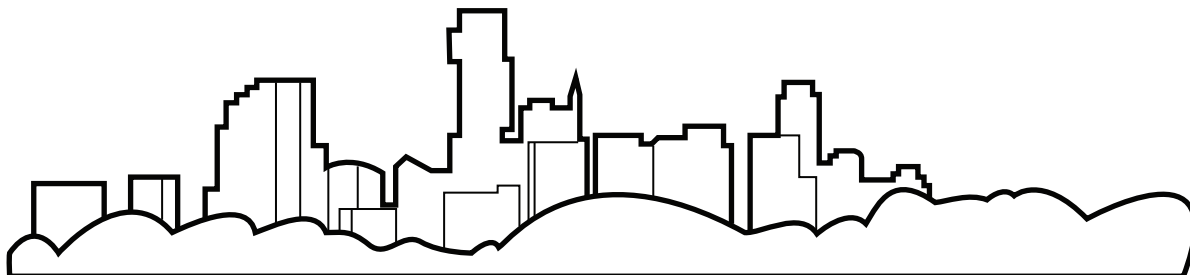


# Austin Parks and Recreation Junior Ranger Activity Book



## Printing Instructions and More

1. This PDF has been set up to print double sided. Open the PDF using your computer's PDF view. We recommend Adobe.

2. Select print to open the printing options window.

3. Under page sizing, select Actual Size. For printing orientation, select portrait and print two-sided. Print pages 2-18. If your printer cannot print double-sided, set your page window to 2-12 and 14-18.

4. If printing multiple copies, we recommend printing a few test pages first.

To complete this booklet virtually, send a photo of your Junior Ranger holding this activity book, their name, and mailing address to [Melissa.Hand@austintexas.gov](mailto:Melissa.Hand@austintexas.gov). We will mail your Junior Ranger patch! We'd also love to hear what activity you enjoyed the most!

Due to current closures as an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, the *Challenge-by-Choice (CxC)* activities are currently unavailable. As restrictions ease and facilities open to the public, *CxC* activities will become available. To remain up to date on closures, please visit our parks closure page ([austintexas.gov/parkclosures](http://austintexas.gov/parkclosures)).

Park Rangers want to encourage you to plan ahead and prepare while exploring your parks so you can be safe and have fun. You can remain safe by wearing sunscreen, carrying water, being aware of possible changing weather, and following Austin Public Health risk-based guidelines ([austintexas.gov/covid19](http://austintexas.gov/covid19)).



AUSTIN  
PARKS &  
RECREATION

# JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK

Recommended  
Ages 5-10



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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# Welcome, friend!



Did you know there are about 300 parks in Austin? This activity book will help you discover and enjoy those outdoor spaces. Complete at least 5 activities. Then turn your book into a Ranger at the Ranger Station or a Waystation. There, you will take the Junior Ranger pledge and receive your patch. Let's explore Austin parks and remember to leave no trace!



## Land acknowledgment

The land we live on and get to enjoy has been inhabited by Native and Indigenous peoples for nearly 12,000 years. Some of these groups included the Tonkawa, Coahuilteca, Jumanos, Sana, Comanche, Apache, and many more. The Park



Rangers would like to say thank you to the original stewards of the land, and to the people who take care of the land now and in the future.

To learn more about whose land you're on, visit:

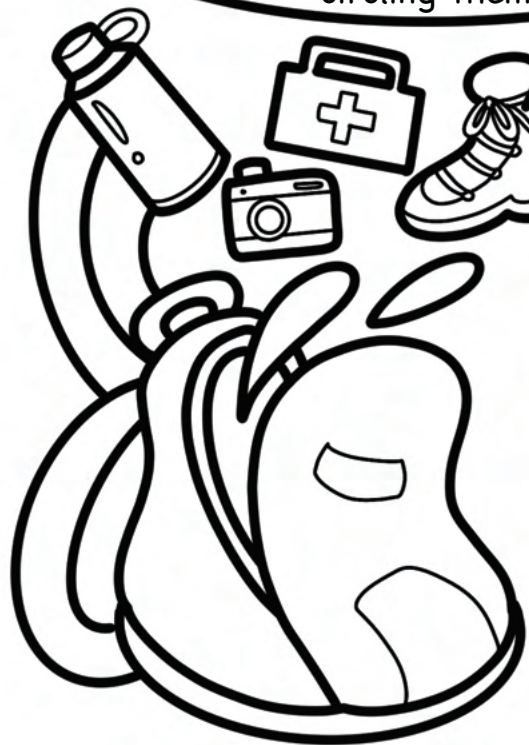
<https://native-land.ca/>



Are you ready to help Remy  
look for their badge? That  
means going outside!

### Plan ahead & Prepare:

Pack your backpack  
with items to keep you safe. Only six  
items fit in your bag. Choose which  
six items you will take by  
circling them.



**exc** Finish the Leave No  
Trace Bigfoot and  
Friend's activity pages  
found at the back of  
this book. Turn it  
into a Ranger  
for a stamp.





Maybe I left my badge at home. Let's check.




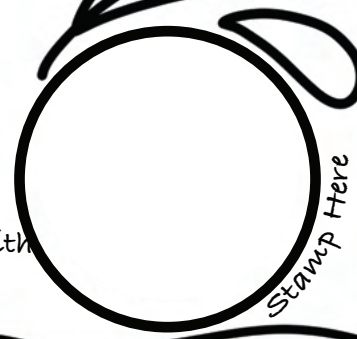
Arboreal animals need trees to call home. There are over 33.8 million trees in Austin. That is a lot of homes for animals like birds, squirrels, raccoons and ringtails!

Find your favorite tree in a nearby park.  
Draw it below.

**Leave What You Find:**

If you find something cool, take a photo or draw a picture, but leave it there for others to enjoy.

 visit the Austin Nature and Science Center. Trade a nature fact with the Trade Counter for a stamp.





Well, it wasn't at home. Let's check with my friend Gwen Grackle. She likes to collect shiny things.

There are a lot of different birds out there. While looking for Gwen, circle all the birds you find below.

**Respect Wildlife:**  
When you see an animal, view it from a safe distance.



Peregrine Falcon

Hawk



Mockingbird



Cardinal



Vulture



Grackle



Woodpecker



Titmouse



Wren



Hummingbird

Hey Gwen, I am missing my badge. Have you seen it?

Thank you.




I am sorry, I have not seen it.



Sometimes I have lunch  
with Mari Monarch who lives in  
the wildflower meadow.  
Hola Mari, will you  
help me look for my  
badge?

¡Sí! Sure thing,  
Remy.

Look in the wildflower  
field for Remy's badge. While  
looking keep your eye out for  
pollinators. These special animals  
help plants make fruits or  
seeds. How many can you  
find?

 Want to see pollinators  
in action? Visit the  
Elisabet Ney Museum's  
wildflower field. While you are there,  
stop in and look at the artwork of  
Elisbet Ney.

Stamp Here



The people below helped to shape Austin in their own special way. Draw a line from the person to their actions.

The Mexican American Cultural Center is named after this woman who worked to create spaces for Latin American arts in Central Texas. She helped start a dance group, Ballet Folklórico de Tejas, and the Mexic-Arte Museum, a museum devoted to Latinx culture.

This man was a Japanese immigrant who built the Taniguchi Japanese Garden at the Zilker Botanical Gardens by himself. It was a thank you gift to the City of Austin, for educating his sons. He hoped the garden brings peace to all who visit.

This former First Lady of the U.S. loved wildflowers. She helped to make the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail beautiful by choosing the plants you see around the lake. The lake was renamed after her.

This man was a World War I veteran and became Austin's first Black dentist. He also spoke up for better roads, bus service, and parks for his community on the northeast side of the city. He fought for the creation of a park in East Austin that is now named in his honor.

This man supported youth recreation in Austin. He helped integrate Little League baseball games in the 1940s. He pushed for a large park in East Austin that now bears his name.

This woman swam at Barton Springs when Black people were not allowed because of racial segregation. She went on to become the first Black American to serve as United States treasurer. The street just east of Barton Springs was renamed after her in 2018.



RAUL "ROY" G. GUERRERO

DR. EVERETT GIVENS

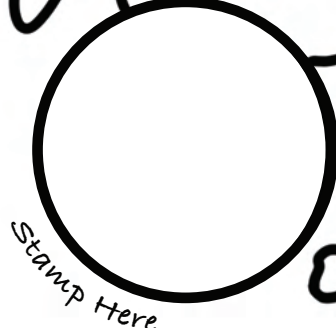
LADY BIRD JOHNSON

AZIE TAYLOR MORTON

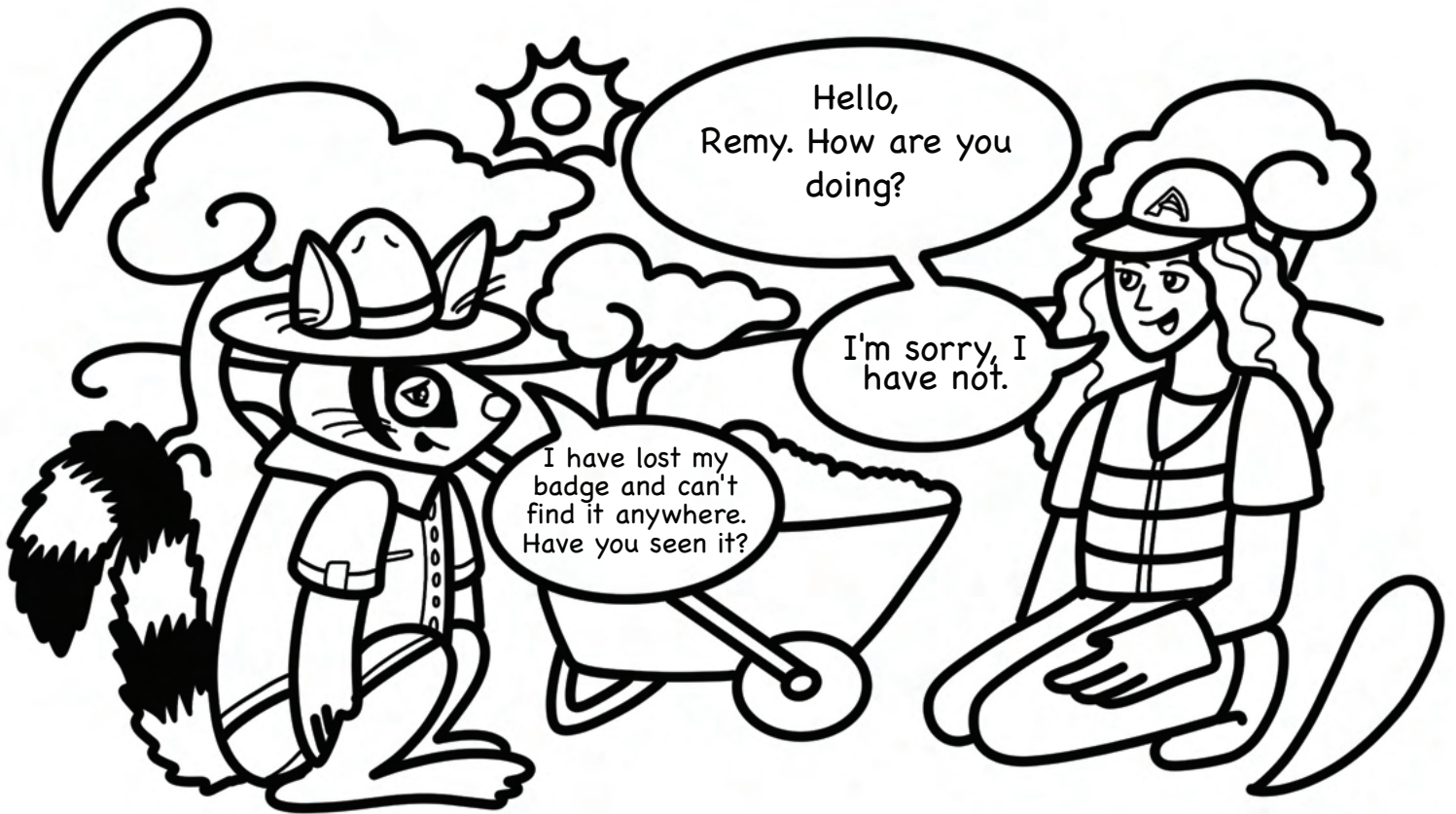
EMMA S. BARRIENTOS

ISAMU TANIGUCHI

exc Visit the George Washington Carver Museum. Learn about George Washington Carver and other historical figures. Discover the importance of Juneteenth. Don't forget to check out the Children's Gallery!







There are many jobs that need to get done in parks. All these jobs are important in making sure parks stay clean and safe. Find a Parks and Rec employee at your local park or recreation center. Ask them the questions below.



What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your job? What do you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you like most about your job? \_\_\_\_\_

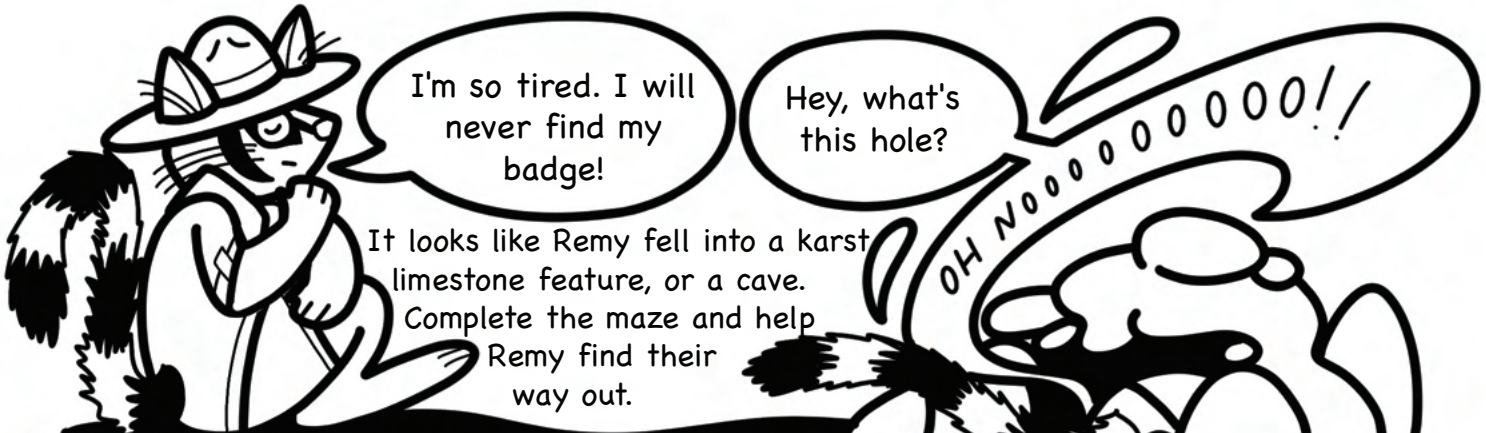
\_\_\_\_\_

How can I help to keep the parks nice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ask your own question. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

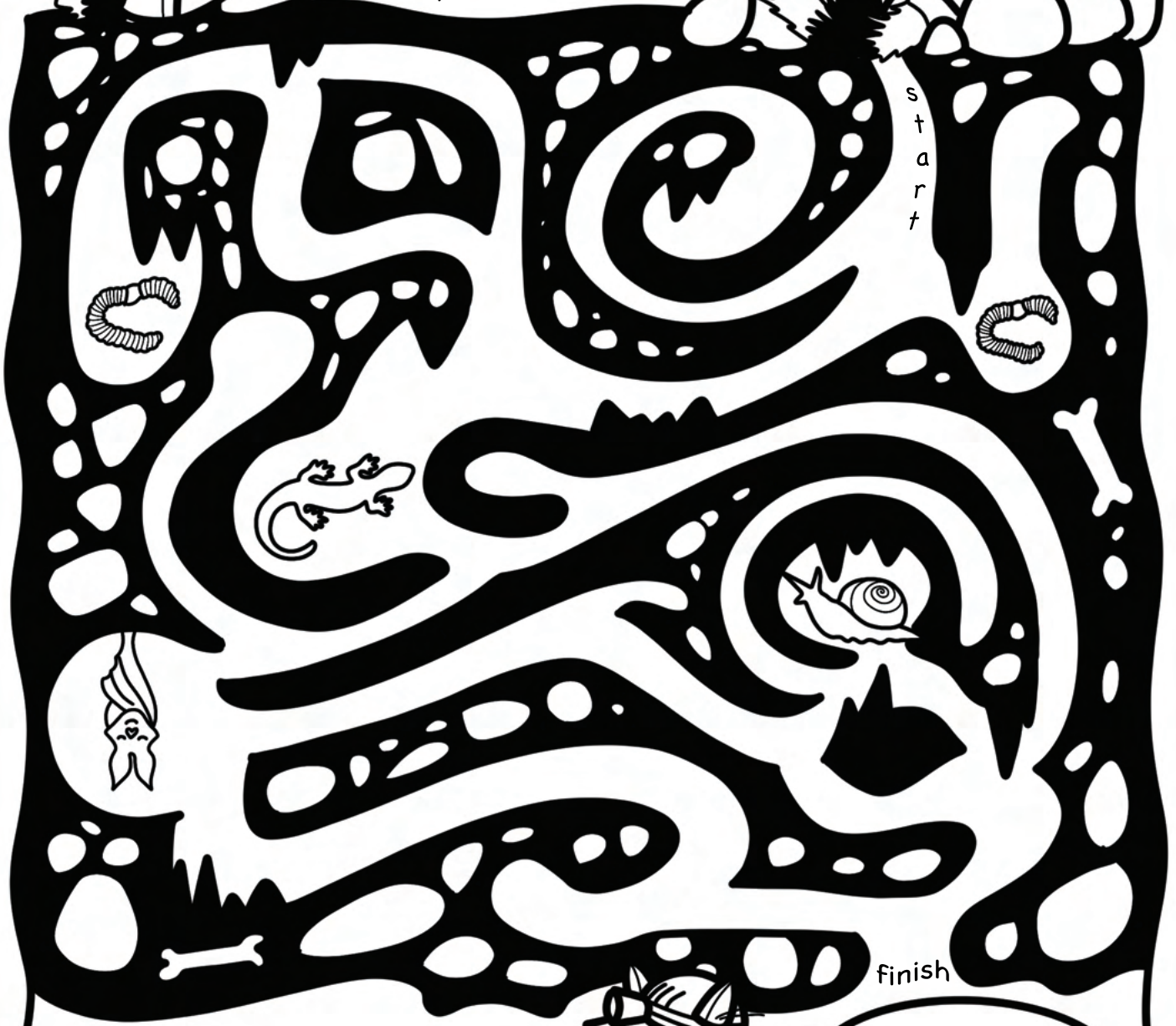


I'm so tired. I will never find my badge!

Hey, what's this hole?



It looks like Remy fell into a karst limestone feature, or a cave. Complete the maze and help Remy find their way out.



s  
t  
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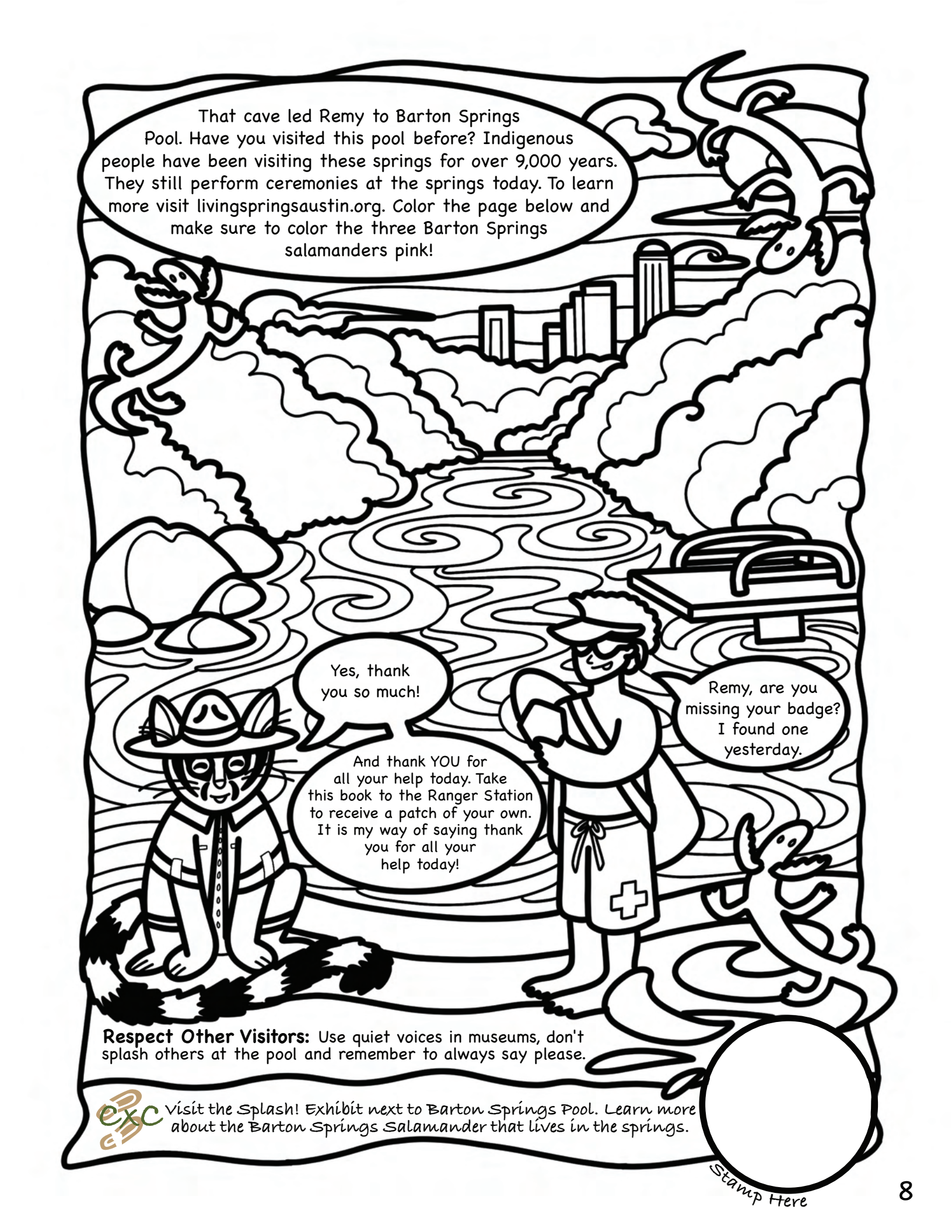
finish

What are you doing here? You should not explore caves without a trained guide. My name is Sammy Salamander, I will show you the way out. Follow me!



Thank you, Sammy.





That cave led Remy to Barton Springs Pool. Have you visited this pool before? Indigenous people have been visiting these springs for over 9,000 years. They still perform ceremonies at the springs today. To learn more visit [livingspringsaustin.org](http://livingspringsaustin.org). Color the page below and make sure to color the three Barton Springs salamanders pink!

Yes, thank you so much!

And thank YOU for all your help today. Take this book to the Ranger Station to receive a patch of your own. It is my way of saying thank you for all your help today!

Remy, are you missing your badge? I found one yesterday.

**Respect Other Visitors:** Use quiet voices in museums, don't splash others at the pool and remember to always say please.



Visit the Splash! Exhibit next to Barton Springs Pool. Learn more about the Barton Springs Salamander that lives in the springs.

Stamp Here



I, Remy Ringtail, certify that

\_\_\_\_\_

has completed all the requirements to be an Austin City Parks

# Junior Ranger

on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

*I promise to follow park rules and to leave the park better than I found it. I promise to keep learning about Austin and its parks. I will share what I learn with my friends and family.*

 *Remy Ringtail*

\_\_\_\_\_

Junior Ranger Signature





# BIGFOOT'S CHALLENGE

Write down three ways you practiced Leave No Trace today.

1.

2.

3.

List three ways you will Leave No Trace at school or home.

1.

2.

3.

## THE LEAVE NO TRACE MAZE

8 Great job! You are helping to Leave No Trace.

9-11 Not bad, but how else can you Leave No Trace?

12+ Yikes! Some of your actions are less than Leave No Trace.

Re-check your answers and ask an adult leader about the best ways to Leave No Trace.



BIGFOOT AND FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO

# LEAVE NO TRACE



## MY TRAIL NICKNAME:

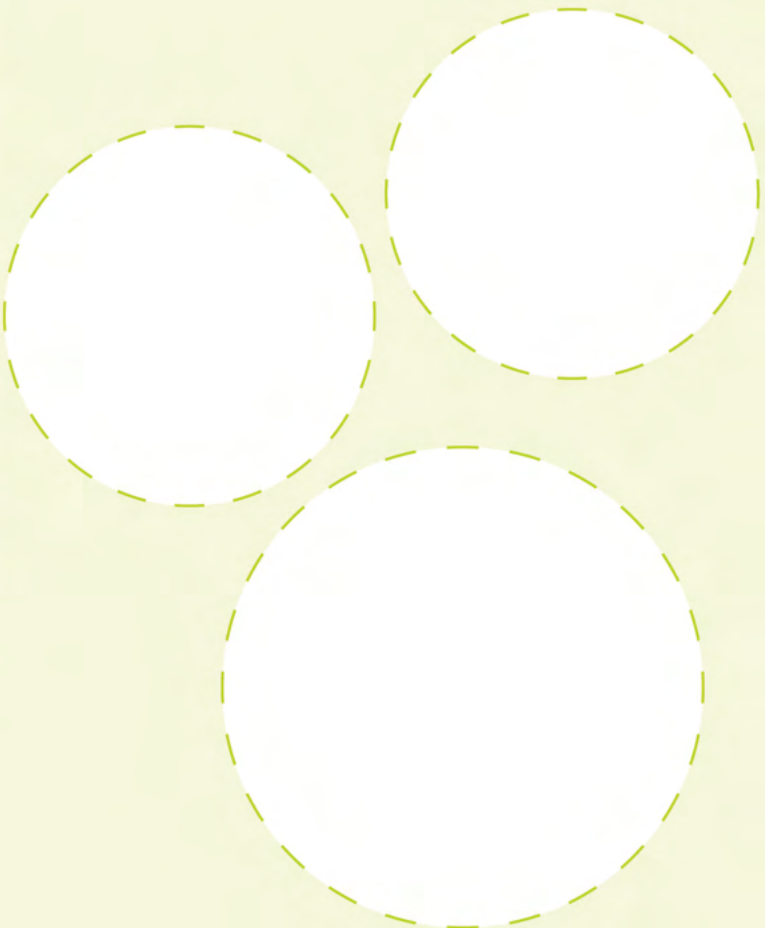
Pick your new 'trail' nickname inspired by your favorite wild animal, insect, plant or tree.



# RESPECT WILDLIFE



'Zooms' observes everything outside, keeping a safe distance from wildlife. Draw three animals, insects or plants that you saw on your adventure today!



# TRASH YOUR TRASH

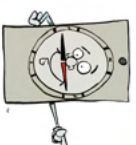
Trash left behind can be harmful to plants, animals and us! You can help keep your favorite park clean by trashing your trash. How many pieces of trash did you pick up today?

\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for visiting! We hope you enjoyed learning about the area and observing nature here. Join me and my friends in continuing to Leave No Trace on all of your outdoor adventures!



# THE LEAVE NO TRACE MAZE



'Pointer' and friends are going camping! Help them make the best choices about what to do along the way to Leave No Trace. Add up your score and find your impact on the back page.

**START** 

A. Bring a Water Bottle

B. Talk to a Ranger

C. Hike Without a Map

D. Make Your Own Trail

E. Stay on the Trail

F. Take Pictures of Cool Stuff

G. Collect Rocks & Pinecones

H. Pick Flowers Along the Trail

I. Use a Designated Campsite

J. Camp Right Next to the Lake

K. Camp in a Field of Grass

L. Use a Campstove

M. Break Branches For Firewood

N. Use an Existing Firing

O. Pack Out Your Trash

P. Wash Your Dishes In the Lake

Q. Use an Outhouse

R. Keep Pets on a Leash

S. Feed Animals Leftover Food

T. Watch Wildlife From a Distance

U. Play Loud Music

V. Be Friendly to Others

**HOME**



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1

# MEET THE CAST!

All the characters found in this book are real! Learn more about each animal by reading about them below. Have you seen any of them before?



## Remy Ringtail:

Ringtails or *Bassariscus astutus* are often confused with the common cat, but are actually most closely related to the raccoon. These creatures sleep in dens during the day and are active at night. They eat birds, reptiles, rodents, but most of all insects. They are excellent climbers, often climbing trees or vertical rock faces to find safe places to make dens. Ringtails are typically shy, so if you spot one consider yourself lucky!



## Gwen Grackle:

*Quiscalus mexicanus*, more commonly known as great-tailed grackles, can be found gathering in large groups all over the city. Males are slightly larger and have heads of black with a shimmer of blues and purples. Females have brown heads. In April, males will fluff their feathers, dance, and call after females in hopes of attracting a mate. They will eat anything they can find, from lizards to fruit, but what they love most of all is your tacos so be aware!

## Mari Monarch:

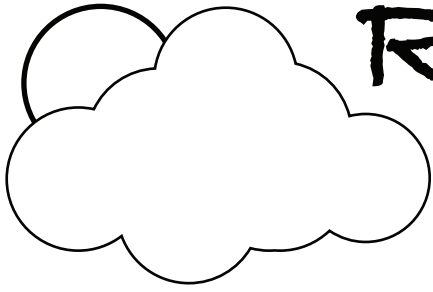
Monarch butterflies or *Danaus plexippus* are incredible insects. Each year they participate in a migration that takes over three generations to complete! They fly from Mexico to Canada and back every year. They need milkweed plant to lay their eggs. When fall comes, they will fly south. Monarchs create large roosts in the mountain ranges in Mexico. In Mexico they are known as mariposa monarca.



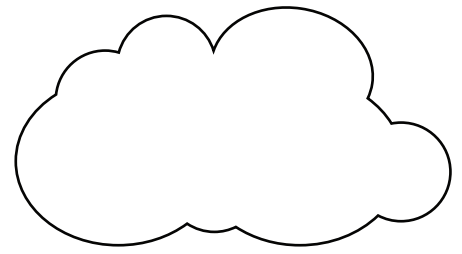
## Sammy Salamander:

*Plethodon glutinosus* or Slimy Salamanders are common throughout the United States. Unlike frogs, they have no aquatic stage and are born as fully formed salamanders. Their favorite homes consist of damp soil, so they can be found in leaf litter, under rocks or even in caves. They eat small insects like ants, beetles, earthworms and more. If they sense danger, they can produce a slime that will lock the jaws of predators or create a rash in humans, so make sure to watch these salamanders, but don't pick them up!





# RESOURCES



**Park Ranger Station**  
512-978-2600  
2105 B Andrew Zilker Road  
Open Friday – Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

Ranger Waystations coming soon. Look for details at [austintexas.gov/parkrangers](http://austintexas.gov/parkrangers)

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## challenge by choice locations

### **Austin Nature and Science Center**

2389 Stratford Drive  
Open Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m.  
Phone: 512-974-3888

### **Splash! Exhibit at the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center**

2201 William Barton Drive  
Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m.  
Phone: 512-974-6350

### **Elisabet Ney Museum**

304 East 44th Street  
Open Wednesday – Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m.  
Phone: 512-974-1625

### **George Washington Carver Museum**

1165 Angelina Street  
Open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Thursday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Phone: 512-974-4926

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## Leave No Trace Principles

- 1. Know before you go-** Be prepared! Wear clothes to protect you from COLD, HEAT, or RAIN. Learn about the areas you visit. Read books and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more FUN you'll have.
- 2. Choose the right path-** Stay on the MAIN TRAIL to protect nature and keep from wandering off by yourself. Steer clear of flowers or small trees. Once hurt, they may not grow back!
- 3. Trash your trash-** Pack it in. Pack it out. Put litter, even crumbs, in trash cans or carry it home. KEEP WATER CLEAN. Keep soap, food, and poop out of lakes and streams.
- 4. Leave what you find-** Leave plants, rocks, and historical items AS YOU FIND THEM so the next person can enjoy them. Avoid digging trenches or building structures.

**5. Be careful with fire-** Be sure it's OK to build a fire in the area you're visiting. Use an EXISTING FIRE RING to protect the ground from heat. Burn all wood to ash and be sure that the fire is completely OUT and COLD before you leave.

**6. Respect wildlife-** Observe animals from a distance and NEVER APPROACH, FEED, OR FOLLOW THEM. Protect wildlife and your food by storing your meals and trash. CONTROL PETS at all times, or leave them at home.

**7. Be kind to other visitors-** Make sure the FUN you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. LISTEN TO NATURE. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more animals if you are quiet.

Want to learn more about how you can leave no trace in Austin parks? Visit [LNT.org](http://LNT.org)





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**Special Thanks to the following for their support:**

Austin History Center  
Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program  
Equity Office  
Communication and Engagement Unit  
Leave No Trace



The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.