

JUNIOR CITY RANGER PROGRAM



My name is _____

I am _____ years old.



WELCOME TO THE CITY OF CLEARWATER'S GREEN SPACES

We are delighted that you and your family are choosing to spend time in nature and discover all that Clearwater parks have to offer. We are lucky to live in an area rich in history, natural beauty and culture. Working through this activity book and journal is a great way to catalogue your adventures and all the things you will learn along the way.

CERTIFICATE AND PIN

Use this guide to explore the area and learn about the environment that surrounds us. To earn your official park ranger certificate and pin, visit six Clearwater parks and complete the following based on your age range:

LEVEL 1

Ages 5 to 7 Years Old: Complete at least 5 activities

LEVEL 2

Ages 8 to 10 Years Old: Complete at least 7 activities

LEVEL 3

Ages 11 years and older: Complete at least 9 activities

Junior Ranger Checklist

- ___ Recognizing Litter (4)
- ___ Simplify to Five (4)
- ___ A Historic Puzzle (5)
- ___ The Mangrove Market (6)
- ___ Park BINGO (7)
- ___ Arbor Poem (8)
- ___ Botanical Name Scavenger Hunt (9)
- ___ What is your favorite thing to do? (9)
- ___ Owl Maze (10)
- ___ Match the Beak with the Bird (11)
- ___ Observing Nature (12)
- ___ Exotic Invasive Species Word Search (13)
- ___ Aviary Anagrams (14)
- ___ Beautiful Butterflies (15)



Stay Safe

Before you head out to the parks, there are a few things to remember.

1. Keep hydrated.

Bring plenty of water with you. Have some snacks handy to help you stay comfortable.

2. Keep an eye on the radar.

Weather in Florida can develop quickly. Watch the weather report before you leave or keep track on your phone.

3. Look out for animals.

These parks are home to wildlife. Be kind and do not disturb or feed the animals you see during your adventure. Watch their beauty from afar and stay on the designated trail.

4. Wear the right clothes.

Wear comfortable clothes that offer you protection from the sun like hats, sunglasses and sun shirts. Insect repellent and sunscreen are also necessities.

5. Bring a buddy.

Bring a friend or the whole family with you. This guide is meant to be completed by you, but we certainly encourage your family and friends to assist and help you. Always let someone know where you are going.

Leave No Trace Behind

True junior rangers know to leave no trace while visiting parks in Clearwater or elsewhere. By picking up litter and throwing it away or taking it with you, you are helping keep Clearwater parks bright and beautiful for future generations to enjoy.

Recognizing Litter

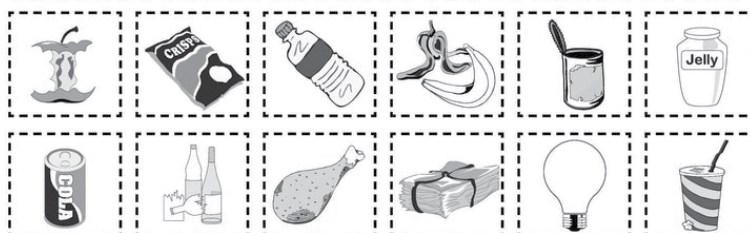
As you go through the parks, mark down what litter you see that needs to be disposed of.

Recycling also helps preserve our parks and the environment. It's tricky because not everything can be recycled. Clearwater recycles five types of items: plastic bottles and containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard boxes and paper. Anything else goes in the trash can!

Can you sort what goes in each bin?

SORT THE TRASH & RECYCLING

Draw the items below in the correct bins.



Bayview Park

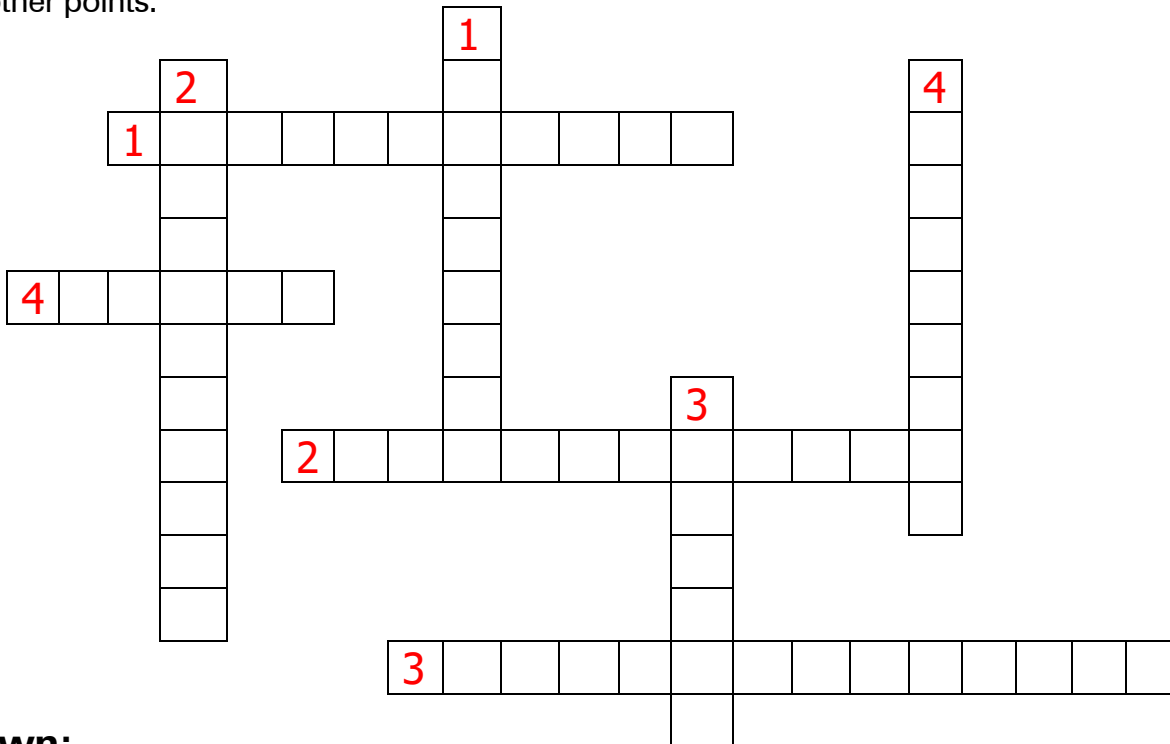
3035 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

Bayview Park is one of the most historic parks in Clearwater. Harbored underneath an historic oak grove, Bayview Park offers a chance to experience a Florida rarely found in this area. Inside the park, there is over a half mile of nature trail, picnic areas, a beach overlook and an abundance of native vegetation and wildlife. Take some time, read about the history of the park and get acquainted with the very spot where pioneers started the Clear Water Harbor community.

A Historic Puzzle

Across:

1. James McMullen was better known as _____.
2. The first _____ in Bayview was built in 1865.
3. The blood of this animal is used to fight disease. _____
4. By 1874, a _____ was constructed that allowed trade between Tampa and Bayview as well as other points.



Down:

1. This plant attracts not only butterflies but hummingbirds as well. _____
2. Bayview was a prosperous town and was eventually incorporated into the City of _____.
3. Between 1880 and 1890 the Bayview community expanded and the first road, called _____, was built.
4. This plant is used by the Monarch Butterfly as a food plant as well as a host plant for its caterpillars. _____

The Mangrove Market

Mangrove trees are remarkable and essential to Florida's environment. They survive in brackish water by using special glands that remove the salt and keep the fresh water. They can protect a shoreline against an impending storm and hurricanes by holding onto the soil with their roots.

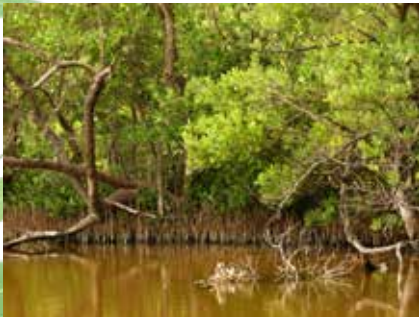
They also provide a nursery for small creatures and fish that can feed and find shelter among the protective roots and branches. They provide the perfect place for wading birds to build their nests or nice rest stop for those that are migrating.

Mangroves also are an important part of the food chain. As the leaves of the mangrove trees fall into the water and decay, they become food.

There are three types of mangrove trees: white, black and red.



Red: The red mangrove is the one you see immersed in the water with long arcing roots that resemble a spider's legs.



Black: The black mangroves are close behind the red ones, even occupying the same area along a shoreline. They have slender, finger-like roots that can be seen pushing up through the muddy soil.



White: The white mangroves are found further away from the water.

"What type of mangrove did you see at Bayview Park?"

Cliff Stephens Park

901 Fairwood Ave.

Cliff Stephens is stunning park with gorgeous trails and a Frisbee golf course. 44 acres in size, the park has areas for a variety of activities such as bicycling, hiking, inline skating, fishing, boating and more. Cliff Stephens Park is easily accessible from the Ream Wilson Clearwater Trail and convenient located nearby Moccasin Lake and Kapok Park.

Did you know? Professional disc golf champion Ken Climo grew up in Clearwater and has won the World Championship a total of 12 times? He lists Cliff Stephens as one of his favorite courses.

Park Bingo

Any visit to a park will get your senses going! Take a look around. What do you see? Listen. What do you hear? List the items you see below at Cliff Stephens Park. Each item, animal or insect can only count once. Aim for four corners, four diagonally or four across. If you're up for a big challenge, mark out each box and blackout the board.

B	I	N	G	O
An insect or animal with teeth _____	An animal that is nocturnal _____	An item, insect or animal with stripes _____	An insect or animal that flies _____	An item, insect or animal that is green _____
				
An animal that eats insects _____	An insect or animal that can jump _____	FREE SPACE	An insect or animal with a pouch _____	A large body of water _____
				
An item, insect or animal with a slow pace _____	Litter that does not belong in the park _____	A park sign with rules _____	An item with a target _____	An insect or animal with wings _____
				
An item, insect or animal that is brown _____	An animal that swims _____	An animal or item with claws _____	An item, insect or animal that lives in a tree _____	A flowering plant _____
				

Arbor Poem

Oaks, maples, cabbage palms, Saw Palmetto and other types of trees are all around you. Pick a tree and write a poem about that tree. If you can, print out a photograph or use your artistic skills to draw a picture of the tree you chose.



Crest Lake Park

201 S. Glenwood Ave.

In the fall of 1936, landholders W.D. and Lena B. Pierce, sold the land of Crest Lake Park and areas surrounding to the city of Clearwater for a sum of ten dollars. In 1938, it was made into an official city park, cementing its status as a site of recreation and enjoyment.

As you walk throughout the park, you'll find signs that explain the different plants and trees in the park. On the signs, you'll notice that each sign has a special name called a botanical name - also known as binomials. Botanical name is the scientific name given to a particular plant species to help identify trees and plants.

Botanical Name ScavengHunt

Search the park to see if you can find the following plants and trees by their botanical name.



Salix babylonica



Sabal palmetto



Pinus taeda



Quercus laurifolia

What is your favorite thing to do?

Crest Lake Park has something to do for everyone with multiple playgrounds, a walking trail, dog park, splash pad, sand volleyball courts and more. Draw your favorite activity you like to do at the park.



Kapok Park

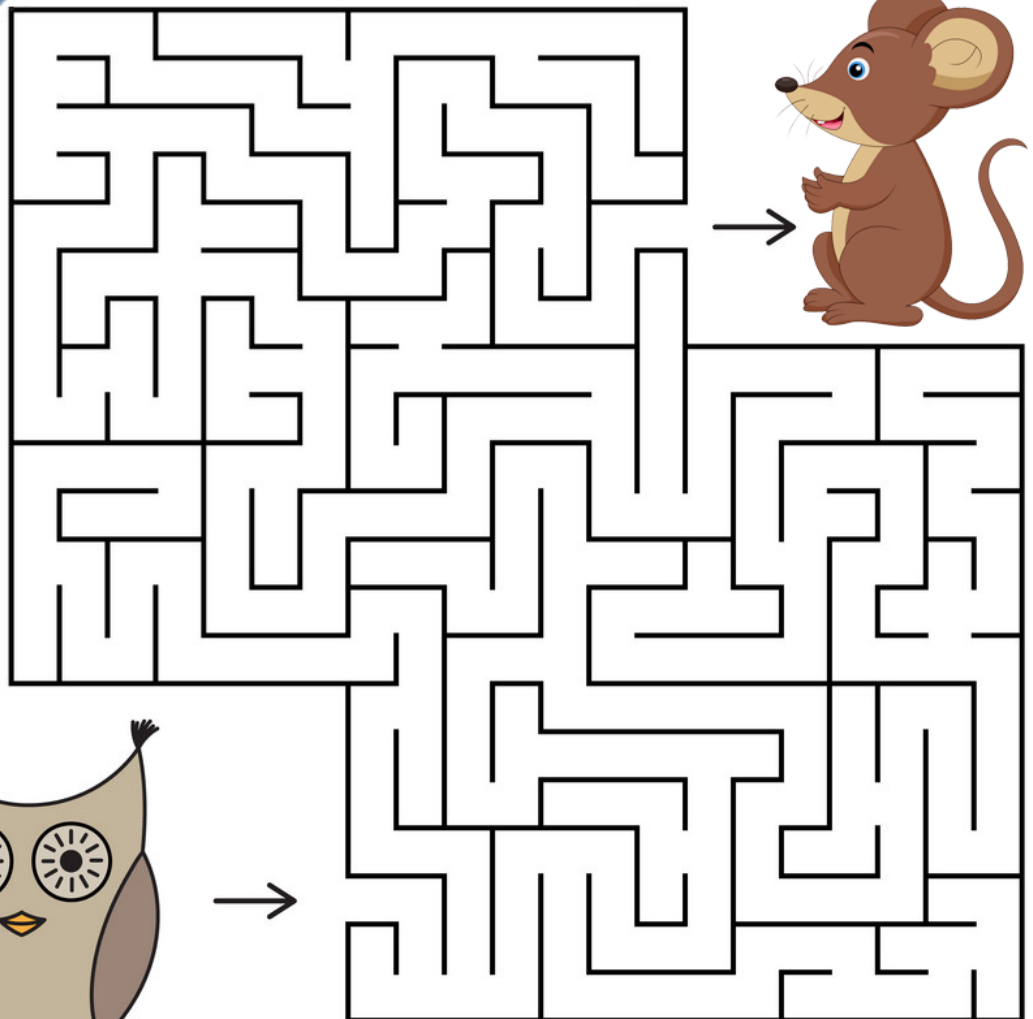
2950 Glen Oak Ave. N

Kapok Park is home to a variety of freshwater aquatic animals, plants and quite a few birds. Most newsworthy were Great Horned Owls. They are the largest owl found in Florida, are primarily active at night and are excellent predators with a gripping force more powerful than an eagle. They feed on birds, mammals, insects and arachnids. Great Horned Owls are incredibly versatile when it comes to thriving in an environment. They call anything from city backyards to wetland communities and anything in between home.

Owl Maze

Did you know?:

Great Horned Owls are found all over North America, Central America and even into South America.



Match the Beak with the Bird

Kapok Park is a perfect place to see a number of birds because of the scenic views and the natural habitat for the birds. A bird's beak or bill is an essential tool to that animal and is used to get certain types of food. We can identify what a bird eats from its beak.

Hummingbirds are looking for nectar from flowers to feed its need for a high energy food for its high energy metabolism.

A Whip-poor-will is looking to net insects in its large mouth as it flies around at night.

Pelicans take in gulps of water in their bills to get the fish they were searching for. You normally will not find a pelican at Kapok Park, but it just has such an interesting bill.

The Great Blue Heron will lunge, impale a fish with its sharp beak and then eat it whole.

The cardinal has a very strong beak to crack the seeds it eats.

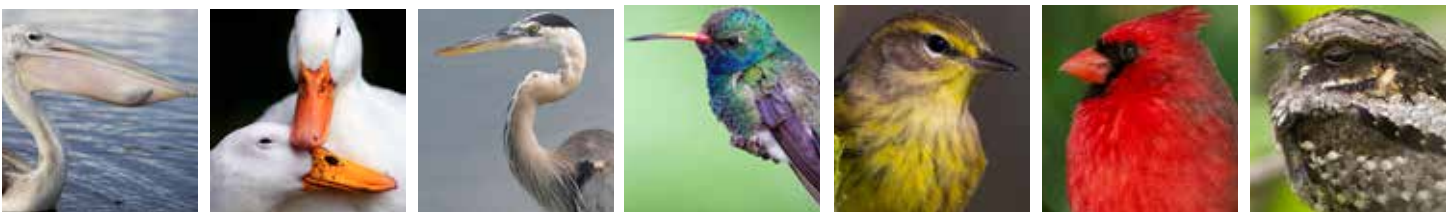
What about warblers? Warblers like to pick through the branches and leaves looking for insects to munch on.

Did you know?:

Screech owls are very common in the Tampa Bay area. These small owls are often mistaken for the much larger great horned owls.



Match the picture clue with the photo of the bird's bill.



Lake Chautauqua Park

2312 Landmark Drive

Lake Chautauqua Park is a nature park with equestrian facilities and 1.6 miles of nature trails that wind through scrubby and mesic flatwoods and lead to Lake Chautauqua. The park is known to be home to a large family gopher tortoises.

Did you know?: Gopher Tortoise burrows can provide habitat space for up to 350 different species of animals.

Observing Nature

Follow the trail and walk to the boardwalk that faces the lake. Look, listen and feel what is around you. Write or draw what you saw, heard or felt.

Look:, Listen:, Feel:

Do you think its important to conserve or have green spaces in Clearwater? Why?

Exotic Invasive Species Word Search

Every animal has a native habitat where they naturally live and grow in. Sometimes humans relocate wildlife, either by accident or on purpose. This has negative consequences and creates exotic invasive species. Exotic invasive species are animals that do not belong and disrupt the ecosystem they are in. Oftentimes, they have no natural predator and overpopulate or can damage native plants essential to the ecosystem they are in.

On the next page, you will find some of the exotic invasive species found in some of our Clearwater Parks with a short description. See if you can find the word in the word search.

WORD SEARCH

Air Potato

Marine Toad

Hydrilla

Fire Ant

Cuban Tree Frog

Citrus Canker

Green Treefrog

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

The _____ was brought to Florida to control pests in the sugar cane fields but quickly spread and with its huge appetite started eating our very own native frogs called the _____.

_____ originates from Southeast Asia and affects our citrus trees which include lime, orange and grapefruit.

The large heart-shaped leaves of the _____ are pretty to look at but this vine quickly overtakes trees and can block vital sunlight from reaching plants on the forest floor. This vine comes from Asia and parts of Africa.

Two species of the _____ can be found in Florida, but one is originally from South America. This one can have an impact on our farm crops as well as our native animals.

_____ is a water plant from India that has spread all over the world and can clog waterways. Native animals do not feed on it so it has to be removed by hand or through the use of chemicals.

Did you know?:

You can volunteer for Moccasin Lake Nature Park to help remove exotic invasive plants! Just call 727-562-4315, ext. 1 for more information.



Moccasin Lake Nature Park

2750 Park Trail Lane

Opened in 1982, Moccasin Lake Nature Park provides guests with a unique environmental experience. It is the only park in Clearwater that has a zoological collection that includes birds of prey, snakes, and turtles. Explore 51 acres of park and nature trails, stroll through the pollinator garden and watch the turtles feed at the turtle pond.

Moccasin Lake is unique in that it is home to a birds of prey sanctuary for injured raptors. Volunteers rescue wild birds of prey that have been injured and provide permanent care for over thirteen different raptor species. Below you'll find the different raptors that call the Moccasin Lake Raptor Sanctuary home. Walk through the raptor sanctuary and see if any of them look familiar.

Aviary Anagrams

Use the clues to unscramble the letters and solve the answer.

This very important bird loves to eat fish.

Anagram: Bagel Deal

Answer: _____

This bird is surprisingly social and have excellent sense of sight and smell.

Anagram: Vault Buckler

Answer: _____

This bird is gets its name from the two tufts on their head that look like horns.

Anagram: Wrangled Hooter

Answer: _____

This bird is often mistaken for a seagull because of their similar coloring- light on the bottom and dark on the top.

Anagram: A Sidewalk Tote Will

Answer: _____ - _____

This raptor screeches and never hoots.

Anagram: Lab Worn

Answer: _____

This hunting bird doesn't build nests and can live in almost any environment.

Anagram: Falconer Peering

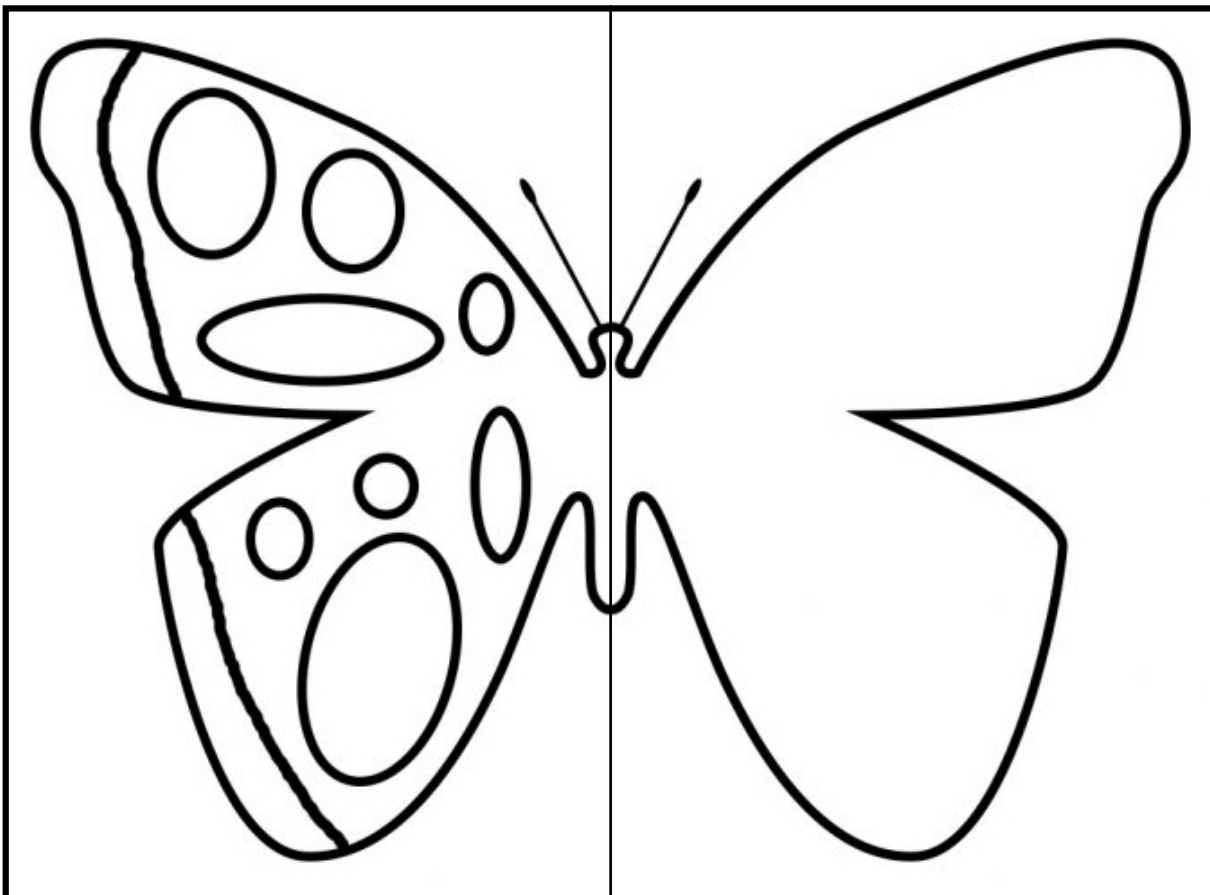
Answer: _____

Beautiful Butterflies

Right next to the turtle pond, you'll find that Moccasin Lake is also home to a butterfly garden, also known as a pollinator garden. Pollinator gardens are important to our parks because they provide a habitat for the butterflies, bees, moths, hummingbirds and other animals that help maintain our ecosystem. Without these important insects and birds, we could see a shortage in the foods we eat everyday like apples, blueberries and avocados.



Butterflies show bilateral symmetry on their wings meaning they are an exact match! Can you color the butterfly in a symmetrical pattern?



How to Get Your Junior Park Ranger Certificate and Pin

Congratulations! Upon completion of the required activities, visit Moccasin Lake Nature Center to have your activity booklet checked.

Clearwater Parks & Recreation Resources for Kids

You've finished the Junior Park Ranger Program; what's next on your agenda? We offer a host of other exciting youth programming, but be sure to call before you go or check our website.

Clearwater Beach Recreation Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/beachrec

69 Bay Esplanade | (727) 462-6138

Countryside Recreation Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/countryside

2640 Sabal Springs Drive | (727) 669-1914

The Long Center Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/longcenter

1501 N Belcher Rd. | (727) 562-4905

Morningside Recreation Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/morningside

2400 Harn Blvd. | (727) 562-4280

North Greenwood Recreation Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/northgreenwood

900 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. | (727) 562-4590

Ross Norton Recreation Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/rossnorton

1426 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. | (727) 562-4380

Moccasin Lake Nature Youth Programs

myclearwater.com/moccasinlake

2750 Park Trail Ln. | 727-562-4315, press 1

