

# Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve



California Poppy

*Leticia Bostain*

# Junior Ranger Adventure Guide

For Ages 7-12 Years

California State Parks

# Become a Junior Ranger

## At the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome! You are about to take part in a fun learning adventure as you explore the California Poppy Reserve here in the Antelope Valley. When you have completed this self-guided workbook, take it to the Visitors Center for your Junior Ranger award. You will also be given credit for one activity in your Junior Ranger Logbook. And once you have become a Junior Ranger, you can join hundreds of rangers who protect and care for our California State Parks.

It will probably take a couple of hours to explore the park and earn your Junior Ranger award. You will find answers for your Adventure Guide in the Poppy Reserve brochure, in the Visitor Center, by hiking one or more of the trails, and by talking to docents in the orange vests (on the trail or in the Visitor Center) and park employees - usually at the entry kiosk, etc.

Before we begin . . .

There are several rules to keep in mind as you explore the Reserve.

1. Stay on the trails!
  - We don't want the wildflowers trampled.
  - And there are many venomous \_\_\_\_\_ in the area. In other words, they can make you sick. (They have toxins that affect both nerves and blood cells.)
2. Don't pick the flowers. Everything in the park stays in the park, except what you buy at the Gift Shop.

# The Park

1. California parks are made to preserve things in nature or history. What specific thing do you think this park is here to save for all to enjoy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name two things that you think make this park special.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. You are very fortunate if the poppies and other wildflowers are in bloom when you visit but if not, there is still a lot to see.
  - a. As you look around do you notice any hoses or sprinklers out on the trails, away from the Visitor Center? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How do you suppose the flowers get water if we don't have a way to water them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Some years we get a lot of rain, sometimes very little. How do you *think* that affects the flowers? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What are some things that could hurt the poppies and other wildflowers? \_\_\_\_\_

(We have people who are constantly studying the flowers to see how temperature, rainfall and many other things affect them.)
4. The Poppy Reserve is 1800 acres and includes \_\_\_\_\_ miles of trails you may explore.
5. The California Poppy's real name is *Eschscholzia californica* and was given to the flower by a naturalist aboard a Russian ship exploring the coast of California way back in what year? \_\_\_\_\_

Now let's take a look in the Interpretive (Visitor) Center.

Note: Questions in the boxes at the bottom of some pages, like the one below, are just for fun. Answer if you know them.



The state flower of California is the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt

1. Who is the Visitor Center named after?

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Why is she important?

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2. Study the displays to answer these questions.

a. Who do you think will be the successful hunter in the food chain diorama?

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b. There are three or four rocks in the glass case with the badger and other stuffed animals. Draw one of the rocks and tell what it is.

c. In order to have seeds and new plants each year, what has to take place? Name some ways this is done. (hint: insects)

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d. What part of the flowers are designed to attract insects?

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*The state bird, with an unusual topnotch, is the California \_\_\_\_\_.*

3. What was the most interesting thing you saw in the Visitor Center?  
Draw a picture of it or describe it.

4. Now go outside, stand in front and look at the building. Back up if you need to (*but stay on the sidewalk*).

a. Do you notice what's different on the roof? If so, what?

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b. If you follow the sidewalk to the left a short ways, what do you notice about the sides and back of the building? (hint: can you see them?)

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c. So what can you tell about how the Visitor Center is made?

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Ok, time for some real exploring and fun. Pick a trail and let's get ready.



*California is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ State.*  
(Take a guess.)

# Exploring the Trails

1. Before you take off there are some things you need to think about. You want to be sure and have the right supplies and know the park rules. Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

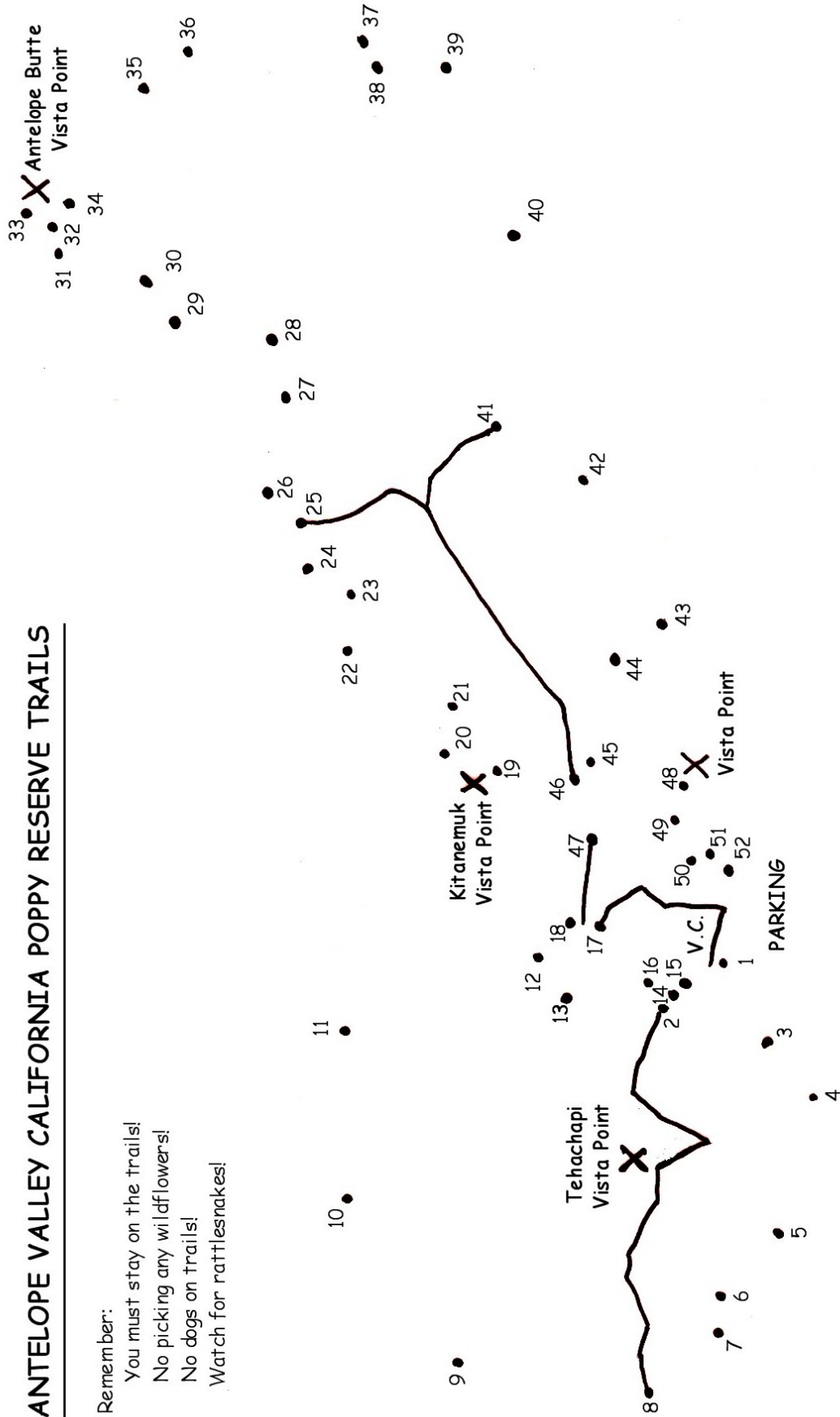
- a.. Keep on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. You should drink plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ on hot days.
- c. It would be a waste of energy to carry a video \_\_\_\_\_ while exploring the park.
- d. You might like to have a \_\_\_\_\_ while looking at small insects and plants.
- e. You want to do a good job filling out your \_\_\_\_\_ so you can earn your reward.
- f. A \_\_\_\_\_ would be very good protection from the sun on a long hike.
- g. Don't forget a \_\_\_\_\_ so you can complete your booklet.
- h. Your mom might want you to wear \_\_\_\_\_ if you will be out in the sun for awhile.
- i. Pack a \_\_\_\_\_ in your backpack if it is a chilly day.
- j. Always watch for \_\_\_\_\_!

- hat
- Junior Ranger Adventure Guide
- magnifying glass
- pencil
- snakes
- sunscreen
- sweatshirt
- trails
- game
- water

# ANTELOPE VALLEY CALIFORNIA POPPY RESERVE TRAILS

Remember:

- You must stay on the trails!
- No picking any wildflowers!
- No dogs on trails!
- Watch for rattlesnakes!



Connect the dots to show the trails at the Poppy Reserve.  
 Using the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve Trails map, show the trail you want to hike by writing its name along the trail.

2. So, what trail have you picked to explore? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Walk a little ways and stop where there aren't a lot of other people. We may not always see what is around us. Sometimes we have to listen to tell us what's there. Try to forget about any people sounds and just listen to what you hear in nature. Check the ones you hear.

wind blowing

birds singing

insects buzzing

water - explain \_\_\_\_\_

snake rattling - if you do, freeze, look for the snake and then slowly back away. Don't mess with it! If he is rattling he is already mad. Rattlesnakes are very venomous!

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you smell anything describe it. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Now look for clues about who, or what, lives in the park. Look at the trail and you will probably see lots of human footprints. But look carefully for what else you might see. Check any that you find.

tiny ant trails

small foot prints

coyote scat

chewed leaves

small animal trails through the grass

animal tunnels

bird tracks

feathers

spider webs

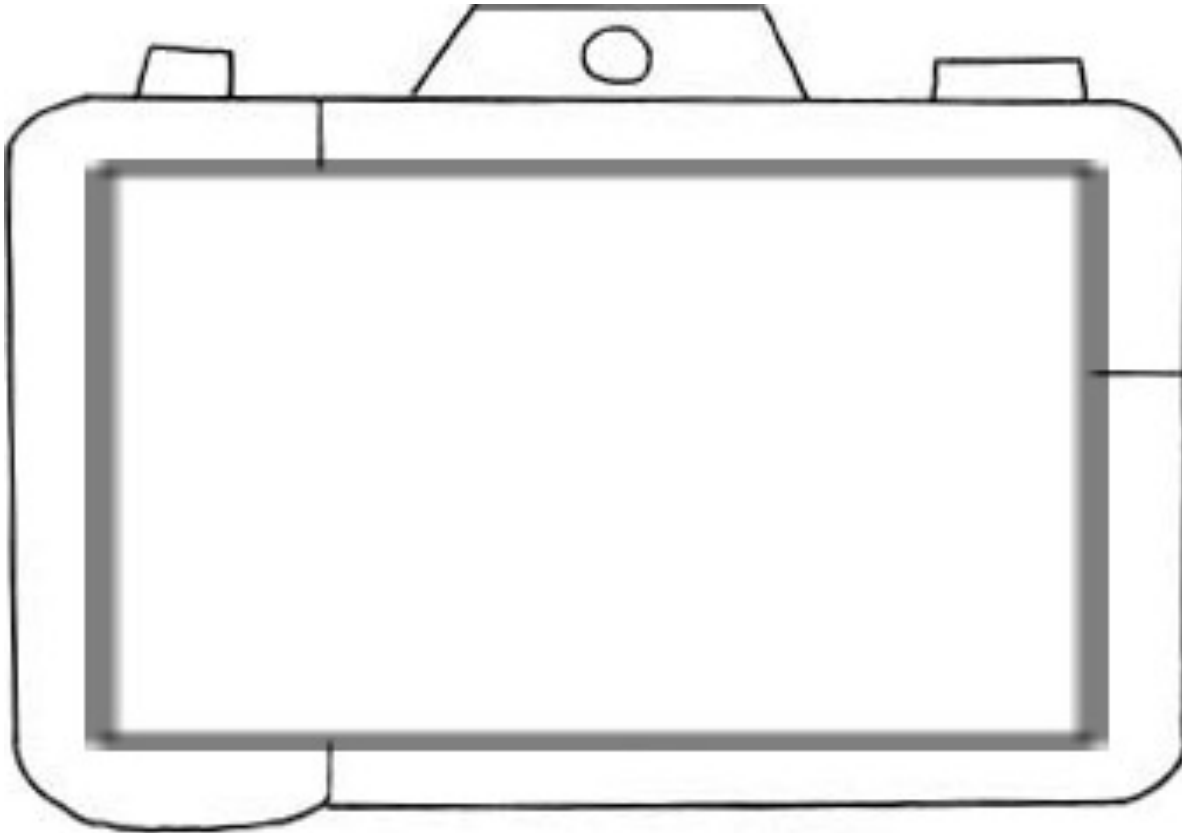
other \_\_\_\_\_

5. See anything interesting? Tell what it is.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. Ok, keep hiking until you reach your destination - Tehachapi Vista, Kitanamuk, etc. Now "take a picture" - draw what you see in the camera below. The view is from \_\_\_\_\_



7. Plants and trees can be divided into two groups - ones that grow here by themselves, called natives, and plants that were brought in from somewhere else, called non-\_\_\_\_\_. The poppies and most other wildflowers are \_\_\_\_\_ (You can ask a park worker about this.) Why do you think non-native plants might be a problem?
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8. Let's head back. As you go, remember that as a Junior Ranger your main job is to protect and care for the park you are visiting. Sadly some people don't follow the rules. As you walk along do you see any signs of where people have not followed the rules? Tell what you see.
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9. How does this affect you and other visitors?

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10. What can you do to help protect the natural things you see here at the California Poppy Reserve?

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## Poppy Reserve Crossword

Complete the crossword using the Reserve brochure.

### Across

3. our valley was named for this animal which used to live here.
7. state bird of California; has a unique top-notch.
9. a non-poisonous snake with a smaller head and neck than a rattlesnake.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Desert Woodland - another state park about 7 miles west of the Reserve. (Hint: check to Location Map.)
11. a slow-growing tree; native to the park and the Antelope Valley; grows in only a few western states.
12. named the state flower in 1903.
14. once the most common lizard at the Reserve.
15. designed to blend in with the natural setting of the Reserve.

### Down

1. a yellow and brown (or black) banded (striped) snake.
2. *geococcyx californianus* - a bird seen mostly running on the ground.
4. part of the mission, or purpose, of the California State Parks is to protect our natural and cultural \_\_\_\_\_.
5. 500-800 of these flowers can grow in one square foot.

















<p>The state motto is _ _ _ _ _ - meaning, "I have found it!" (Can you guess?)</p>
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# Plants and Animals Bingo

Circle anything you saw on your hike.

Try to connect 4 in a row or at least 8 different plants or animals.

			
Poppy	Horned Lark	Goldfields	Snake
			
Beetle	Fiddleneck	Silver Puffs	Raven
			
Owl's Clover	Lizard	Joshua Tree	Phacelia
			
Filaree	Hawk	Meadowlark	Cream Cups

## Ripley Desert Woodland

In case you have extra time you might also like to visit the Ripley Desert Woodland, another California State Park, about 6 or 7 miles west of here. You can see a different variety of plants and learn a little more history of the area as you take a self-guided tour. Ask for a brochure before you go.

*The state mineral of California is* \_ \_ \_ \_ . (Any guesses?)

# Becoming a Junior Ranger

Now that you have learned about the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, and what it means to become a Junior Ranger, read the pledge below and sign your name.

## Junior Ranger Pledge

I promise to:

treat the earth and all living things with care and respect.

be careful of what I do and how it affects others.

learn about the importance of nature and our heritage.

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(Sign here to become an official State Park Junior Ranger)

Once you have finished all the questions and activities in this Adventure Guide, you are ready to become a Junior Ranger.



Bring your Adventure Guide to the Visitor (Interpretive) Center to get your California State Parks Junior Ranger award for this park.

You will also get your Junior Ranger Logbook stamped. (Ask for one if you have never gotten one.) And be sure to take your logbook with you to other participating state parks to get it stamped there and earn cumulative Junior Ranger awards.

# Congratulations - you are now an Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve Junior Ranger!

To learn more about this state park and other cool California State Parks go to [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).



## Congratulations!



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(Your name here)

Has completed the Junior Ranger Adventure Guide at the  
**Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve**  
and is now an official Junior Ranger for California State Parks  
and has pledged to be a friend to nature and a keeper of history.

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(Staff Signature)

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(Date)