

## About This Module

<b>Overview</b>	Parks provide many benefits to people and the environment. The following activities help youth explore and appreciate the value of their local parks.
<b>Guiding Questions*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What parks do we have in our area, and what are their features?</li> <li>• What is the National Park Service, and what National Park sites are available in our area?</li> <li>• Why are emblems important?</li> <li>• What features would you include if you were designing a park?</li> </ul> <p>*Guiding questions are not specifically asked in the activities themselves but are meant to guide your preparation and facilitation of the module. Keep these questions top of mind so you can help youth make connections and capture key takeaways relating to the topic.</p>
<b>Activity 1</b>	<p><b>Parks in My Community</b></p> <p>Youth learn how to use maps and online search tools to discover the parks in their community and surrounding area.</p>
<b>Activity 2</b>	<p><b>Be a Newscaster</b></p> <p>Youth research a park and create a mini newscast to share about the park's unique features. Participants also learn how the National Park Service protects a diversity of natural and cultural areas.</p>
<b>Activity 3</b>	<p><b>NPS Arrowhead – What's Your Emblem?</b></p> <p>Youth learn about the significance of the National Park Service and BGCA emblems. Then they create their own emblems to represent something significant about themselves.</p>
<b>Activity 4</b>	<p><b>Plan a Park</b></p> <p>Youth design their ideal parks to gain an understanding of the many decisions that go into planning parks and related careers.</p>



## Key Terms

<b>Emblem</b>	A symbol or picture that represents something.
<b>Protect</b>	To keep something safe.
<b>Preserve</b>	To make something last a long time.

## Supplies

		Handouts		
<b>Activity 1:</b> Parks in My Community	1 per pair of participants	A Park I'd Like to Visit		
			Supplies Needed	
	1 per participant	Ultimate Journey Passports saved from previous activities		
	1 per pair of participants	Computer or tablet		
	1	Computer or projector to display websites		
	1	Large map of your town and state		
		Flipchart paper and markers		
	1 per pair of participants	Sticky note strip		
	1 per pair of participants	Pen or pencil		
			Handouts	
<b>Activity 2:</b> Be a Newscaster	1 per pair of participants	National Parks Map and Trivia		
	1	National Parks Trivia Answer Key		
			Supplies Needed	
	1 per participant	Ultimate Journey Passports saved from previous activities		
	1 per pair of participants	A Park I'd Like to Visit saved from Activity 1		
	1	Balloon		
	1	Computer or projector to display videos		
	1 per pair of participants	Internet-connected tablet or phone		
1 per pair of participants	Pen or pencil			

## Supplies

Supplies	
<b>Activity 3:</b> <b>NPS Arrowhead</b> <b>- What's Your Emblem?</b>	<b>Handouts</b>
	1   Movie Director Supply Cards
	<b>Supplies Needed</b>
	1 per participant   Ultimate Journey Passports saved from previous activities
	1 sheet per participant   Paper
	1 per participant   Pencil
	1 set per participant   Markers, crayons or colored pencils
<b>Activity 4:</b> <b>Plan a Park</b>	<b>Supplies Needed</b>
	1 per participant   Ultimate Journey Passports saved from previous activities
	Whiteboard or flipchart paper and marker
	<b>Optional</b>
	1 sheet per participant   Flipchart, butcher or poster paper
	1 sheet per participant   Grid paper
	1 set per participant   Markers or colored pencils
1+ piece per participant   Sidewalk chalk	

## Skills

Academic Skills	Social-Emotional Skills
Curiosity	Communication
Creativity and Innovation	Collaboration
Designing and Constructing Explanations	Identifying and Solving Problems

## Background Information

Parks provide so many benefits to people and the environment. Here's a sampling of reasons why we should help youth discover parks in their nation and community:

- Parks provide a place where people can get outdoors and be physically active.
- Parks provide a place where community members can gather for recreation and positive social interactions.
- Studies have shown that leisure activities in parks improve moods and reduce stress.
- Parks provide economic value by increasing property values nearby.
- Parks keep our environment healthy by improving water quality, protecting groundwater, preventing flooding and improving air quality.
- Parks provide critical habitats for wildlife.
- Parks provide green space in urban areas.
- Community recreation programs at public parks provide youth with a safe place to play.

## Links to Resources

### Activity 2: Be a Newscaster

**Junior Ranger Online** ([nps.gov/kids/junior-ranger-online.htm](https://nps.gov/kids/junior-ranger-online.htm)):

Find local parks, engage youth with online activities, and view national sites in real-time.

**Open OutDoors for Kids** ([nationalparks.org/explore/programs/open-outdoors-for-kids](https://nationalparks.org/explore/programs/open-outdoors-for-kids)):

This National Park Foundation website helps youth connect with and learn more about National Parks.

## Career Connections

### Activity 2: Be a Newscaster

Explain to youth that there are a wide range of volunteer and job opportunities for youth at National Parks, Monuments and Historic Sites.

For more information, visit: [nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](https://nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm)

Brainstorm a list of jobs that are necessary to support and maintain parks.  
See examples below.

Park superintendent

Historian

Interpretive park ranger

Wildlife biologist

Law enforcement ranger

Forester

Emergency response

Maintenance

Firefighting

Archaeologist

Geologist

Environmental educator

Paleontologist

**Note to Facilitator:** Portions of Activities 3 and 4 may be conducted outdoors.  
Check the weather and schedule the activities for a clear, sunny day.