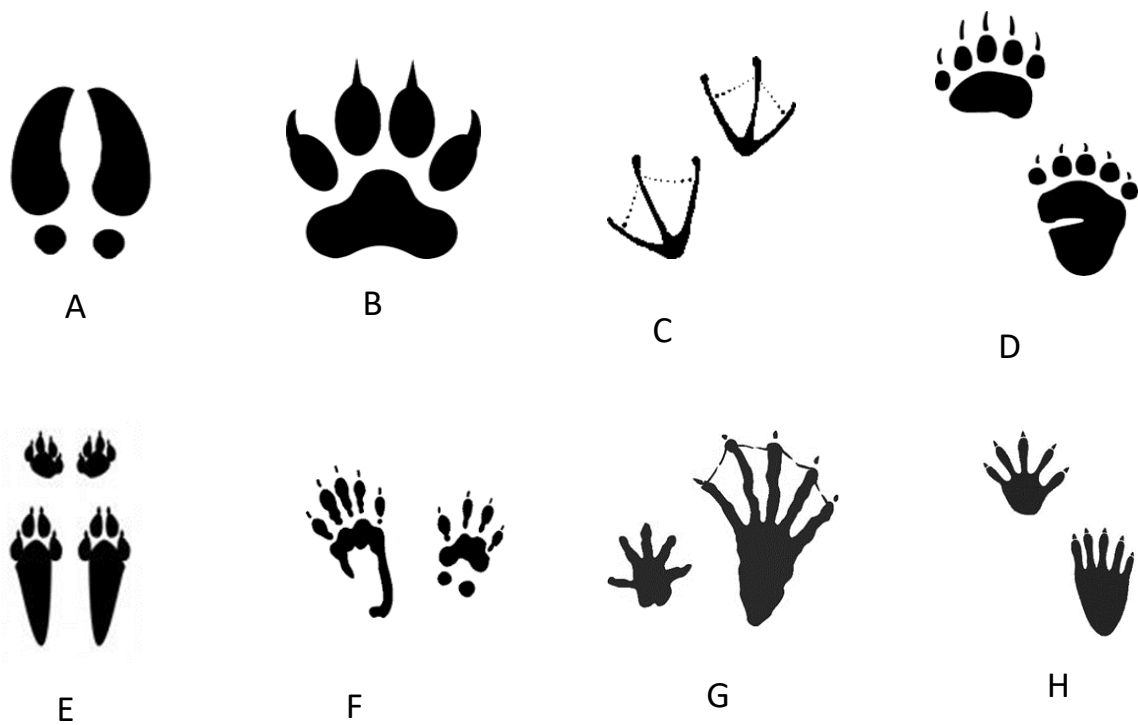
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# Activity 4-Critter Tracks

Match the tracks to the correct animal!

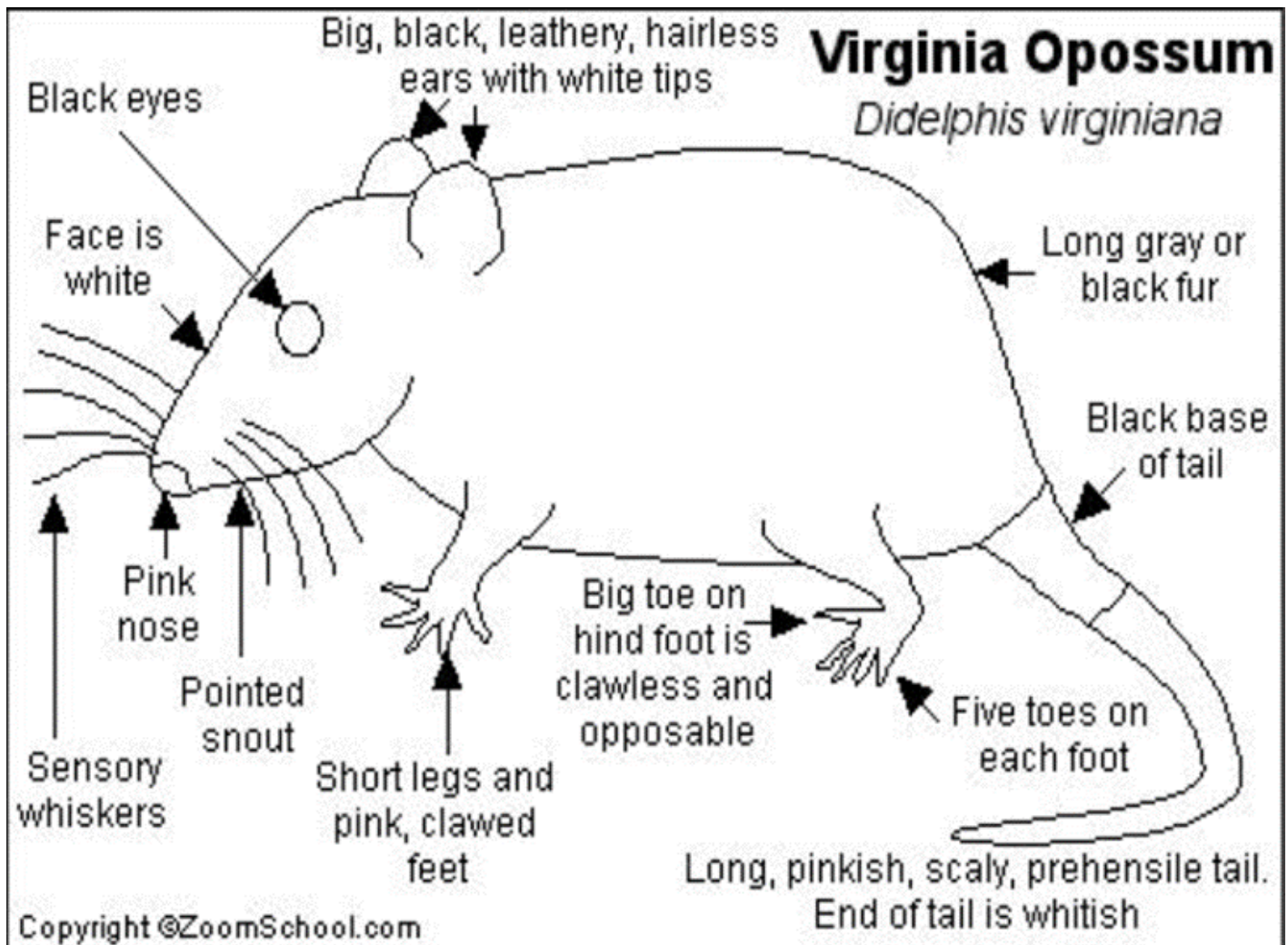
Place the letter next to the track, in the space next to the animal to which it belongs:



Answers: 1.H 2.E 3.A 4.F 5.B 6.G 7.C 8.D

# Activity 5-All About Possums

Color the Virginia Opossum below, then take the quiz.



## Possum True or False Quiz:

1. \_\_\_\_ One of a possum's favorite foods is ticks.
2. \_\_\_\_ Possums are North America's only marsupial.
3. \_\_\_\_ Possums are carnivores.
4. \_\_\_\_ Adult possums can hang by their tails.
5. \_\_\_\_ Newborn possums are about the size of a honey bee.

Answers: 1. T-Possums will eat 3000 ticks in a season. 2. T-Possums raise their young in pouches. 3. F-Possums will eat almost anything. They are omnivores. 4. F-Only young possums can hang by their tails. Adults are too heavy! 5. T-Possums are tiny when born and need the safety of the

## Activity 6-Journaling



Use this space to write about, or draw, your wildlife sightings, observations, and experiences while visiting Claytor Lake State Park!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Be creative- draw what you see.

- The color of the leaf.
- How does it feel in your hands?
- Does it have a smell?
- From which tree did it come?
- How do you think the leaf got from where it was to where it is now?
- What will happen to the leaf now?
- Anything else you notice about the leaf.

[illegible]

# Fun and Games 1-Claytor Word Search

S F S Y H H B D Y F E G T R S  
T F R C D C E O I V N C J E H  
C P E Z A E A S A I K O E V O  
E R W Y R M H E R T O R H I W  
S G O V I I P O B A T F A R E  
N S L T N Z L F S K U N K I S  
I X F G Y P S W I M M I N G Q  
Q W D W X A N T X R A E B H U  
V U L E U O L S W K E E K I I  
P E I I O M B C D S P T R K R  
F W W C S M O R E S H A Y I R  
C C C N D B S N B K N E X N E  
V A G N I P M A C G A S L G L  
R G N I K I B F E U J L S L Q  
M S S X Z K F R P N H H R Y S

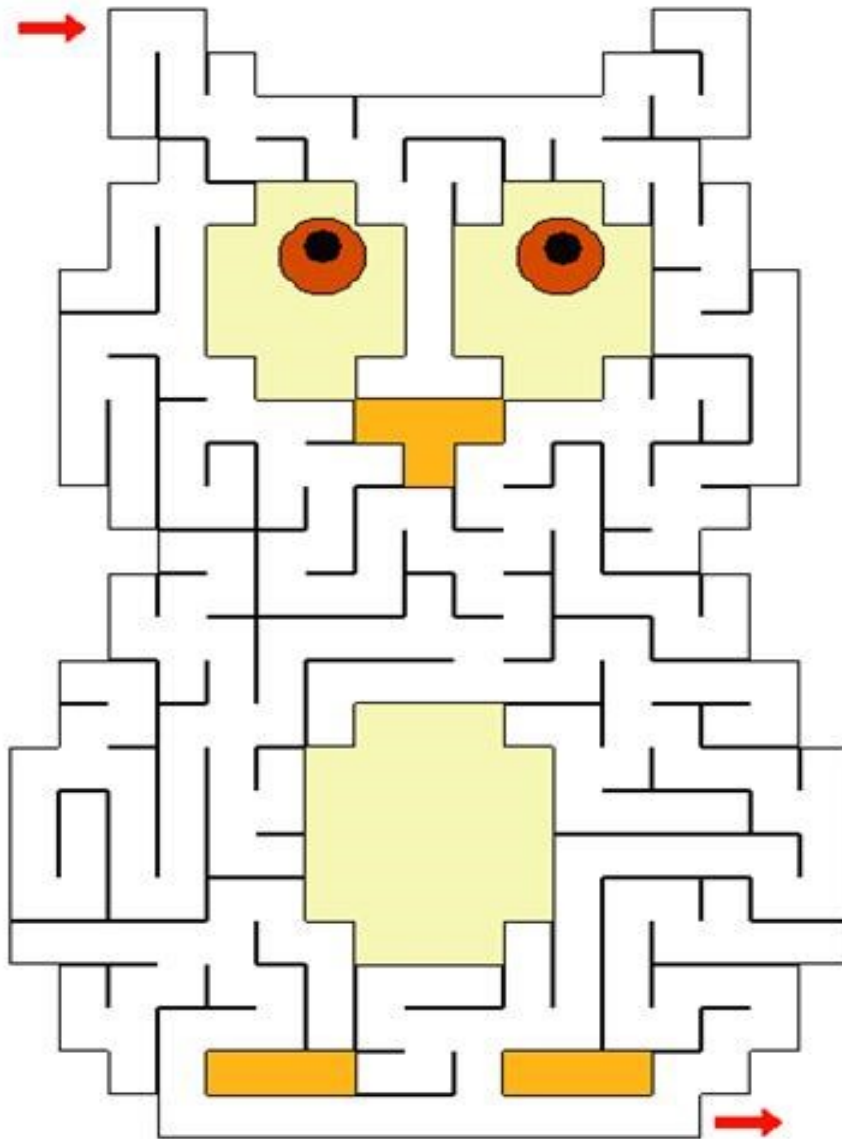
BEACH

INSECTS

## Fun and Games 2-Whoo Heard an Owl?

The **Eastern Screech Owl** is a small owl that inhabits open woodlands, dense stands of young trees, parks, wooded suburban areas, mature orchards, and wetlands in eastern North America. This species is found throughout Virginia.

In Claytor Lake State Park screech owls are most often seen and heard in the late evenings and early mornings. Have someone use an Owl Call app on their





# Fun and Games 3-Claytor Lake History Crossword

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

1. This river flows into Claytor Lake and provides the water for the lake \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words)
2. This was built during the Great Depression and was completed in 1939. \_\_\_\_\_ (3 words)
3. In 1773, William Christian moved to \_\_\_\_\_'s Bottom with his family.
4. This was moved from the lake in 1989 and was one of five from the original house. (hint- its outside of the park office) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words)

WEN REIVR

9			3				

ROALYCT LEAK DMA

12							11		5		13		8	

DAUDNRK

7						

CYMHEIN

14			10		1	

VANEH WOEH

2					6			

BILUND

4					

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		11	

