



MY DCNR
ranger

A LEARNING ADVENTURE!



Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources



PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION

It's just our nature to help!



A LEARNING ADVENTURE!

EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, THE BOOK *FLAT STANLEY* BY JEFF BROWN HAS BEEN ONE OF MY FAVORITES. AS THE STORY GOES, STANLEY FINDS A LIFE OF ADVENTURE AFTER WAKING ONE MORNING AND FINDING HIMSELF FLATTENED BY A BIG BULLETIN BOARD.

IN THE SPIRIT OF “FLAT STANLEY,” I PRESENT TO YOU “MY DCNR RANGER”. IN ITS PAGES YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE WORK OF A PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK AND FOREST RANGER.

PICK ONE OF THE RANGERS TO COLOR, GIVE THEM A NAME, AND TAKE THEM ON SOME ADVENTURES EXPLORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS AND FORESTS. HAVE FUN!

HAPPY EXPLORING!
MARCI MOWERY
PRESIDENT
PENNSYLVANIA PARKS & FORESTS FOUNDATION

We Love to See Your Pictures!

With your parents’ permission—snap a selfie of you and/or your ranger out and about at our state parks and forests and post it to our Facebook page—

<https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation/>

#mydcnrranger #PAParksandForests #ThankARanger #DCNRRangers

#WorldRangerDay

The initial release of this book corresponds with World Ranger Day, celebrated around the world on July 31st each year on the anniversary of the founding of [The International Ranger Federation \(IRF\)](#), an organization that supports the work of rangers as the key protectors of parks and conservation.

World Ranger Day will also remembers those rangers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty while protecting national and state parks.

My DCNR Ranger was produced with assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation, and Conservation’s Community Conservation Partnership Program; and through the generous support of donors & members.

Ranger drawings credit: Marina Salvatore

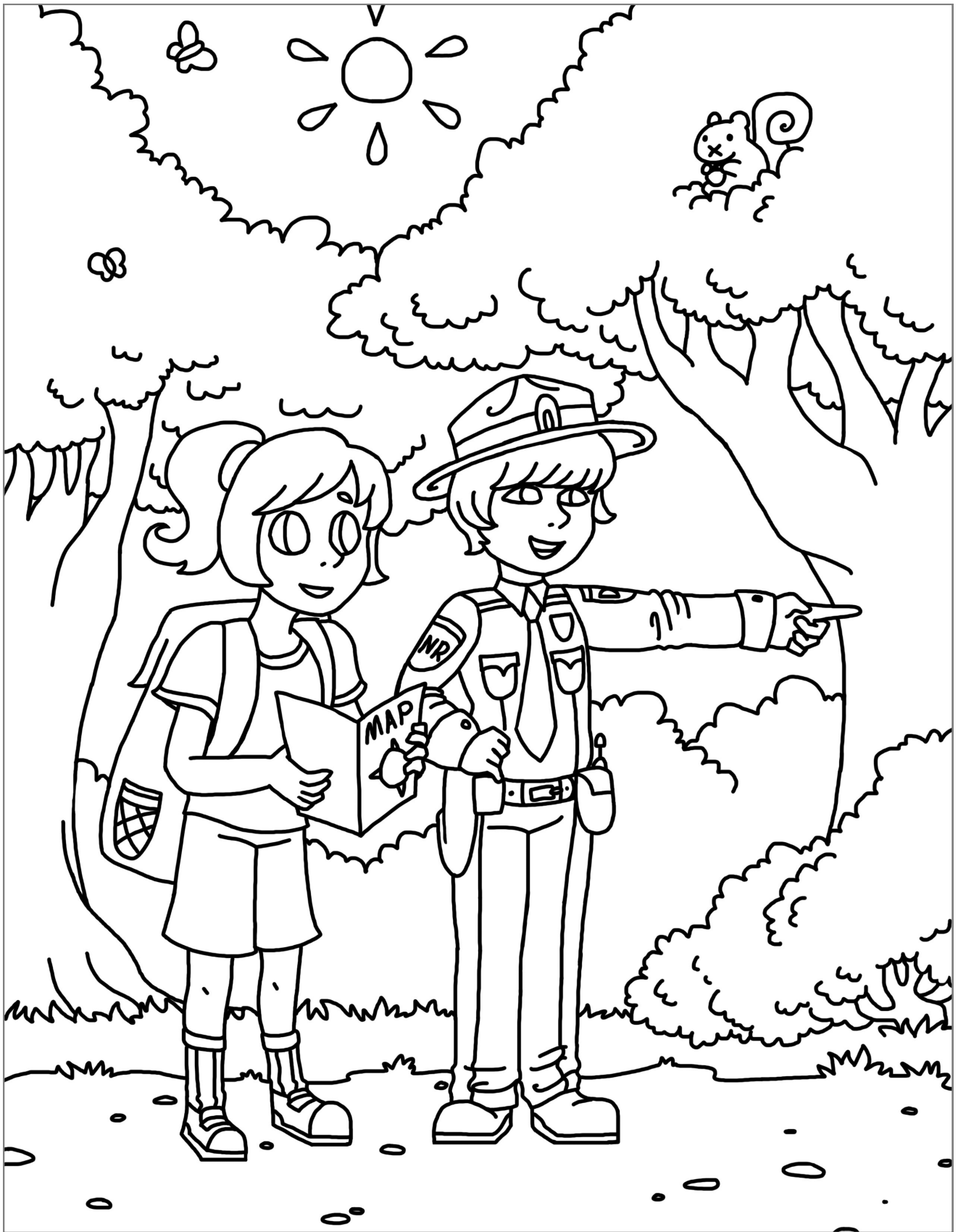
SO WHAT DOES MY RANGER DO?

Your Ranger is someone who is entrusted with protecting and preserving parks and forests. A Ranger patrols the parks and forests by vehicle, bike, boat, ATV, and foot.

They are law enforcement officers who work to keep you and our natural resources safe. A ranger is just one of many people needed to keep our parks and forests running smoothly. Below are some of the other jobs titles.

Circle ones that you would like to explore.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Administrative Assistant | Fiscal Management Specialist |
| Application Developer | Food Service Worker |
| Architectural Designer | Forest Assistant Manager |
| Auto Mechanic | Forest Patrolman |
| Carpenter | Forest Program Specialist |
| Cartographic Drafter | Forest Technician |
| Civil Engineer | Forester |
| Clerical Assistant | Geologic Scientist |
| Construction Mechanic | Laborer |
| Custodial Worker | Landscape Designer |
| DCNR Ranger | Lifeguard |
| Drafter/Designer | Maintenance Repairman |
| Ecological Program Specialist | Natural Resource Specialist |
| Environmental Education Specialist | Park Maintenance Worker |
| Environmental Engineer | Park Manager |
| Environmental Interpretive Technician | Park Resource Ranger |
| Environmental Planner | Purchasing Agent |
| Environmental Project Inspector | Real Estate Specialist |
| Equipment Operator | Recreation and Conservation Advisor |
| | Sewage Treatment Plant Operator |
| | Surveyor |
| | Water Treatment Plant Operator |



YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers share information by providing directions and answering questions about state parks and forests facilities, plants and animals, environmental features, and the history of the park or forest.



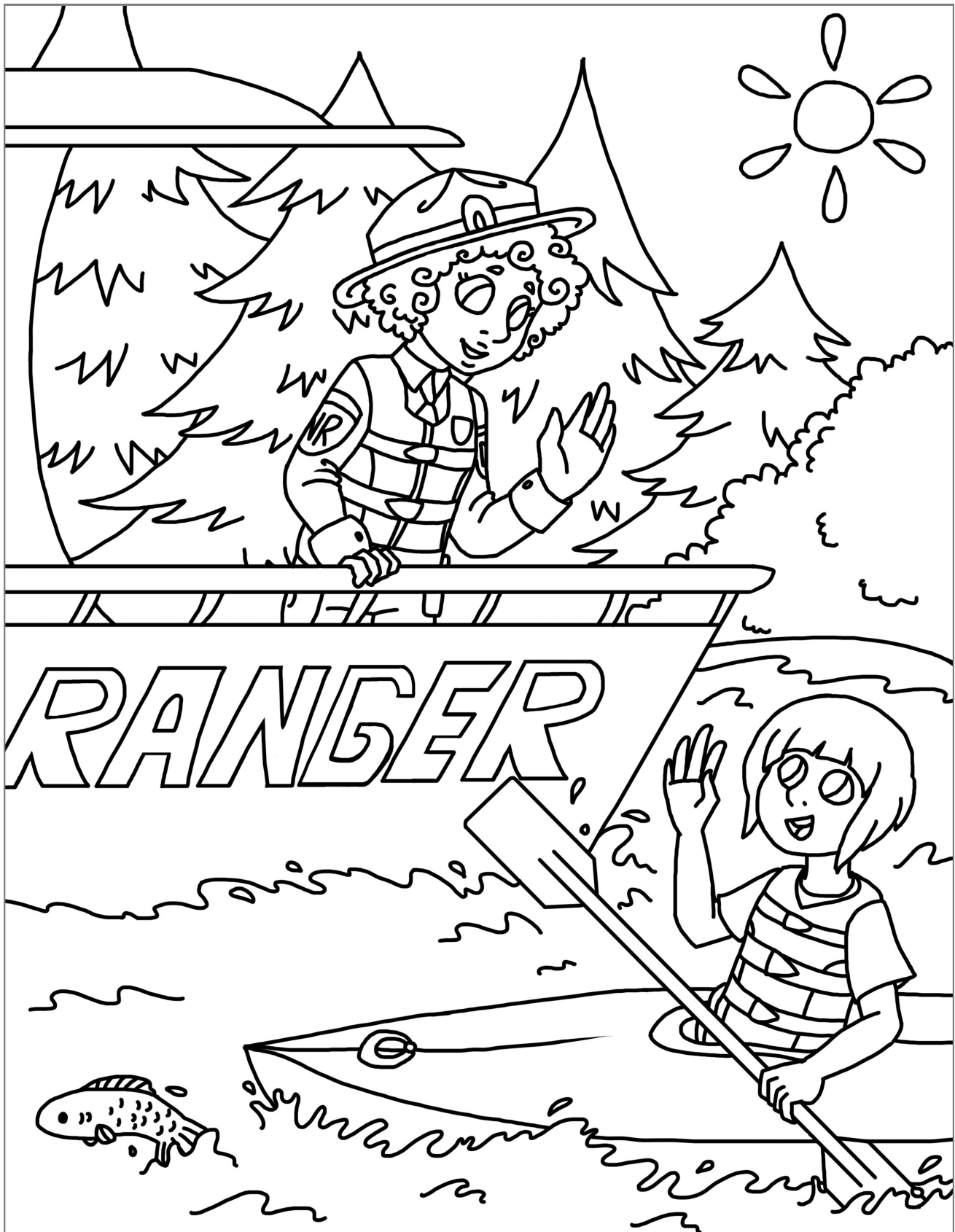
YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers help you if you have an accident, get lost, or need assistance. They must be trained in CPR and First Aid, as well as search and rescue.



YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers give educational presentations about a variety of topics. They also explain park and forest rules and regulations.



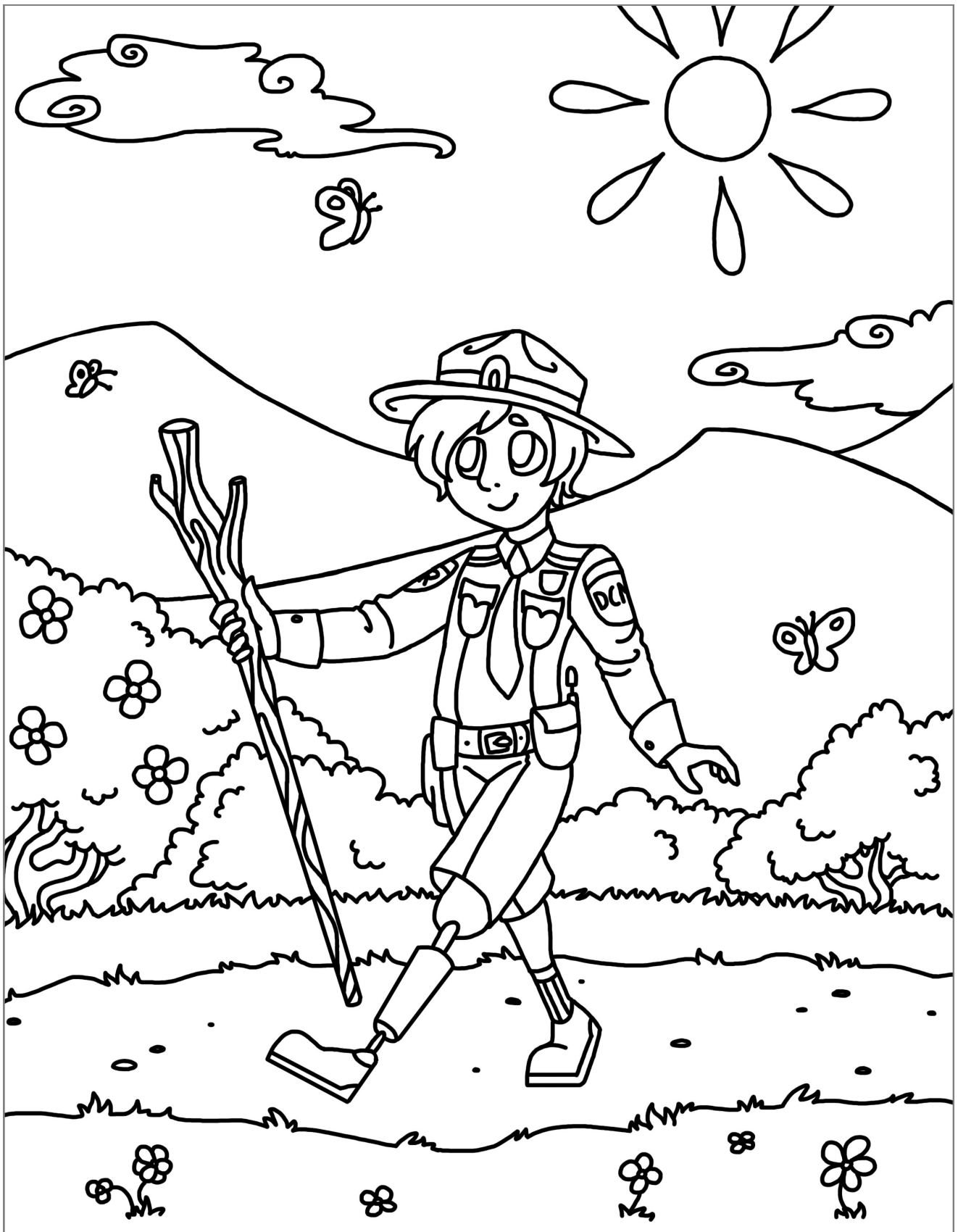
YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers can often be found patrolling within the state parks or forests boundaries by foot, vehicle, bike, or boat. When you are on the water, remember to always practice water safety and wear your life vest!



YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers are there to help. If you see a problem or if something is wrong, wave a Ranger down. They will help!



YOUR RANGER IN ACTION

Rangers patrol within the state parks and forests boundaries checking the trails, overlooks, grounds, buildings, and waterways for safety hazards and cleanliness.

BE PREPARED

Always have the following with you when enjoying a day outside:

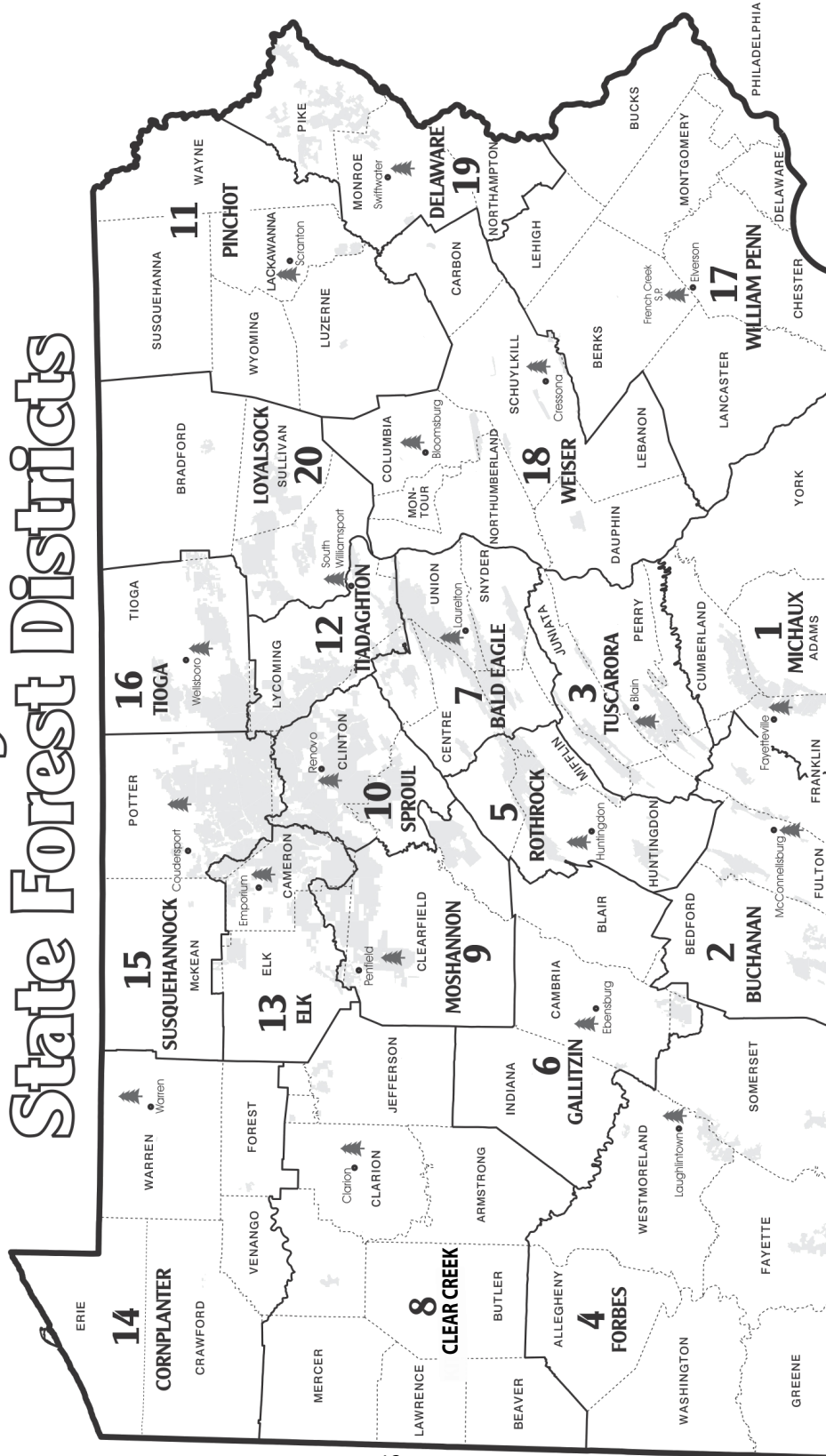
- MAP
- SNACK
- DAY OR BACK PACK
- FIRST AID KIT
- HAT
- WATER
- WHISTLE
- SUNSCREEN
- ADULT
- OUTDOOR CLOTHING
(SUITABLE TO THE WEATHER)

**WHAT OTHER ITEMS
WOULD YOU PACK?**

MAP IT... STATE FORESTS

What forests have you been to? Check them!
Which ones do you want to explore? Circle them!

Pennsylvania State Forest Districts



GET OUT AND EXPLORE

There are so many things to do outside!

What have you done in the list below? What would you like to do?

Visit one of our many state parks or forests and try something new. For a list of parks and forests offering these activities log on to www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo

Circle the ones you want to try!

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| BACKPACKING | ROCK CLIMBING |
| BICYCLING | ROLLER BLADING |
| BIRD & WILDLIFE WATCHING | SAILING |
| CAMPING | SCUBA DIVING |
| CANOEING | SLEDDING |
| CROSS COUNTRY SKIING | SNORKELING |
| DOWN HILL SKIING | SNOW BOARDING |
| DISC GOLF | SNOWMOBILING |
| GEOCACHING | SNOW SHOEING |
| HANG GLIDING | STAND UP |
| HIKING | PADDLEBOARDING |
| HORSEBACK RIDING | STAR GAZING |
| ICE BOATING | SWIMMING |
| ICE FISHING | VOLUNTEERING |
| KAYAKING | WIND SURFING |
| MOTOR BOATING | WHITE WATER RAFTING |
| MOUNTAIN BIKING | OTHER (WRITE IT DOWN): |
| ORIENTEERING | _____ |
| PHOTOGRAPHY | _____ |
| PICNICKING | _____ |

Did You Know?

YOUR RANGER NEEDS TO KNOW THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY WORK. RANGERS CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF ANIMALS AND PLANT LIFE THAT CAN BE FOUND IN OUR STATE PARKS AND FORESTS.

FIND IT!

Find these words and circle them.

They may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, or even backwards.

**Forest, Friend, Officer, Park, Ranger, Helper, Adventure, Safety, Protect,
Volunteer, Stewardship**

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

MY RANGER ADVENTURE 1

I took my ranger to _____
(park or forest, educational program, etc.)

Our adventure included _____
(hiking, camping, fishing, etc.)

We learned _____

Draw It!

Did You Know?

YOUR RANGER MUST BE PHYSICALLY FIT AND INTELLIGENT.
EACH RANGER MUST PASS A SIX MONTH LONG COURSE WHERE
THEY ARE TESTED ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW AND ARE REQUIRED
TO PASS AGILITY TESTS WITH MANY OBSTACLES.

MY RANGER ADVENTURE 2

I took my ranger to _____
(park or forest, educational program, etc.)

Our adventure included _____
(hiking, camping, fishing, etc.)

We learned _____

Draw It!

Did You Know?

PENNSYLVANIA HAS 124 STATE PARKS AND OVER
2.2 MILLION ACRES OF STATE FOREST.

ONCE UPON A TIME MY RANGER....

Grab a friend or family member.
Ask them for the blank part of the sentence and fill in the blanks.

Once upon a time my ranger and I went on a _____ to the _____.
(active verb)
(place) They were wearing a _____ and special _____
(article of clothing) because it had been a very rainy day. I was excited because it
(footwear) was just the two of us and it was going to be a _____ adventure.
(adjective)

We hiked for _____ hours up a mountain. Along the way we saw
(number) _____, _____, and _____. When we reached the peak
(plural noun) (plural noun) (plural noun) the view was _____. After eating our _____, we decided to hike
(adjective) (food) back to the car. Half way down a little girl had fallen and scraped her
(body part) _____. She was hurt and crying but My Ranger was prepared! They
(noun) had a first aid kit full of band aids, gauze, and _____.
(active verb)

After helping the little girl we continued our _____. We came upon a
(person) _____ wondering what a plant was. I had no idea, but My Ranger knew exactly what it was! They explained all about it, even what kind of
(plural noun) _____ like to eat it.

We were almost back to the car when we saw two _____. It was
(plural animal) amazing watching them _____ around!
(active verb)

My Ranger and I had such a _____ time, I can't wait to go on another
(adjective) adventure! Next time we are going to go to _____ and explore the
(place) _____.
(activity)

BINGO!

When you are in nature—a park, a forest, or your own backyard—look! Up, down, and around—there is so much to discover! Put an “x” in the box when you see that item. Use the free spaces to write in something cool that’s not listed.

Complete a row up, down, or diagonally and you have Bingo!

Remember—LOOK WITH YOUR EYES ONLY

A RANGER	WILDLIFE	ANIMAL TRACKS	A WATERFALL	A Trail Blaze (trail marker)
A BIRD IN A NEST	THE SOUND OF WATER RUSHING	FLOWER IN BLOOM	A RANGER HELPING A VISITOR	A PINE CONE
BERRIES	A TENT/ CAMPSITE	FREE	ANIMAL TRACKS	A TREE STUMP WITH MOSS
AN INSECT	THE SOUND OF A SONG BIRD	A SNAKE	THE SOUND OF RUSTLING LEAVES	A DEER
A FOOT BRIDGE	AN EAGLE	A RANGER OR EDUCATOR TEACHING	WILDLIFE	THE SOUND OF AN INSECT

RESPECT OUR NATURAL WORLD

Practice the following skills to be a caretaker of our great outdoors:

- ☑ OBSERVE WILDLIFE FROM A DISTANCE.
- ☑ LOOK WITH YOUR EYES.
- ☑ TREAD LIGHTLY AND STAY ON TRAILS.
- ☑ LEAVE NO TRASH BEHIND.
- ☑ DON'T BRING FIREWOOD FROM HOME. YOU MIGHT BE MOVING INVASIVE INSECTS.
- ☑ GATHER ONLY FIREWOOD THAT IS ON THE GROUND AND NO BIGGER THAN AN ADULT'S WRIST.
- ☑ MAKE SURE CAMPFIRES ARE COMPLETELY OUT AND COLD TO THE TOUCH.
- ☑ PICK UP ALL SPILLED FOOD—IT DISCOURAGES WILDLIFE FROM BECOMING PESTS.
- ☑ USE YOUR “INDOOR VOICE” EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE OUTDOORS.

I WILL HELP!

I, _____, pledge to always help DCNR rangers.
I pledge to follow all park and forest rules.
I promise to clean up after myself and practice good campfire safety.
I promise to respect wildlife, plants, and trees.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

.....

Thank you for taking the pledge! To learn more about how you can help your state parks and forests, sit with your parents and explore our website PAParkAndForests.org.

On it you will find ways to volunteer, a calendar of events, learn about our photo contest, and more!

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through public engagement in **volunteerism, education and recreation.**

Our vision is to build the voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

ADVENTURE COMPLETE

I DID IT!

I completed my book. Here is one thing I learned:

I visited _____ parks and/or _____ forests.

My favorite park or forest was:

My favorite outdoor activity is

I took the pledge on Pg. 21 ____ YES!

Send or email completed form along with a photo with your ranger, and you if your parents are OK with it, to:

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
attn: My DCNR Ranger
704 Lisburn Rd, Suite 102
Camp Hill, PA 17011

office@paparksandforests.org

We'll send you a certificate and a really cool floppy flyer!