Junior Ranger’s Play It Safe!

Junior Rangers know how to be safe while exploring!

Remember to watch:

• **WATCH the weather**-Always keep an eye on the sky. If you hear thunder or spot lightning, head back to the closest building. Always dress for the weather so you are well prepared for hiking on the trails.

• **WATCH for animals and plants** - Wildlife and plants are great to see from a distance but NEVER try to touch animals in the wild. DO NOT FEED or take animals home. Watch out for Poison Ivy!

• **WATCH for trail signs and maps** - Stay on all marked trails and go over how to read the map so you know what signs to look for on the trails.

• **WATCH what you bring with you** - Always bring a map, good hiking shoes, water to drink, and a snack to eat. Always pack out all trash you take in and practice LEAVE NO TRACE.

Junior Rangers show respect by taking care of their parks and by helping visitors follow park rules so they too can protect the valuable resources and wildlife at the park.

• Stay on TRAILS
• Do NOT hike after dark
• Do NOT remove flowers, animals, or artifacts
• Do NOT climb or scramble on the rocks
• Do NOT swim or wade in the river or waterfalls
• Do NOT start fires
• Do Not litter
How Do I Become a Starved Rock Junior Ranger?

As a Junior Ranger, you can help Park Rangers protect the park’s natural and historic places for future generations.

1. Be an explorer! Explore the park around you by viewing the displays at the Visitor Center, climbing the stairs to the top of Starved Rock (125 feet above the river), or hiking out to one of the canyons.

2. Complete at least 5 activities in this booklet during your adventure at the park. Bring it back to the Visitor Center Monday through Sunday between 9:00am and 3:30pm for the Ranger or Volunteer Rangers to grade.

3. Take the Junior Ranger Pledge, receive your badge and get your booklet signed and stamped by the Park Ranger.

Ask a Park Ranger or Volunteer at the Visitor Center if you have any questions or need help! Most answers can be found in the Visitor Center by viewing the exhibits and map.

Have fun exploring!
Activity 1

Starved Rock trail maps are located in the Starved Rock Visitor Center and at every major trail intersection in the park. It is important to know how to read the trail maps before heading out on your hike. Use the trail map on the wall by the front desk or along the trails to answer the following questions.

1. What symbol on the map indicates where you are currently at on the trail?

2. How many total miles of hiking trails does Starved Rock have?

3. What are the Names of the trails associated with the following colors?
   - Brown=
   - Red=
   - Green=

4. What do white directional dots on trail markers mean?
   - a. walking away from the Visitor Center
   - b. walking back towards to the Visitor Center

5. How many miles is it from the Visitor Center to Eagle Cliff Overlook?

6. DO NOT remove anything from the state park, including wildflowers. True or False.

7. The symbol on the maps indicates what?
Activity 2

Learn how to care for your surroundings by answering the following questions. Circle the best answer(s).

1. You’re walking down to the trail and see a snake. You should:
   A. Teach it to tap dance
   B. Grab it
   C. Walk around it

2. When you see a baby animal in the woods, you should:
   A. Feed it so it comes closer
   B. Enjoy watching it from a distance but don’t bother it
   C. Take it home or to the Visitor Center

3. You see a beautiful flower. You may:
   A. Take a picture
   B. Pick It
   C. Feed it potato chips

4. You’re planning a hike. You should take:
   A. Water and a snack
   B. Map
   C. Bowling Ball
Activity 3
Help Junior Ranger Jessica decide what she needs to take with her on a hike at Starved Rock State Park. Circle the items that she will need while hiking the trails at the park.

Activity 4
What trails have you hiked at Starved Rock?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What was your favorite part of the hike?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Jr. Rangers help care for the park by leaving no trace of their visit. Stay on marked trails, leave plants, animals, and rocks where you found them. Be safe and respectful of other visitors so they can enjoy Starved Rock too!
Activity 5

Animal Tracks are evidence of life that you may see in the park even if you don’t see the animal.

1. Match the animal to its name.
2. Match the animal’s name to its tracks.

Remember to always observe wildlife from a distance and never feed them.
Activity 6

What does it mean to Leave No Trace?

- **Know Before You Go:** Plan your trip ahead of time and read over the park’s rules and regulations.

- **Choose the Right Path:** Stay on marked trails, be safe, and utilize the trail maps and signs at the park.

- **Trash Your Trash:** Pack out all items you take in with you, including trash such as snack bags, and bottles.

- **Leave What You Find:** Never remove items such as acorns, pinecones, rocks, flowers, arrowheads, or wildlife from a park.

- **Be Careful with Fire:** Know the dangers of a campfire. Campfires are not allowed anywhere outside of the campsite.

- **Respect Wildlife:** Keep a safe distance from wildlife and never approach or feed wild animals.

- **Be Kind to Other Visitors:** Be a happy and helpful hiker!

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**Leave No Trace Scavenger Hunt**

Can you complete the scavenger hunt and match each item to the correct Leave No Trace principle?

- Find an item to carry in your dayback for hiking.  
  - Be considerate of other visitors.

- Find a spot where you would like to camp.  
  - Leave what you find.

- Find a piece of trash, and pick it up.  
  - Travel and camp on durable surfaces.

- Find something in nature that you think is cool.  
  - Respect wildlife.

- Find sticks that are a good size for making fire.  
  - Minimize campfire impacts.

- Find a critter (bug, lizard, squirrel, bird, fish...)  
  - Plan ahead and prepare.

- Close your eyes, and listen to the sounds around you.  
  - Dispose of waste properly.
Activity 7

Did you know...

- Bald eagles build upon the same nest year after year! Some nests can weigh as much as a car.
- Bald eagles develop their white head and tail feathers when they reach 4 years of age!
- The best time to view bald eagles at Starved Rock is during the winter when the river has frozen over and they can fish at the open water in front of the Starved Rock Lock and Dam.

Eagle Maze
Activity 8

Can you find all of the Illinois state symbols and park names in the word search below? (Circle what you find)

Starved Rock State Park

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden →  ↓ and  ↘ .

BIGBLUESTEM  MATTHIESSEN  TULLYMONSTER
BLUEGILL  MONARCHBUTTERFLY  VIOLET
CARDINAL  PAINTEDTURTLE  WHITEOAKTREE
FLUORITE  STARVEDROCK  WHITETAILEDDEER
ILLINOIS  TIGERSALAMANDER
Activity 9

View the exhibits and displays in the Visitor Center to answer the following questions:

Starved Rock became a State Park in _ _ _ 1.

According to legend, the _LL _ _ _ _ _ Native American tribe “starved” on top of what we call “Starved Rock” today.

Father Jacques M _ _ _ _ _ _ _ founded the first Christian mission, the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, at the Village of the Kaskaskia.

Native Americans of the Starved Rock area lived in _ _ G _ _ _ _.

French Explorer Louis J _ _ _ _ _ _ first saw the sandstone butte we call Starved Rock in 1673 when he came across the Illinois or Kaskaskia people living along the Illinois River.

Each of the canyons and overlooks, including Starved Rock, are made of St. Peters _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
Name

is a Starved Rock Junior Ranger!

Park Ranger/Interpreter  Date

Starved Rock State Park Stamps