



# JUNIOR EXPLORER

ADIRONDACK PARK • OFFICIAL ACTIVITY PASSPORT

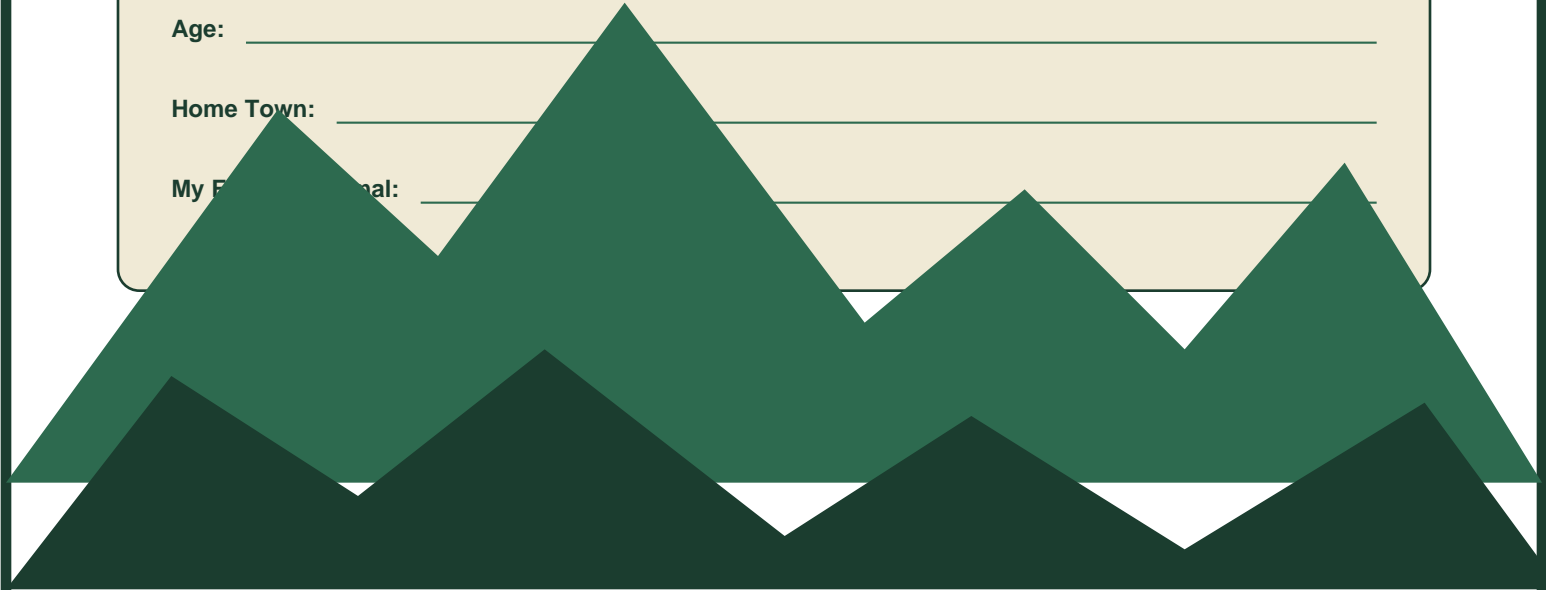
THIS PASSPORT BELONGS TO:

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_

My Favorite Animal: \_\_\_\_\_



## Complete challenges. Explore the wilderness.

Earn all 6 badges and become a certified ADK Junior Explorer!



(Earn each badge by completing the challenges on pages 2–7)

# ■ FOREST EXPLORER BADGE

Badge 1 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Find and identify 3 different types of trees

*Tip: Look for pine, birch (white bark), and maple (star-shaped leaves)*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 2: Collect 5 different things that fell from trees — but leave them where you found them

*Tip: Try pinecones, acorns, seeds with wings (samaras), bark, and leaves*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 3: Sit quietly under a tree for 5 whole minutes and listen

*Tip: Close your eyes! How many different sounds can you hear?*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 4: Find something a forest animal uses for food or shelter

*Tip: Look for a hole in a tree, a nest, a chewed pinecone, or scratched bark*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 5: Draw a picture of your favorite tree in the space below

*Tip: Include the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves — is it tall or short?*

What did you discover?

---

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

The Adirondack Park contains over 200 species of trees. The sugar maple is the most famous — its sap is collected every spring to make pure maple syrup!

I earned the Forest Explorer Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_

# ■ WATER EXPLORER BADGE

Badge 2 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Sit by a lake or stream and watch the water for 10 minutes

*Tip: Count ripples, look for fish shadows, watch for dragonflies skimming the surface*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 2: Find 3 animals that live in or near the water

*Tip: Look for frogs, turtles, water striders (bugs that walk on water!), or herons*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 3: Pick up a smooth rock from near the water — what made it smooth?

*Tip: Water tumbles rocks for hundreds of years, wearing away all the rough edges*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 4: Listen for a loon call at dawn or dusk

*Tip: Loons make 4 sounds: a wail, tremolo, yodel, and hoot. See which you hear!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 5: Watch a ripple travel across the water — drop a small stone gently

*Tip: Count how many rings you can see before they disappear*

What did you discover?

---

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

The Adirondack Park contains over 3,000 lakes and ponds and 30,000 miles of rivers and streams. Many of these waters are so clean you can see straight to the bottom!

I earned the Water Explorer Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_

# WILDLIFE TRACKER BADGE

Badge 3 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Find an animal track and identify what made it

*Tip: Deer tracks look like two teardrops. Raccoon tracks look like tiny hands!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 2: Spot 5 different birds on your hike or by the water

*Tip: Bring binoculars if you have them. Count by sight AND sound!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 3: Find evidence of a beaver (dam, chewed tree stump, or lodge)

*Tip: Beavers chew trees to build their homes — look for pointed stumps near water*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 4: Be completely still for 3 minutes and count every animal movement you see

*Tip: This is a real wildlife biologist technique called a stillness survey!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 5: Make a wildlife journal entry — describe one animal you saw in detail

*Tip: Include its size, color, what it was doing, and where exactly you saw it*

What did you discover?

---

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

Black bears in the Adirondacks are expert climbers and can smell food from over a mile away. Always store food in a bear canister when camping overnight!

I earned the Wildlife Tracker Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_

# ■ SUMMIT SEEKER BADGE

Badge 4 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Hike at least 1 mile on a marked trail without stopping to rest

*Tip: Take your time, drink water every 20 minutes, and keep a steady pace*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 2: Reach a viewpoint or open summit and identify something in the distance

*Tip: Can you see another mountain? A lake? Which direction is the sun?*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 3: Learn to read a trail marker — follow blazes (painted marks on trees)

*Tip: Different colored blazes mark different trails. What colors do you find?*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 4: Find out what elevation you are at (ask a guide or use AllTrails app)

*Tip: Mount Marcy, the highest peak, is 5,344 feet — taller than 4 Empire State Buildings!*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 5: Leave No Trace: carry out everything you carried in — leave zero litter

*Tip: Even apple cores and orange peels don't belong in the wilderness!*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

The Adirondacks have 46 mountains above 4,000 feet tall. Hikers who climb all 46 become "46ers" — a tradition that started in 1925. The youngest known 46er was just 4 years old!

I earned the Summit Seeker Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_

# ■ NIGHT EXPLORER BADGE

Badge 5 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Find the Big Dipper in the night sky

*Tip: It looks like a large soup ladle. The two stars at the end of its cup point to the North Star!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 2: Listen for 3 different nighttime sounds

*Tip: Try to identify frogs, crickets, loons, owls, or the wind in the trees*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 3: Watch for fireflies after dark and count how many you see in 5 minutes

*Tip: Fireflies make light using a chemical reaction — each species has its own flash pattern!*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 4: Draw the moon tonight — is it a crescent, half, or full moon?

*Tip: The moon changes shape over 29 days. Ask: is it growing bigger or getting smaller?*

What did you discover?

---



## Challenge 5: Turn off all lights for 10 minutes and let your eyes adjust to the dark

*Tip: Your eyes take about 20 minutes to fully adapt to darkness — just like owls!*

What did you discover?

---

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

The Adirondacks have very little light pollution, making them one of the best places in the eastern United States to see the Milky Way galaxy with the naked eye on a clear night!

I earned the Night Explorer Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_

# ■ WILDERNESS STEWARD BADGE

Badge 6 of 6 • Complete all 5 challenges to earn this badge!



## Challenge 1: Pick up 10 pieces of litter that someone else left behind

*Tip: Even biodegradable things like food scraps can harm wildlife — pack it all out!*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 2: Learn and recite the 3 Leave No Trace rules for campfires

*Tip: Only use designated fire rings, keep fires small, and make sure fires are fully out*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 3: Find an invasive plant or animal (ask a ranger what to look for in your area)

*Tip: Invasive species are plants or animals that don't belong here and can harm native life*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 4: Spend 30 minutes doing trail maintenance with a parent (clearing debris from trail)

*Tip: Volunteers maintain hundreds of miles of ADK trails every year — you can help!*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Challenge 5: Teach a younger child one thing you learned about the Adirondacks

*Tip: Teaching others is the best way to make sure wilderness knowledge is never lost*

What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ★ ADK FUN FACT

The Adirondack Park is one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history. Millions of people protect it every year simply by visiting responsibly and caring about the land.

I earned the Wilderness Steward Badge on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (parent/guide): \_\_\_\_\_