



Memorial Park Junior Ranger



Name:



Introduction

Welcome, future Junior Rangers, to San Mateo County's Memorial Park! We are so excited for you to explore the amazing nature and history that our park provides. Our friend Marley the Marbled Murrelet will join you to introduce some fun facts and activities!

Instructions

To become a Junior Ranger you must:

1

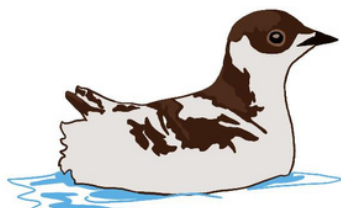
Fill out this booklet as you explore the park! You'll need a pencil or pen, and some coloring materials if you'd like! You don't need to finish the booklet all in one visit.

2

Once you have finished your booklet, sign your name on page 12 and recite the Junior Ranger Pledge.

3

Return to the Visitor Center and show your completed booklet to a Naturalist to receive your prize OR email completed photos of your packet to sanmateocountyparks@gmail.com.



Hey there! I'm Marley the Marbled Murrelet, and I love hanging out in Memorial Park! Look for my picture for tips and facts about my home.

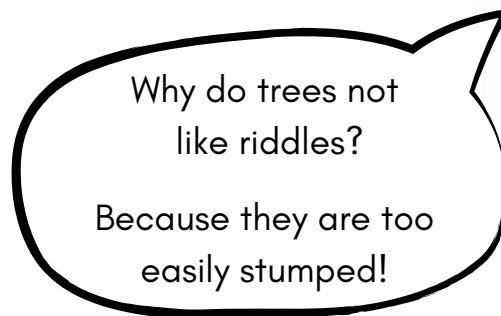


Park Safety & Rules

Like with all things, it is important to treat your parks with kindness and respect. As a Junior Ranger, it is your job to understand the rules and make sure your group does the same! We follow the ideas of **Leave No Trace**.

Unscramble the letters to learn the San Mateo County Parks rules.

1. Stay on the _____. **L I R A T**
2. Do not _____ wildlife. **C H O A P R A P**
3. Do not pick _____ or plants. **W O L F R E S**
4. Do not litter; put trash in _____ bins. **B A R G A G E**
5. Stay close to an _____. **T A L D U**
6. Have _____ in fire pits only. **F E R I P C M A**
7. _____ and hunting are not permitted. **S H I F I N G**
8. Do not _____ wildlife. **E E D F**





Park Safety & Rules

You're almost ready to become a Junior Ranger! However, there are some plants and wildlife that you want to avoid to have the best time possible and stay safe. Ask an adult to read the following page aloud while you listen carefully, or read on your own. Answer the question at the end and you'll be good to go!

Poison oak has groupings of three leaves and can grow as a shrub or a vine. It can appear green, yellow, or red. Its oil causes a rash that can last for days. If you touch poison oak, wash with soap and warm water. While this plant is annoying to humans, many herbivores feed on their leaves!



Stinging Nettle grows in moist, shady places. It has bright green leaves with hollow hairs that sting, causing a day-long rash. Don't touch the affected area and immediately wash with soap and water.

Ticks are parasitic arachnids that feed on the blood of animals. When an animal brushes against vegetation where a tick is waiting, the tick will attach to the animal; ticks cannot fly or jump. Check for and remove ticks after spending time outdoors. Ticks are best removed by using tweezers or a tick key.



Yellow Jackets are wasps that are a major predator of many agricultural pests. They defend themselves by delivering a painful sting that causes swelling. If stung, remove the stinger by scraping from the side with your fingernail and apply ice. If allergic to yellow jacket venom, seek medical attention immediately.

These species can cause problems, but it can be easy to be safe and avoid them!

What is something you can do to stay safe?

Bingo

Go for a walk in Memorial Park and see if you can find some of the things below.
To get a bingo, mark off 4 horizontal, vertical, or diagonal squares in a row.



Banana Slug



Moss



Songbird



Fairy Ring



Western Sword Fern



Grey Squirrel



Pescadero Creek



Redwood Sorrel



Tallest Tree



Amphitheater



Fallen Tree



Visitor's Center



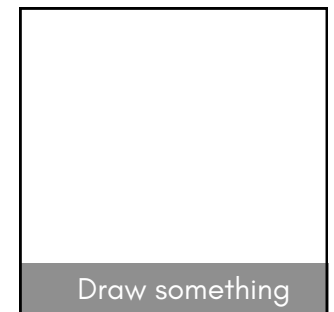
Goospen



Redwood Duff



Redwood Burl



Draw something



Redwood Trees

Go in the Visitor Center to learn about redwood trees. Then find a large redwood tree and answer the following questions about the tree!

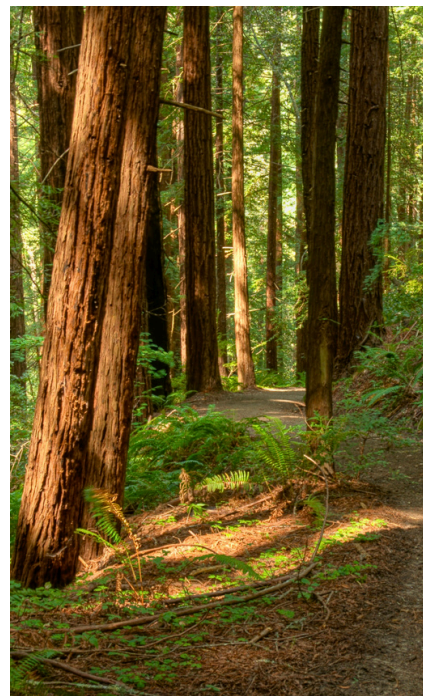
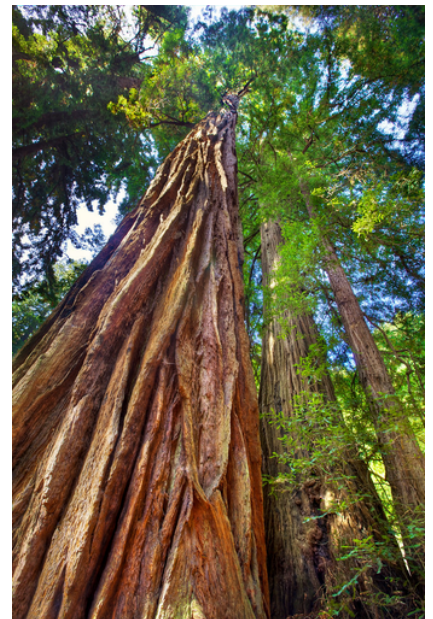
Imagine you are the first person to see these tall redwood trees. How would you describe them?

If you were a redwood tree, what would you like to tell people visiting here today? 100 years from now?

Why do you think redwood trees can live so long? What is their secret?

Does your tree have any fire scars? Fire scars are large black areas on the bark.

What would you name your tree?





Redwood Trees

This cross-section of a tree shows its growth rings. Each year a growth ring is produced by the tree adding a new layer of wood just under the bark. Wider tree rings generally mean there was plenty of rain and warmer weather, leading to more growth. Thinner tree rings typically mean there was less rain and colder weather, leading to less growth.

Count the number of rings from the middle to the outer layer. How old do you think this tree was?

Color in or mark the rings when this tree experienced a good growth year.

What do you think happened to cause a scar (where the thick black line is) on this tree?





Animal Detective

Many animals live in Memorial Park. While you may not see any of these animals, it is likely you will find evidence of these animals, including tracks, scat (poop), fur, feathers, and bones. As you walk through Memorial Park, be on the lookout for evidence of animal life. When you find something, write down your observation. This is what field biologists do!

Field Observation Log

Date:
Time:
Location:
Weather:
Describe what you observed:

Sketch what you observed:

What animal do you think this came from and why?



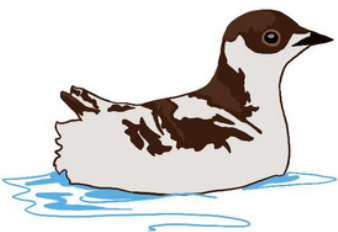
Wildfires

How are wildfires beneficial?

Wildfires can **help** the forest in many ways. Fires recycle nutrients back into the soil, helping keep the ecosystem healthy. For many species, like the native **Santa Cruz Cypress** or **Manzanita bush**, fire is required for their seeds to germinate. Other species, like the **Pacific Madrone**, need fire to open up the canopy so they can receive enough sunlight to thrive. Despite all of these benefits, plant communities evolve for specific fire patterns, and when fires are too intense or frequent, they can harm the ecological community.

What evidence of fire can you find in Memorial Park?

How is a Coastal Redwood tree adapted to survive a fire?



Check the interpretive panels on the Trillium Nature Trail to find some of the answers you are looking for!



Meet the Naturalists

Memorial Park is special because we host activities for the entire family! Some of our most popular events include Movie Night, Arts and Crafts, and Night Hikes. All of these activities are led by our Naturalists, who are there to help you learn about nature and have fun!

Instructions: Attend one of the events hosted by Memorial Park Naturalists. In summer, a weekly schedule of events is posted at the Visitor Center and on the bulletin boards at each restroom.

What activity did you attend and what was your favorite part of the activity?

Don't worry if you are not here at the same time as the Naturalists!
Just write about your favorite part of Memorial Park.

Feel free to ask the Naturalists for help! They have a lot of knowledge that they would love to share with you.

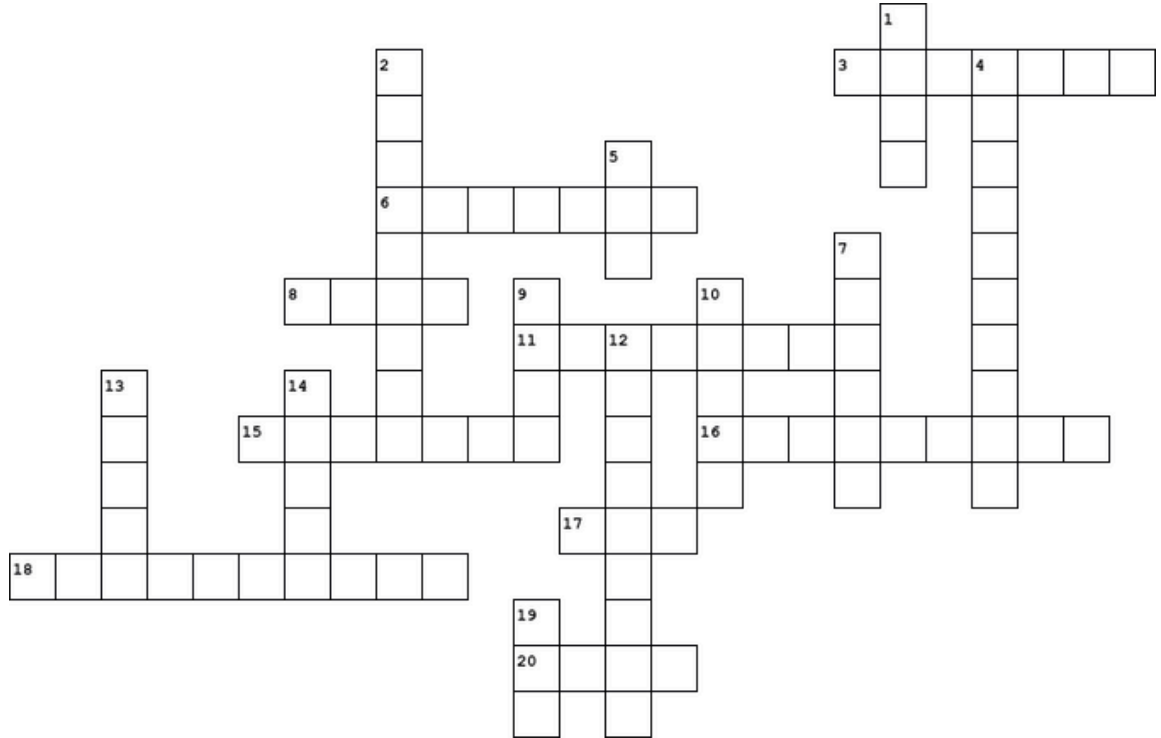




Crossword

Word Bank

- banana slug
- bark
- bat
- fairy ring
- fern
- fog
- frog
- logging
- ocean
- owl
- Pescadero
- raccoon
- ranger
- redwood
- riparian
- roots
- steelhead
- trash
- woodpecker
- worm



Across

- 3. Memorial Park is located in this type of forest
- 6. masked nocturnal mammal
- 8. up to 12 inches thick on a redwood tree and helps it resist fire
- 11. type of habitat that includes a water source and the surrounding vegetation
- 15. industry in which you cut down trees for lumber
- 16. trout found in Pescadero Creek
- 17. this nocturnal mammal uses echolocation to find bugs
- 18. slimy yellow invertebrate
- 20. the early bird gets the _____?

Down

- 1. plant that grows in moist shady areas
- 2. a circle of young redwood trees is called what?
- 4. uses its beak to store acorns in trees
- 5. dense type of clouds that redwoods rely on for moisture
- 7. popular job in parks
- 9. amphibian that has a loud call
- 10. pick this up and put it in the garbage cans
- 12. Memorial Park is in this watershed
- 13. where a marbled murrelet gets its food
- 14. part of a plant found underground that provides nutrients
- 19. this nocturnal bird gives a hoot



Feel free to ask an adult or a Naturalist for help!



Pledge

Congratulations!

You have completed the activities needed to be a Memorial Park Junior Ranger! Being a Junior Ranger is fun, but there are responsibilities. You now must take the Junior Ranger Pledge. Sign your name on the line, then recite this pledge to become a Junior Ranger!

"I, _____ promise to help take care of the parks! I will abide by the Leave No Trace principles and respect the plants and wildlife. I will continue to explore and learn more about nature and history and share my discoveries with others. I will encourage my family and friends to help protect the parks and all of our natural resources."

JR. RANGER





Explore other County Parks and earn more badges at:

Complete all 5
Junior Ranger
booklets to earn a
special gold
badge!

This park is known for its
beautiful wildflowers!



Education Center Hours: Saturdays
and Sundays 9:30am-4pm,
Wednesdays 9:30am-12:30pm

You are likely to see lots of wildlife
at this spectacular county park!



Visitor Center Hours: Saturdays
and Sundays 10am-4pm

Explore the tidepools at
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve!



Visitor Center Hours: Hours
vary on weekends

If you like horses, you'll love
Wunderlich County Park!



Carriage Museum Hours: Saturdays
and Sundays 12-3pm

Visiting a park when the Visitor Center is closed?

Download and print a booklet from our website: www.smcgov.org/parks

Click on the 'Things to Do' tab.