

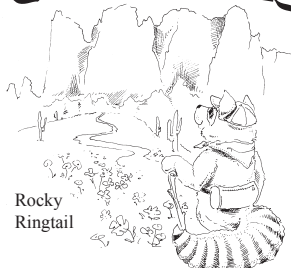
LOST DUTCHMAN



ARIZONA
STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Arizona State Parks

JUNIOR RANGER



Rocky Ringtail

Join Rocky Ringtail & Become a Junior Ranger!

By becoming a **Junior Ranger** at **Lost Dutchman State Park**, you are pledging to do your part to help preserve the beauty of the park for everyone to enjoy!

You can become a Junior Ranger if you:

- are between 6–12 years old
- complete 3 activities if you are between 6–9 years of age **or** 5 activities if you are 10–12 years old

Bring this completed **Junior Ranger Journal** to the ranger station to be checked, take your pledge, and get your stamp!

See photos and learn more about this park online at: azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman

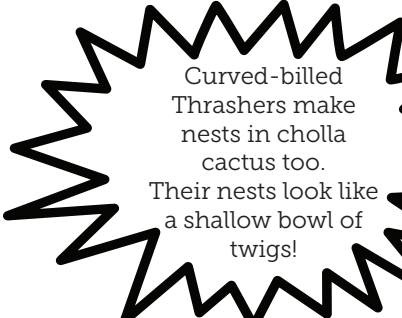
What's Inside?

- ✓ Activities
- ✓ Puzzles
- ✓ Animal Facts
- ✓ Jr. Ranger Pledge

Rocky's Challenge

Activity 1: It's time to get out and discover some of the hidden secrets of Lost Dutchman State Park! Help Rocky Ringtail find the items listed in each box below. You can describe or draw the item you found. Have fun exploring but watch out for *cacti* (that's the word for more than one cactus)!



<p>Look for a tree with green bark called a Palo Verde. Palo Verde means "green stick" in Spanish!</p>	<p>Look for a "fuzzy" looking cactus called a Cholla. See if you can spot the dome-shaped nests of the Cactus Wren on it.</p>	<p>Look for a bush with oily-looking leaves called a Creosote. The coating helps keep water inside the leaf. Try smelling it, it's different!</p>
<p>Look for a cactus with flat "pads" called a Prickly Pear. See if you can spot any flowers or fruits on it.</p>	<p>Look for a very tall cactus with long arms called a Saguaro. See if you can spot any holes and watch them for a few minutes. Was anything living in them?</p>	<p>Look for a bird and watch it to see what it does. Was it eating? Was it chirping? Did you see its nest?</p>
<p>Look for signs that an animal has been in the area. See if you can spot footprints, droppings, or food left behind.</p>	<p>Look for an interesting rock and look it over. What makes it special?</p>	 <p>Curved-billed Thrashers make nests in cholla cactus too. Their nests look like a shallow bowl of twigs!</p>

Take A Hike!

The average person needs 12 cups of water each day. A lot of it comes from the food you eat!

Activity 2: Hiking is fun! You can see birds, animals and interesting plants when you get out and explore. Desert plants and animals are adapted to life in harsh conditions, unlike humans. Humans need to have everything they need with them. All of the items in the backpack below are necessary for you to be safe when hiking. On the line next to each word, write down why you might need that item for a safe and comfortable hike!



sunglasses _____
 extra socks _____
 sunscreen _____
 water _____
 mirror _____
 a hiking buddy _____

hat _____
 whistle _____
 snacks _____
 sturdy boots _____
 flashlight _____

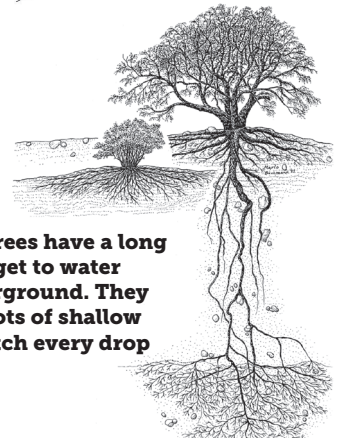


Name That!

Activity 3: There are so many interesting things in nature to see! Using the letters down the left side below, find something in nature that begins with that letter. Write what the item was on the line next to it. The first one is done for you!

- L Leaves. Most desert plants have small leaves to conserve water! _____
- O _____
- S _____
- T _____
- D _____
- U _____
- T _____
- C _____
- H _____
- M _____
- A _____
- N _____

Desert Tortoises can store up to a pint of water in sacs within their shells. They "recycle" this water in their bodies.



Mesquite trees have a long taproot to get to water deep underground. They also have lots of shallow roots to catch every drop of rain!

Getting Away From It All!

Activity 4: Seeds need to have their own space to grow. They can be carried by wind or animals or they can pop open with such force that they fly a good distance away from the “mom” plant! Read the descriptions in Column 1 and draw a line to the seed it describes in Column 2, then draw a line to who might have helped it travel in Column 3. Good luck!

Column 1

I am a seed inside a big, juicy fruit! Yum! Animals eat the fruit and I get “dropped off” after a trip through the animal’s body!

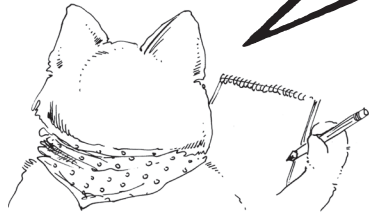
I am a seed with its own launchpad! When my pod gets dry it pops open and flings me a long way on a high-flying adventure!

I am a seed with my own parachute, so to speak! My soft, downy umbrella catches every breeze. Next thing you know, I’ve drifted off to my new home!

I am a seed with burs that help me hitch a ride on you! Animal fur, your socks, your shoes. They are all the same to me! Eventually, I’ll drop off after you carry me to a new place.

I am a seed in a sticky berry that will stick to you like glue! Birds eat the berries and some stick to their beaks. When a bird scrapes them off on another branch I get rubbed off too!

I didn't know seeds moved around so much!



Column 2



Column 3



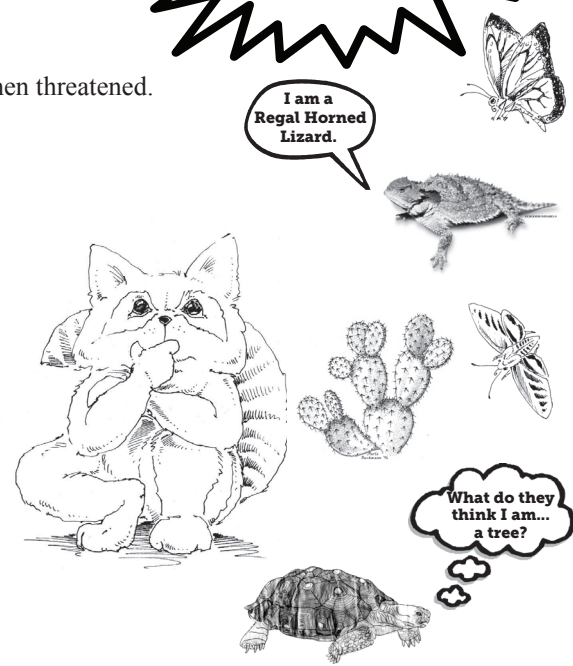
Real Or Made Up?

Activity 5: Below are some sentences about the desert. Some are real facts, and some sentences are made up! Can you tell which is which? Put an X over the ones we made up, or a circle around those that are true!

1. Some skunks do a “handstand” before they spray their foul odor.
2. Horned lizards (some people call them horny toads) can squirt blood from their eyes when threatened.
3. Most desert plants have nice, big leaves to help shade the plant from the sun.
4. Desert tortoises can live up to 200 years old.
5. Scorpions have 4 pairs of eyes and they still have poor eyesight.
6. Snakes can’t hear, but they sense vibrations through the ground.
7. Beetles have long antennae because it makes them look better to other beetles.
8. Tarantula bites are poisonous to humans.
9. You can tell how old a desert tortoise is by counting the growth rings on its shell.
10. “Gila monsters” are only found in scary movies, they don’t really exist.
11. Some desert plants bloom at night because they are pollinated by bats and moths.
12. The wood of an Ironwood tree sinks in water.

More than a dozen kinds of birds nest in Saguaros. Empty holes are used by lizards, mice, bats and other desert dwellers!

I am a Regal Horned Lizard.



What do they think I am... a tree?

(Answers are in Rocky’s Corner on the back page.)



ocus on...The Lost Dutchman

Was there really a “Lost Dutchman?” Yes! His name was Jacob Waltz and he was from Germany. He decided to come west in the California Goldrush of 1848. There are many stories about Jacob. One says that he and 5 other miners found gold in the Superstition Mountains, but were chased off by Apache Indians. They never returned, but over 30 years later, gold was discovered in the Superstition Mountains by other people. They formed the Bulldog Mine which was the second richest mine in the area! Was this the lost gold mine that Jacob Waltz had found earlier? Nobody knows! Jacob died at the age of 81 a poor man, with only a few bits of gold and his maps to the “lost mine.” What do you think? Would you have stayed away or tried to sneak back to your mine? Was the Bulldog Mine really Jacob’s lost mine?

Rocky's Corner

Activity 6. Can you find the answers to these questions in your Junior Ranger Journal?

1. A waxy covering on the leaves of plants helps keep _____ in.
2. Name 3 things you should take when you go hiking. 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
3. Think of your own funny fact about the desert. Let others decide if it’s real or made up. My funny fact is: _____
4. What was the most interesting, strange, or surprising thing you saw at Lost Dutchman State Park? _____
5. Can you list 3 ways that seeds use to travel? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Answers to “Real or Made Up:” 1. real, spotted skunks, 2. real, from ducts near the corner of their eyes 3. made up, most have spines, not leaves 4. real 5. real, their eyes are small and simple 6. real 7. made up, they’re used to pick up vibrations and scents for hunting 8. made up, they’re no more venomous than a bee sting 9. real 10. made up, they’re the only venomous lizard in the U.S. 11. real 12. real

Junior Ranger Checklist

We hope you had fun and learned about **Lost Dutchman State Park** and all the special plants and animals that call it home. Before checking in with the ranger, make sure you can check one of the boxes below:

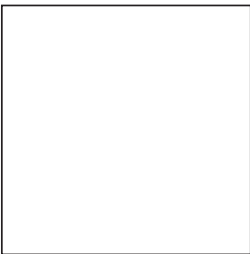
- I am between 6–9 years old and have completed 3 activities!
- I am between 10–12 years old and have completed ALL of the activities!

Park Ranger signature

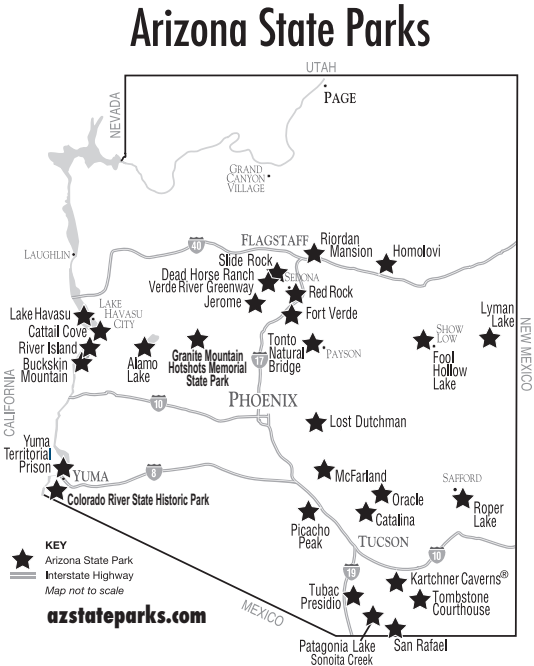
Junior Ranger signature

As an Arizona State Parks & Trails Junior Ranger, I pledge to help the park rangers protect and preserve Lost Dutchman State Park’s habitat & wildlife, and to help keep the park clean and safe for visitors & wildlife.

Junior Ranger Pledge



Park Stamp



ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Established 1957
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For reservations, call or visit:
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