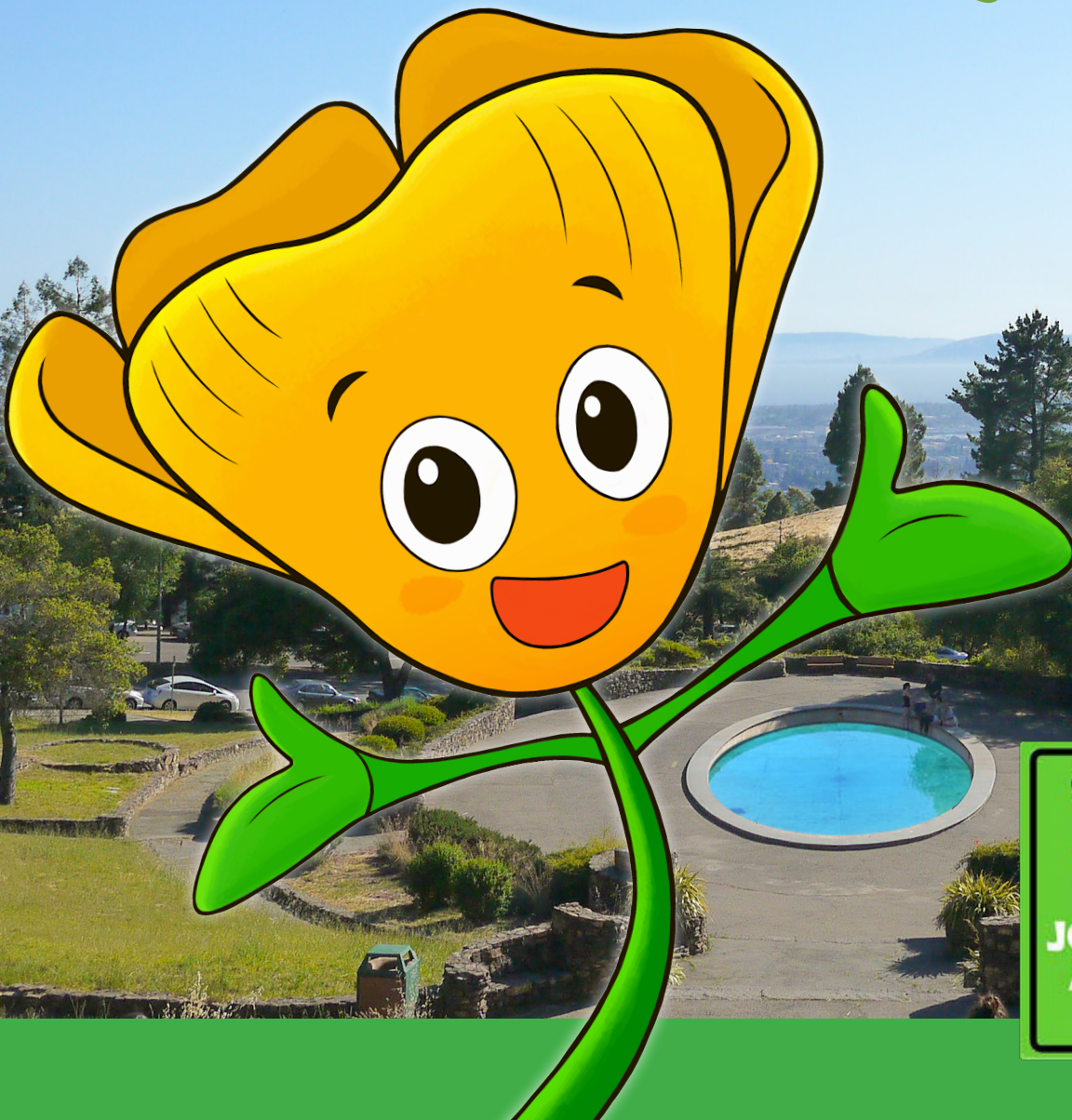


# Joaquin Miller Park

## Activity Booklet

Presented by:

Junior  
Wildlife  
Ranger



Welcome to **Joaquin Miller Park**! In 1919, Poet Cincinnatus Hiner, (pen name: Joaquin Miller) established Joaquin Miller Park, where he organized the planting of **seventy-five thousand trees**.

Today, Joaquin Miller Park spans **500 acres**. It is one of the only Coast Redwood forests that has grown well near big cities. The park is home to California's **state grass** and **state flower**, and **forest, hillside, meadow, and creek habitats** can be found throughout the park. Ready to become an expert on the wildlife and habitats protected by the park?

### How To Become a Junior Wildlife Ranger:

1) Finish all the activities in this booklet.

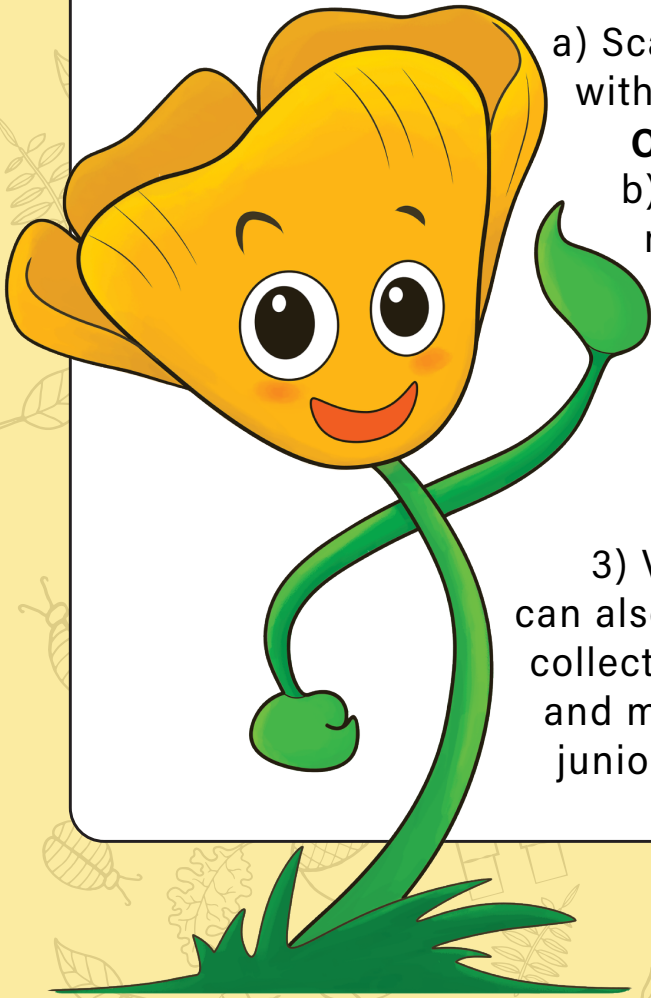
2) Claim your **Digital Badge and Passport**. **Either:**

a) Scan the QR code at the Ranger Station with your phone.

**OR**

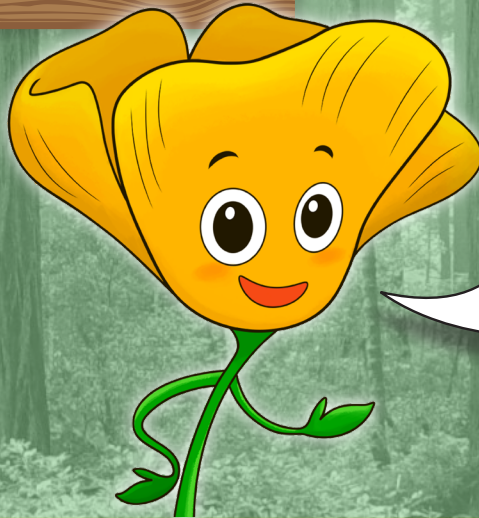
b) Visit **JuniorWildlifeRanger.org** and make an account. Then send us an email at **resources@juniorwildliferanger.org** with your username and photo of yourself at the park and we'll put a badge into your passport. Please allow for 1 week for this to work.

3) Visit again to **upgrade your badge**. You can also visit other participating sites to collect more badges. For participating sites and more information, visit **juniorwildliferanger.org**.





# Redwoods



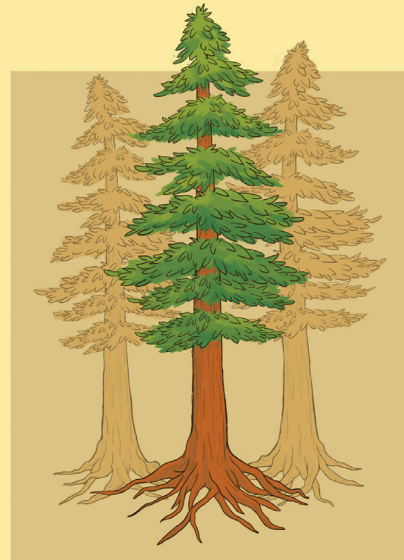
See those trees towering above you? Many are redwoods, a special tree that only grows in **temperate coastal rainforests**.

## Redwood Adaptations

An **adaptation** is an ability that an organism develops to help itself stay alive.

The roots of redwood trees are very strong

— in fact, redwoods often weave their roots together and create underground nets.



### Activity A.

Look at the two pictures above. Do you think redwood trees are stronger when they have other redwoods around them? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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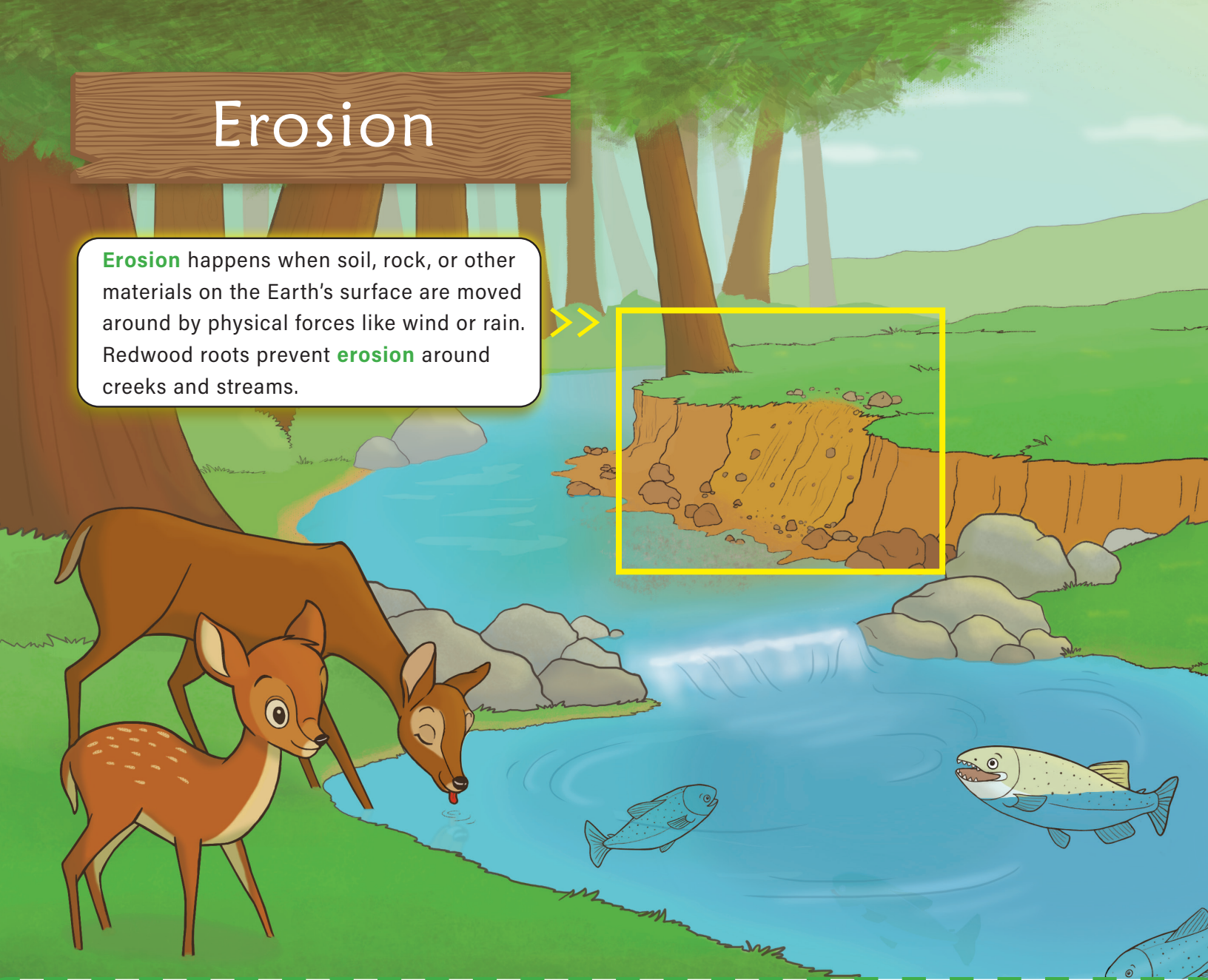
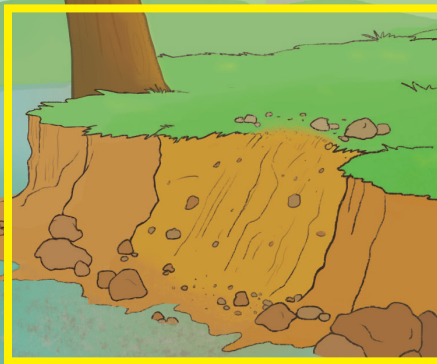
How might this **adaptation** help redwoods live longer? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Erosion

**Erosion** happens when soil, rock, or other materials on the Earth's surface are moved around by physical forces like wind or rain. Redwood roots prevent **erosion** around creeks and streams.



What do you think happens to the stream's water when erosion occurs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think changes in water affect the salmon swimming in the creek? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think changes in water affect the animals drinking from a creek? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Redwood roots prevent **erosion** by acting like a net to keep dirt and rocks secure in places like riverbanks. Roots make it more difficult for wind or rain to move pieces of dirt into a stream or creek.

How do redwoods help animals living near creeks and streams? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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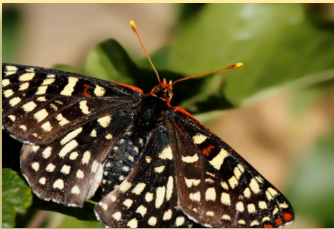


# Redwoods & Friends



Can you match the name of each species by its picture?  
The names are:

Draw a line from the picture to the correct name!



Bay Checkerspot Butterfly:  
*Euphydryas editha bayensis*

Western Honey Bee: *Apis mellifera*

Great Horned Owl: *Bubo virginianus*

Banana Slug: *Ariolimax columbianus*

Adapted from "The Leave No Trace Seven Principles" © 1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

# Insects

## Threatened Species

Both the Common Checkerspot Butterfly and Western Honey Bee are threatened species. This means that while these creatures are not endangered yet, if we don't take care of them, they might be soon.

What are some ways you can help the Common Checkerspot Butterfly and Western Honey Bee, so that they don't become endangered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

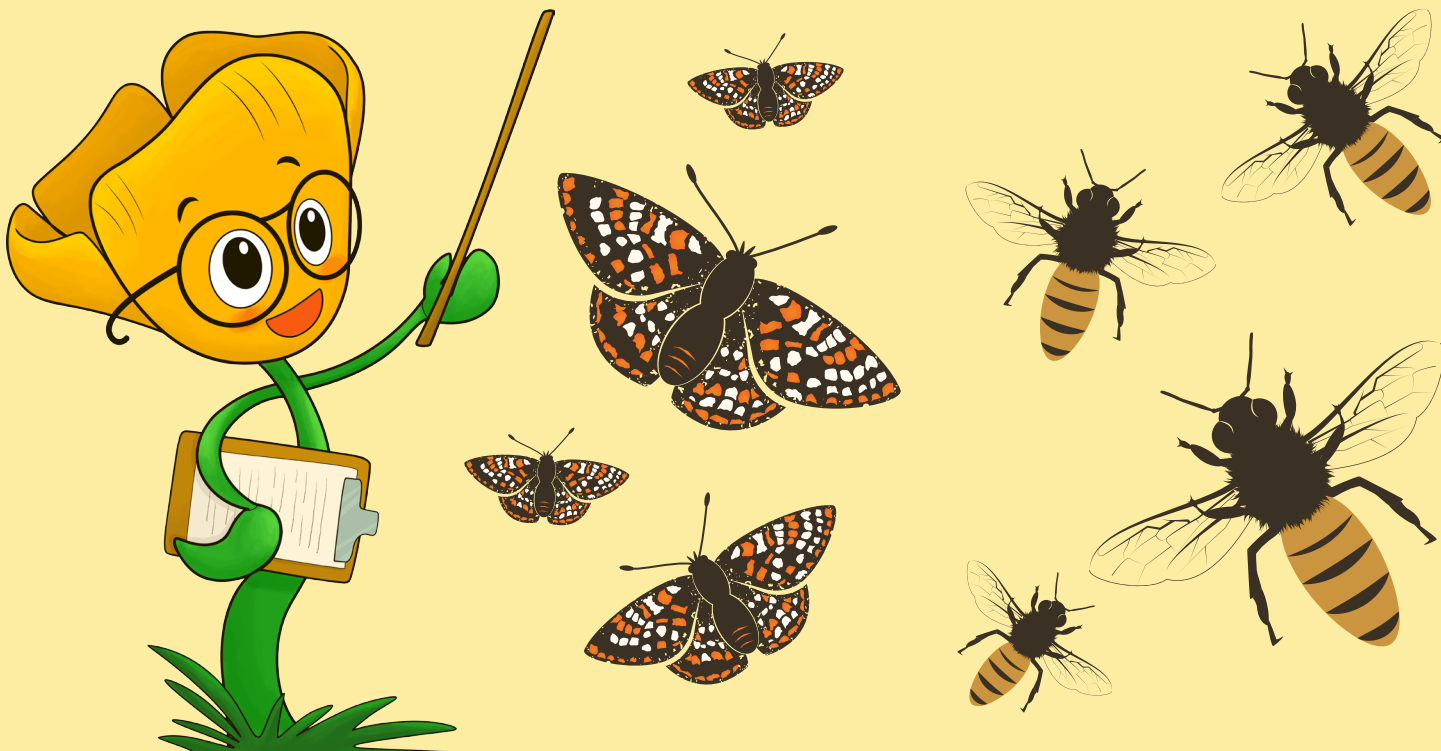
For insects, why is it important we protect places like Joaquin Miller? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What would happen if either of these species were to go extinct – that is, if they no longer existed?

**Hint:** Think about the ways insects interact with other species in an ecosystem! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# California State

## Activity C: California State Activity

Joaquin Miller Park is home to California's state grass, flower, and bird! Complete the activities below to become an expert on these state symbols.

The California Quail likes to spend most of its time on the ground, but bursts into flight at speeds of 40 miles per hour if startled. That's really fast! Instead of building a nest in a tree, the quails scratch into the ground, lay their eggs, and then cover the eggs leaves and twigs to camouflage the nest.

### Activity

Explore the park around you and look for one place a quail would want to lay her eggs, and one place it

wouldn't. **Describe and/or draw them below!** What makes these areas a good or bad place to lay eggs?



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# California State



## Purple Needlegrass

Purple Needlegrass is a bunch grass, which means that its stalks grow in bunches. It gets its name from the purple color at the end of the stalks! Although it might

not look like much, it's an important source of food for herbivores like rabbits.

### Activity

Purple needlegrass grows in many locations around the park. Investigate one of these areas.

How tall is the grass? \_\_\_\_\_

Is its soil wet or dry? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you see any evidence of animals or insects living in the grass? \_\_\_\_\_



## California Poppy

The California Poppy loves to grow in sunny places, and blooms between June and October. Its seeds disperse by exploding 6 feet out of the plant's pods! That's taller than you!

### Activity

What does the poppy mean to you? Why do you think that it's important to have a state flower? Write your answer below!

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# Watersheds

## Activity D: What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area where land helps water, from rainfall and snowfall, travel to bigger bodies of water like **oceans, lakes, and reservoirs**. Water

usually travels by **creek** or by **river** to get to these bigger bodies of water. All species rely on water systems, so taking care of our watersheds is very important!



# Watersheds

## Activity D: What is a watershed? Part 2

Use your map from the previous page!

See if you can find yourself on the map. What is the closest water source to you? Write down its name.

Go find the water you found on the map. What does it look like? Is there a lot of water running? Do you have any ideas about why the water level might be this way? \_\_\_\_\_

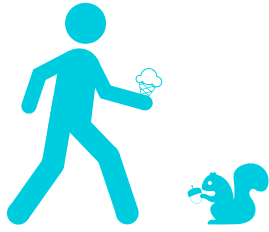
## Leave No Trace

### What does it mean to “leave no trace”?

“Leaving no trace” is all about showing respect to the wildlife, nature, and other people who live near us and enjoy nature. When we spend time in nature, we should try to leave the beautiful places we enjoy just as we find them. We can do this by:



Picking up our trash!



Keeping food away from animals!



Walking on trails so we don't squish plants and small animals!



Staying quiet and traveling in small groups to not disturb wildlife!

Have you done anything to leave no trace today? What will you do differently the next time you're in nature? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this important, especially when it comes to water? \_\_\_\_\_

When we leave trash and other waste outside, it can travel by water and hurt animals and plants living in the watershed.

Watersheds are one of the many special systems that help plants and animals thrive in the outdoors. By respecting them, we respect every species that needs water to drink, grow, or live in.

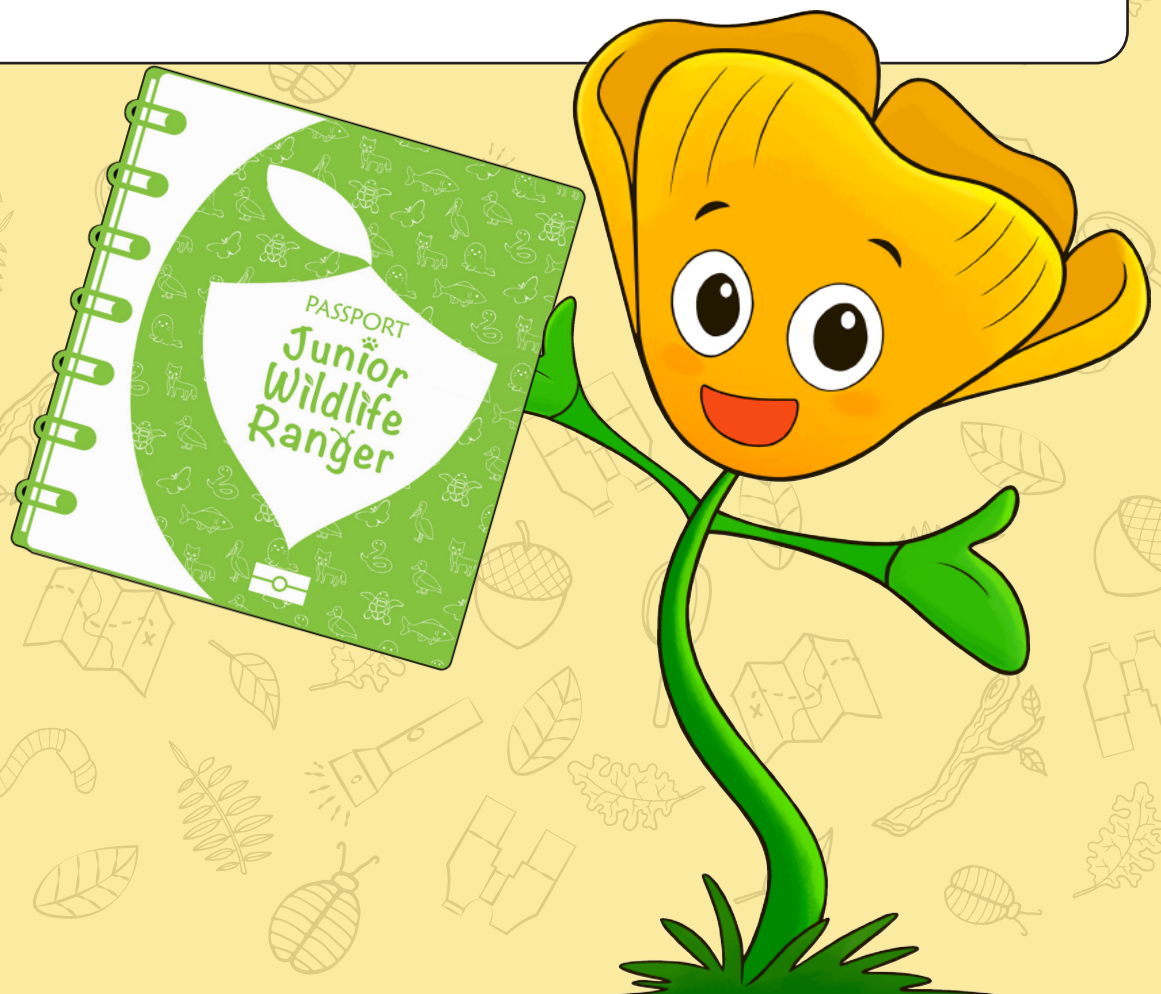


Wow, great job exploring Joaquin Miller Park! By completing these activities, you've learned so much about the park, its ecosystems, and its species. This certificate means you are officially a Junior Wildlife Ranger. Congratulations!

Also, be sure to get your **digital badge** for Joaquin Miller Park by scanning the QR code at the visitor center!

Visit Joaquin Miller multiple times to upgrade your digital badge! You can also visit other participating sites to collect more badges. For participating sites and more information, visit [juniorwildliferanger.org](http://juniorwildliferanger.org).

We rely upon your support to make youth environmental education accessible for all communities. We invite you to join our community and donate at [juniorwildliferanger.org](http://juniorwildliferanger.org).



# Joaquin Miller Park

## Activity Booklet

Junior  
Wildlife  
Ranger



### Special Thanks To

Alixandra Schoback

Save the Redwoods League

Friends of Joaquin Miller Park

