



Kodiak Area State Parks

# Junior Park Ranger Activity Book

(Recommended for ages 7-12)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Junior Park Rangers  
play an important  
role in:*



## Natural and Cultural Resource Protection

Junior Park Rangers help park rangers preserve the Parks by learning about how to protect plants and wildlife. Plants, wildlife and clean water are important natural resources.

## Environmental Education

Junior Park Rangers teach their family and friends about the Parks and how to take care of the Parks' natural resources.

## Responsible Recreation

Junior Park Rangers have fun at state parks! They follow park rules to stay safe and to make sure our natural and cultural resources will be there for people to enjoy in the future.

If you are between the ages of 7 years old and 12 years old, you can become a Junior Park Ranger with Kodiak Area State Parks. **All of the Junior Rangers activities will occur in Ft. Abercrombie State Historic Park, one of the Kodiak Area State Parks\***. There is no deadline for completing the program

What makes our Parks so special? Attend a Park Ranger guided activity, hike a self-guided trail, and complete the activities in this booklet to find out!

When you have completed all the requirements to become a Junior Park Ranger, bring your scorecard to the Ft. Abercrombie Park Office to receive your badge and a certificate.

### **Role of Adults**

After a child completes an activity, an adult should review the activity with the child. The adult should then record the appropriate information in the scorecard and initial the box for the child to receive credit.

*\*Kodiak Area State Parks include: Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park; Buskin River State Recreation Site; Pasagshak River State Recreation Site; Woody Island State Recreation Site, Afognak Island State Park; and, Shuyak Island State Park.*

# Scorecard

To earn your patch and certificate, complete all of the activities listed in this score card:

Fort Abercrombie Park Protector Pledge Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
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Wildlife Detective Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
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Ft. Abercrombie Habitats Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
--	--

Tidepool Bingo Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
--	--

Study a Plant/Draw a Plant Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
--	--

Fort Abercrombie During World War II Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
--	--

Match the Tools with the Birds Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
--	--

Alutiiqs on Kodiak Island Adult's initials _____ Date _____	
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What Does a Park Ranger Do? Adult's Initials _____ Date _____	
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## Park Protector Pledge

So future generations can enjoy the Kodiak Area State Parks, it is important to take good care of them now. As a friend of Kodiak Area State Parks, I want to do all I can to protect the Parks. When I visit any of the Parks, I pledge that:.....

**I will stay on the paths and trails in the park.**

**I will not litter.**

**I will not feed, chase or scare birds or other animals.**

**I will not pick wildflowers, break off limbs, peel bark or moss off trees or harm any plants.**

**If I pick up a rock to look for animals underneath, I will replace the rock where I found it.**

**I will talk to my friends and family and encourage them to visit and to protect the Park with me.**

**I will always wear my life jacket when I am in the water.**

### WHAT TO DO

Read the Park Protector pledge. (You can “pledge” when you receive your certificate and button as a new Junior Park Ranger.)

Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

## Activities

Park Rangers study plants and animals, learn about the history of human activity in the Parks and protect all of these resources. As a Junior Park Ranger, you will observe and study the plants and animals in the Parks, learn about human history in the Parks and learn how Park Rangers work to protect our resources.

You might not know the name of every plant or animal you observe – don't worry. The important thing is that you saw it! If you can't identify it, make up a name based on what you saw. That's how the names of some plants and animals were chosen (for example, three-toed woodpecker [it has three toes] and fireweed [a field of blooming fireweed could look like it is on fire]).

If you still want to find out the name that other people call it, ask someone for help, or look it up in a field guide. We have lots of guides in our resource library in the Park Office. You are welcome to sit in our office and look through our guides.

You will have opportunities to learn about the military history of the Parks. You may not be able to remember dates and names of structures in the Parks, but remembering the purpose of Ft. Abercrombie during WWII is important!

You will have an opportunity to talk with a Park Ranger to learn how Park Rangers protect our Parks' resources, learn that these resources belong to us all and learn that all of us are responsible to protecting our Parks!



# STUDY A PLANT!

Find a plant that you like.

## WHAT TO DO

- Complete the written study of the plant on this page.
- Draw the plant on page 7.
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

Describe the shape and edge of its leaf or needles:

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Do you see any flowers, seeds or fruits? What do they look like? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does it smell like? \_\_\_\_\_

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How could animals use this plant? \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the area where you found your plant. Is it wet or dry? Is your plant growing in the open or in a forest? Is the soil rocky, sandy, black...? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you know the name of this plant? If not, what name would you give it? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Remember: Do not pick or collect any plants.  
They provide homes for wildlife.**

Draw Your Plant Here



# MATCH THE TOOLS WITH THE BIRD

## BIRD ADAPTATIONS

Birds have special beaks to help them get food. These can be thought of as “tools” like a nut cracker, a knife, or a spear.

Birds also use their feet as “tools,” like paddles for swimming, meat hooks for grabbing prey, or long legs for wading into waters to catch prey. These “tools” are adaptations that help birds “adapt” to their habitat.

In this next activity, you will match some adaptations of our birds with common human tools.

### WHAT TO DO

Complete the “Match the Tools with the Birds” activity on page 10.

Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

## Birds of Fort Abercrombie

### Bald Eagle

These very large dark-bodied birds have white heads and tails when they become adults. They have great eyesight, and can see fish while soaring high above a lake or river. They swoop down and catch fish in their powerful claws, called “talons.” Their sharp beaks help them to tear or “carve up” their food.



### Pine Grosbeak

One of the larger members of its family, the Pine Grosbeak is a bird of the northern forests. Males have a red head, back and rump. Pine grosbeaks eat fruits by biting through and discarding the pulp, and by crushing or cracking the seed.



### Belted Kingfisher

The Belted Kingfisher is a species that exists throughout much of North America. Its diet includes a great deal of fish. It is a loud, harsh-voiced bird that you can observe while it goes about its work of catching its meals. The Belted Kingfisher is often seen hovering before it plunges headfirst into water to spear a fish, and then gulps it down head first.



## Birds of Fort Abercrombie (continued)

### Common Loon

This large diving bird has black and white feathers and a white ring around its neck. It is a great diver and propels itself underwater with powerful webbed feet. It searches for fish, which it grabs with its long beak.



### Greater Yellowlegs

A common, tall, long-legged shorebird of freshwater ponds and tidal marshes, the Greater Yellowlegs frequently announces its presence by its piercing alarm calls. It will wade in water to pick prey it sees and to sweep its bill side-to-side through water to catch prey it feels.



### Golden Crowned Sparrow

Gold-rush miners took cold comfort from this bird's melancholy song, which seems to reflect the bleak beauty of its surroundings. Golden-crowned Sparrows eat many kinds of seeds, including seeds from geranium, pigweed, starwort, dock, brome grass, sumac, nightshade, and knotweed. Often flocking with other members of its own species, Golden-crowned Sparrows hop on the ground and gather food or scratch leaf litter.



**Draw a line connecting the tool to the bird that uses it. Write the name of the tool and the bird under the picture.**

## THE TOOLS



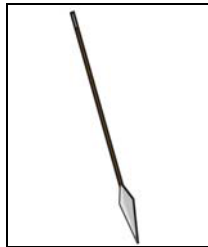
Paddle



Carving Knife



Rake



Spear



Waders



Nutcracker

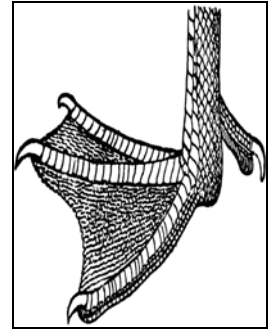


Fish Hook



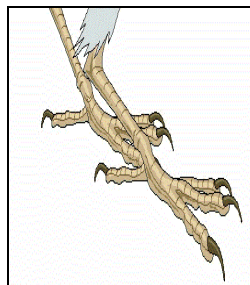
Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



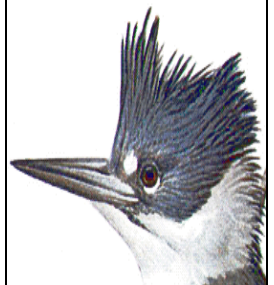
Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



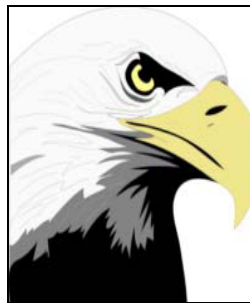
Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_



Tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird: \_\_\_\_\_

# What Does a Park Ranger Do?

## WHAT TO DO

- Interview a Park Ranger from Kodiak State Parks.
- Write the Park Ranger's answers to the questions on this page.
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

Being a park ranger is an exciting job. Park rangers protect habitats, teach people about interesting animals in Parks, and make sure the Parks are safe. Find a park ranger and interview him/her. Ask him/her these questions:

1) What do you like best about being a park ranger?

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2) What is the most difficult part of being a park ranger?

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3) What is something strange or something funny that you have seen at a park?

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4) What is your favorite time of year at the Parks and why?

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5) What did you have to do to become a park ranger?

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Ask one of your own questions:

6) \_\_\_\_\_?






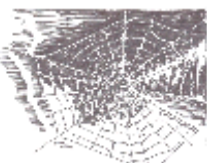


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# Wildlife Detective

## WHAT TO DO

- Explore the park with a parent or other adult.
- Look at the wildlife clues in the chart below and check the ones you find.
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

Hit the trails or the beach and explore the park to see what wildlife you may encounter. Many animals are shy. We sometimes find clues that they leave behind in their habitat. Check off the clues below as you find them. Walk quietly, listen closely and stay alert. You never know what animal may cross your path. Carefully look under logs and rocks, but be sure to place them back as you found them. **Good luck wildlife detective!**



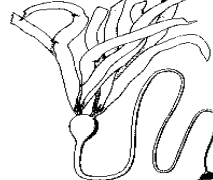


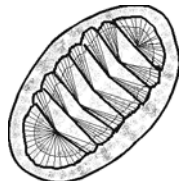
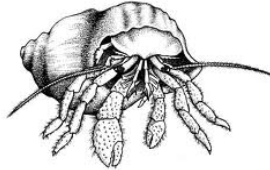









<input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Leaf chewed by an insect</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Animal Tracks</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Insect buzzing</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Scat (droppings) (<i>not from a dog</i>)</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Bird Tracks</p> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Spider Web</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Animal Tunnel</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Feather</p> 

# TIDEPPOOL BINGO

## WHAT TO DO

- Take a tidepool walk with an adult.
- Play tidepool bingo (below).
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

Take a guided tidepool walk with one of the Park Rangers or go with your parents or an adult on a tidepool walk. Circle the animals/plants below that you see on your walk until you get a “bingo,” (across, down or diagonal) or try to find them all!

<p><b>Sea Star</b></p> 	<p><b>Tidepool Sculpin</b></p> 	<p><b>Bull Kelp</b></p> 	<p><b>Mussel</b></p> 
<p><b>Barnacle</b></p> 	<p><b>Chiton</b></p> 	<p><b>Hermit Crab</b></p> 	<p><b>Sea Anemone</b></p> 
<p><b>Rock Weed</b></p> 	<p><b>Sea Sac (algae)</b></p> 	<p><b>Limpet</b></p> 	<p><b>Encrusting Sponge</b></p> 
<p><b>Beach hopper</b></p> 	<p><b>Sea Isopod</b></p> 	<p><b>Sea Gull</b></p> 	<p><b>Puffin</b></p> 

## Military History at Ft. Abercrombie

### WHAT TO DO

- Take the “Fort Abercrombie Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour” with an adult; or, take a guided historical tour of the Park.
- Complete the “You are a soldier at Ft. Abercrombie during WWII” activity on page 15.
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

## Fort Abercrombie During World War II

World War II began with Germany’s invasion of Poland in 1939. Meanwhile, there were increasing tensions between Japan and the United States. Beginning in 1939, three naval bases were built in Alaska, including one on Kodiak Island, to help protect from a Japanese invasion of the U.S. from the north. Then, in 1941, the Army arrived in Kodiak to help protect the naval base. The United States formally entered into the war at the end of 1941 by declaring war on Japan after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Germany, among other countries, immediately declared war on the United States.

Ft. Abercrombie was part of a network of Army sites on Kodiak Island and the surrounding islands. A searchlight was installed at Ft. Abercrombie in 1941, and the two large 8-inch guns were installed in 1943. The guns were only fired in practice, never at the enemy. Ft. Abercrombie was closed in 1945.





## Camai (Hello) Alutiiqs on Kodiak Island

The Kodiak Alutiiq story began more than 7,500 years ago, when daring paddlers in skin covered boats left the security of the Alaska mainland to explore a distant island. Who were these people? Some think they were the descendants of interior Alaskan caribou hunters who adapted to life on the coast. Others argue that they were members of an ancient seafaring culture with ancestral ties to the shores of Siberia. Whatever the answer, both Alutiiq legends and ancient settlements on the Alaska Peninsula suggest people colonized Kodiak from the west.

From first settlement, Kodiak's residents were skilled mariners, dependent on the sea for the necessities of life. Over 7,000 years, small, mobile, tent-dwelling bands developed into prosperous, permanent villages through human ingenuity. In response to climate change, population growth, and pressures imposed by neighboring societies, Alutiiqs learned to harvest resources with increasing efficiency. They made more effective hunting tools, captured fish in larger quantities, processed foods for storage, and organized community labor – creating the powerful chiefdoms encountered by Russian traders in the eighteenth century.

### WHAT TO DO

- Use the brochure “Kodiak Plants and Their Traditional Alutiiq Uses” while walking the wildflower meadow trail. (Available in the Park Office)
- Complete the “Kodiak Plants and Their Traditional Alutiiq Uses” activity on page 17.
- Adult: Review and fill in the Scorecard on page 2.

### Wildflower Meadow Trail

Using the brochure “Kodiak Plants and Their Traditional Alutiiq Uses” (available at the Park Headquarters), take a walk on the wildflower meadow trail with an adult and try to find the plants listed in the brochure. (Note: not all of the plants discussed can be found near the trail signs but they can be found along the wildflower meadow trail.) Read the trail signs to answer the questions on the next page.

**Please note: Traditional plant use information is provided for educational use only.  
Experimentation is at individual's own risk.**

## Kodiak Plants and Their Traditional Alutiiq Uses

What part of the lupine plant did the Alutiiq people eat?

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Northern yarrow has a number of medicinal applications. Give two examples of how it can be used.

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What parts of the Nootka rose plant were used by the Alutiiq people? How was it prepared?

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What does the angelica plant contain that is believed to heal and revitalize the skin?\_\_\_\_\_

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Most people on Kodiak know about the dangers of cow parsnip or “pushki.” But the Alutiiq people also harvested the plants for food. What part of the plant was harvested and what time of year was it harvested?\_\_\_\_\_

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Fireweed was used in house construction. What part of the plant was used and where was the plant used on the house?

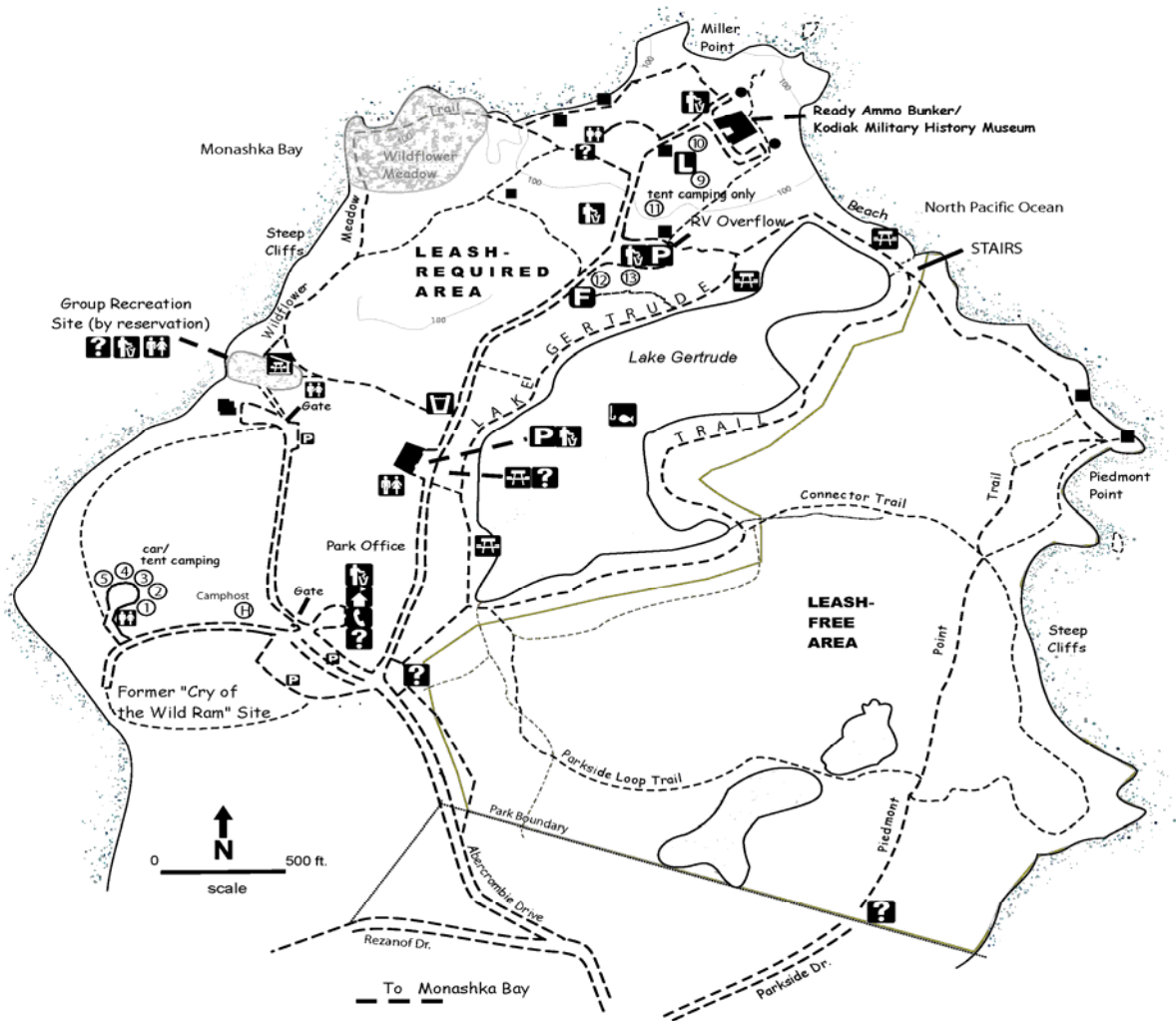
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The name “chocolate lily” sounds like the plant might have been used for dessert. But it wasn’t! What part of the plant was eaten by the Alutiiq people?

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## LEGEND

	ranger station		hiking trail
	parking		campsite
	telephone		fee station
	information		restrooms
	trash disposal		drinking water
	picnic table		ADA accessible
	picnic shelter		fishing
	shoreline/water		building or bunker

## FIELD NOTES:

## **Congratulations!**

**You have completed all the requirements to become a Junior Park Ranger in Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park. To receive your badge and certificate, present your completed scorecard at the Park Office. Leave your contact information with the Park so we can invite you to the end of summer ceremony and cookout for all of our Junior Park Rangers!**

