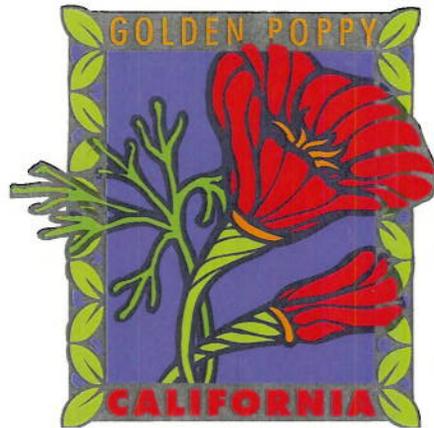


Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve



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 poisonous _____ in the area.
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? _____
 - 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 *Eschscholtzia 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.



The state flower of California is the California _____.

Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt

1. Who is the Visitor Center named after?

Why is she important?

2. Study the displays to answer these questions.

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

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)

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

The state bird 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. What do you notice that's different on the roof?

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?)

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

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



California is known as the _____ State.

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.

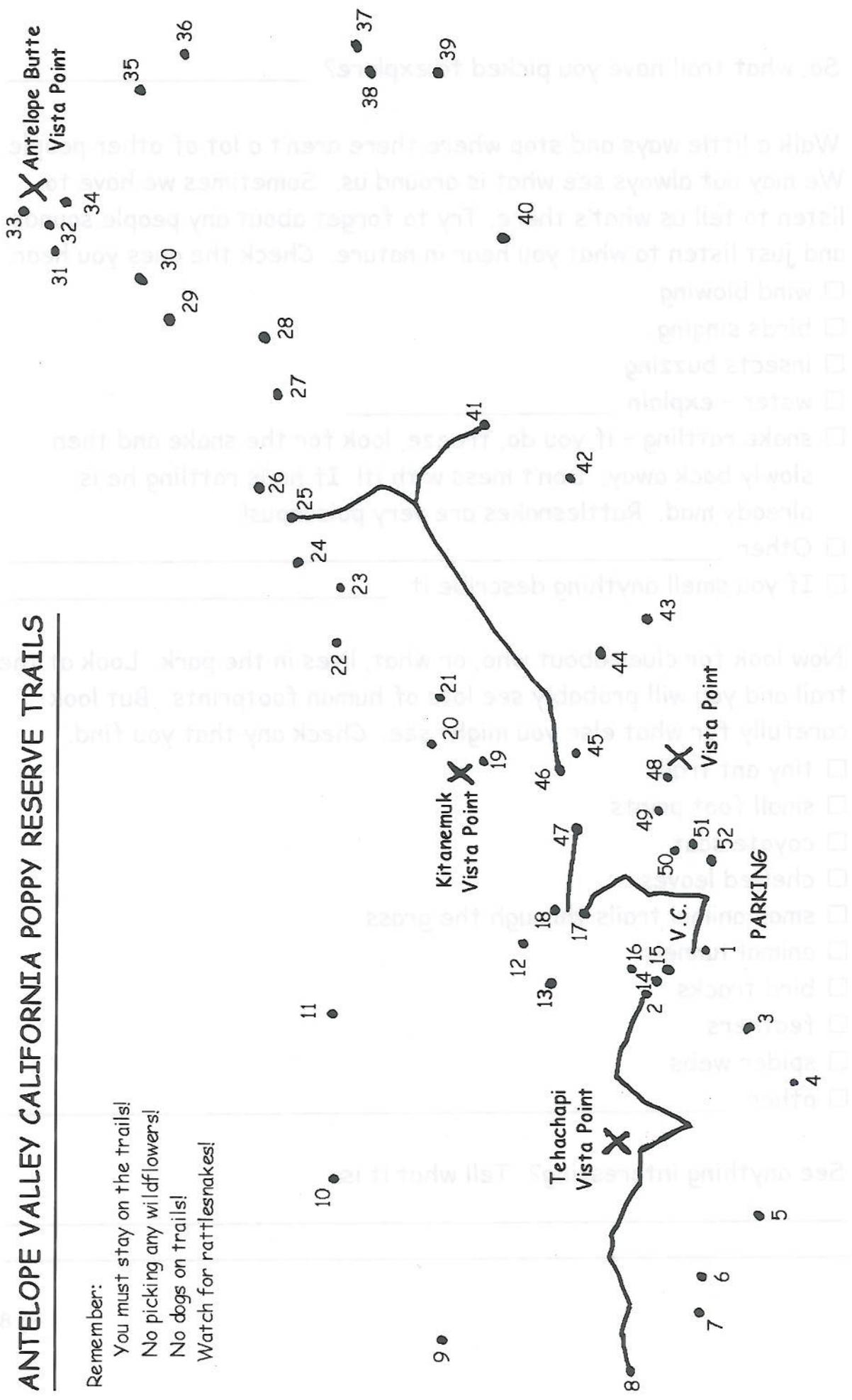
- a.. Keep on the _____.
- b. You should drink plenty of _____ on hot days.
- c. It would be a waste of energy to carry a _____ while exploring the park.
- d. You might like to have a _____ while looking at small insects and plants.
- e. You want to do a good job filling out your _____ so you can earn 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
- video 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.

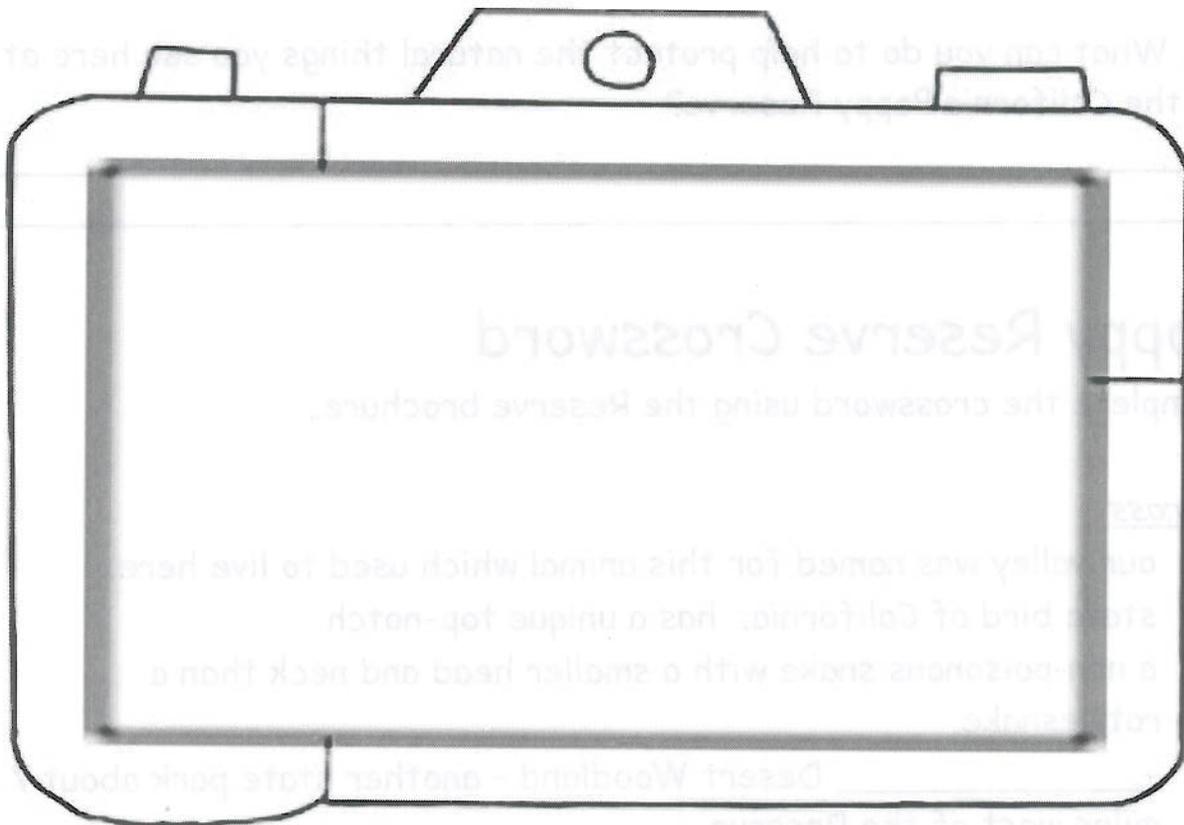
- wind blowing
- birds singing
- insects buzzing
- water - explain _____
- snake rattling - if you do, freeze, look for the snake and then slowly back away. Don't mess with it! If he is rattling he is already mad. Rattlesnakes are very poisonous!
- Other _____
- If you smell anything describe it. _____

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?
-

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.
-
-

9. How does this affect you and other visitors?

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

Poppy Reserve Crossword

Complete the crossword using the Reserve brochure.

Across

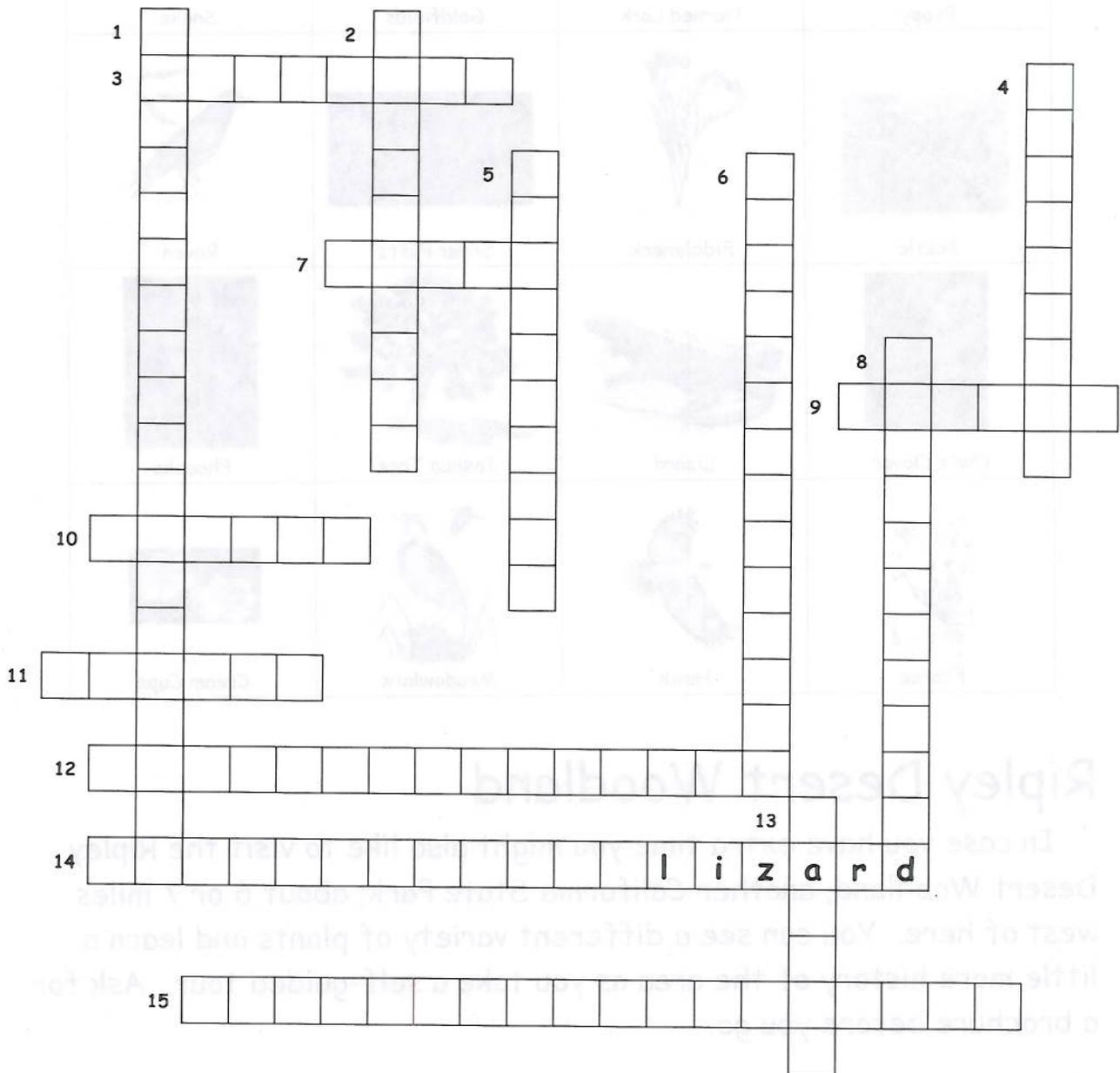
- our valley was named for this animal which used to live here.
- state bird of California; has a unique top-notch.
- a non-poisonous snake with a smaller head and neck than a rattlesnake.
- _____ Desert Woodland - another state park about 7 miles west of the Reserve.
- a slow-growing tree; native to the park and the Antelope Valley; grows in only a few western states.
- named the state flower in 1903.
- the most common lizard at the Reserve.
- designed to blend in with the natural setting of the Reserve.

Down

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

The state motto is _____ - meaning "I
have found it!"

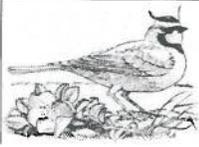
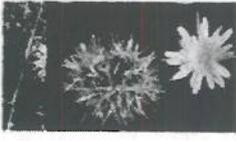
6. the place where the only large fields of poppies still grow; they once grew throughout the whole state.
8. a lizard with "horns" on the back of his head; also known as a horned toad.
13. nearby Fort Tejon was named after this animal. (the American name for it?)



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 _____.

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 Promise

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.

(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.



Congratulations!



(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.

(Staff Signature)

(Date)

