



## Junior Ranger Program



### How to Earn Your Junior Ranger Badge

Complete at least **4 activity pages** to earn your Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Junior Ranger Badge. When you are finished, bring your activity booklet to the Visitor Center Information Desk. We will review it with you and award you with your official Junior Ranger Badge!

I promise to help protect national wildlife refuges. I will practice the "pack it in, pack it out" and "leave no trace" motto by not leaving any trash behind.

I will not feed or disturb wildlife, pick plants, or disturb any living or non-living thing on Refuge lands. I will always show respect to wildlife, property, others, and historical places. I will continue to learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System and nature.

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Junior Ranger Signature

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Refuge Staff/Volunteer Signature



## Visitor Center Exhibit Hall

### Scavenger Hunt

Find the Underground Cities display. Locate the black-footed ferret living underground. Above ground, how many prairie dogs do you see?

\_\_\_\_\_

Find the coyote and deer jaw bone. Notice the differences in teeth. What do mule deer eat?

\_\_\_\_\_

Find the old telephone

Find the bald eagle and red-tailed hawk (look up!)

Take your picture standing in front of the bison

#### Challenge Questions:

Pure Prairie exhibit: Find the food web. What are primary consumers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Staking Claims exhibit: How did kids get to school?

\_\_\_\_\_

Recipe for a Prairie exhibit: Name one grasses bison like to eat.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Visitor Center Back Patio

Find the animal "measure up" black silhouettes located on the back patio attached to the Visitor Center wall.

Measure up and write what animal is your size.

\_\_\_\_\_

How many of you would it take to be a bison?

\_\_\_\_\_

Using your hands, count how many it would take to make a bald eagle wingspan. \_\_\_\_\_

Try to jump the length of the mallard duck wingspan.

If you could be one of these animals, which one would it be? \_\_\_\_\_



# Wildland Firefighter Physical Fitness

Wildland firefighters help prevent and put out wild fires. They must carry a lot of tools and heavy gear. They have to take a physical fitness test each year to make sure they are in shape to safely fight wildland fires.

Test your physical fitness by doing....

5 push ups



10 jumping jacks



5 sit ups



Run in place for 10 seconds

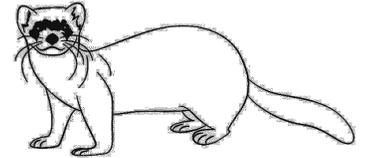
Check the box after you've completed these activities.

## **Fun fact:**

Did you know that many wildland fire fighters carry up to 150 pound backpacks when going into the wilderness to fight fires? It's like carrying 10 bowling balls!

# Ferret It Out

Visit the black-footed ferret exhibit just beyond the Visitor Center back patio. Signs will guide you. Be sure to walk up the sidewalk to the rooftop of the building where the telescope is located. Use the signs on the railing to answer these questions.



1. Black-footed ferrets live in the (circle one)  
short grass prairie   trees   by water
2. Black-footed ferrets were thought to be extinct.   True   False
3. Write down 2 animals that are predators of the black-footed ferret.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_   2. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Young ferrets are called kits:   True   False
5. Ferrets are active at night (nocturnal). Think about what it would be like to hunt for food at night. Which senses are the most important? (circle answers)  
Sight   Hearing   Touch   Smell   Taste

## Bison Hike

Hike the Discovery Trail located on the Visitor Center back patio. Ahead, on the other side of the fence is one of the Refuge's bison pastures. Along the trail, near the bison watering spot, is a sign about the bison. Locate the sign and answer the following questions.

Male bison (bulls) weigh \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

Female bison (cows) weigh \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

Bison can run up to \_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour

Bison can walk up to \_\_\_\_\_ miles per day

Bison can live up to \_\_\_\_\_ years old

Bison have (circle one):   Horns   Antlers

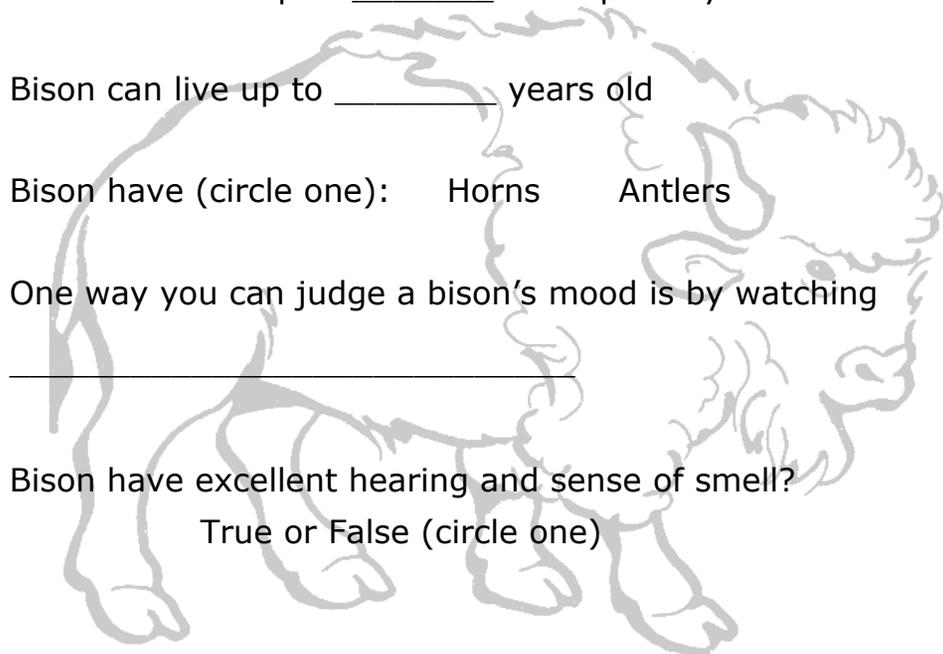
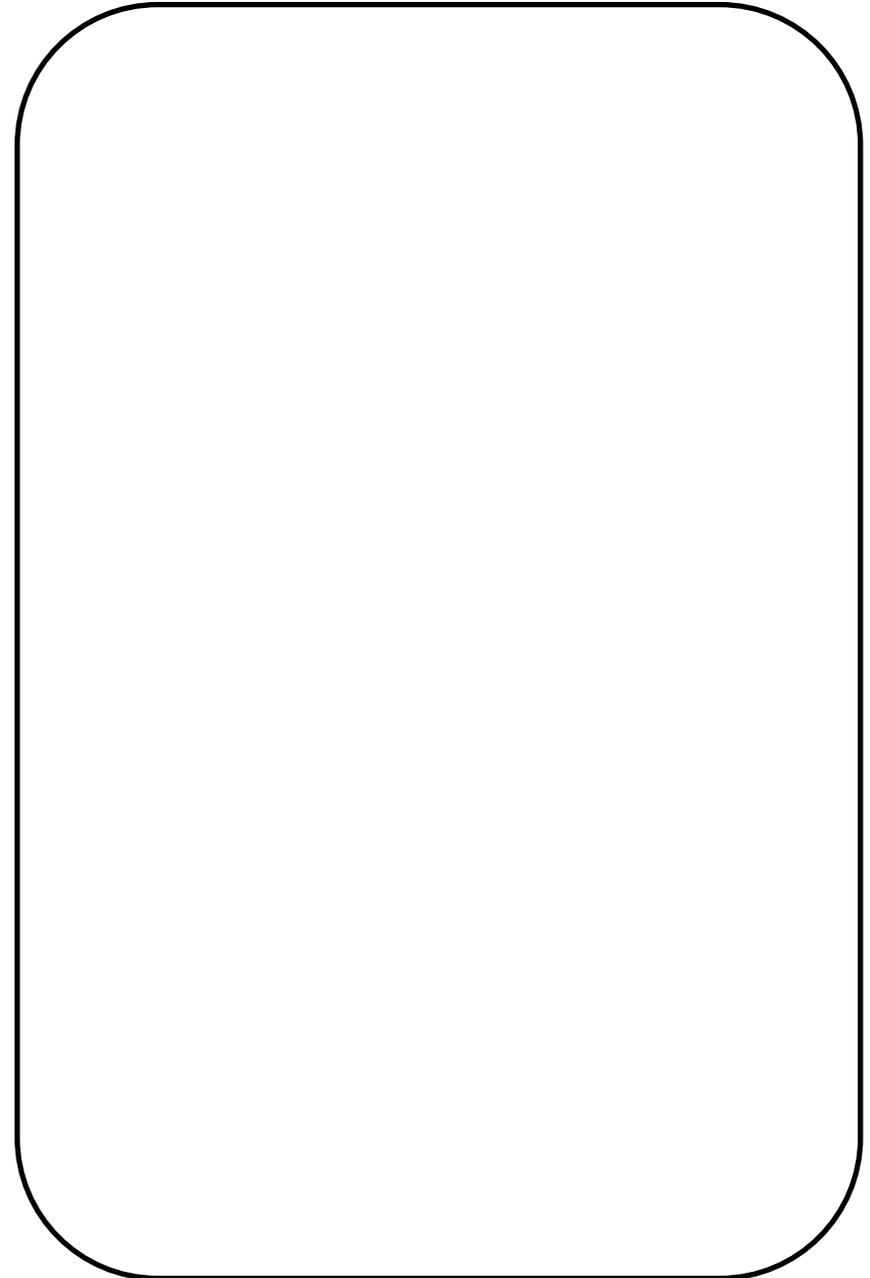
One way you can judge a bison's mood is by watching

\_\_\_\_\_

Bison have excellent hearing and sense of smell?

True or False (circle one)

## Animal Adaptations Drawing



# Animal Adaptations

Adaptations are any behavioral or physical characteristic of an animal that helps it survive in its environment.

Here are some examples:

**Webbed feet** help animals move through the water

**Whiskers** help an animal feel its way through tight spots

**Sharp teeth** help an animal eat meat

**Wings** help an animal fly and travel from place to place

**Camouflage** help animals blend into their habitat to avoid predators or sneak up on prey

**Fins** help animals move through water



Now that you know more about adaptations make your own imaginary refuge animal:

**Animal Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Where does it live:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does it eat:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it move:** \_\_\_\_\_

Draw your imaginary animal on the next page.

# Bison Observation

Take the wildlife drive or hike the Discovery Trail to view bison. When you find the herd complete these field notes.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_



Count the number of bison you see: \_\_\_\_\_

Male bison (bulls) are very large and weigh up to 2,000 pounds. Females (cows) are smaller and weigh up to 1,200 pounds. See if you can spot the difference and count the number of:

Bulls \_\_\_\_\_ Cows \_\_\_\_\_ Calves \_\_\_\_\_

Are the bison resting, eating, drinking, or walking (circle one)?

If the herd is moving, what direction are they going?

\_\_\_\_\_

Write down the name of other animals you see in the bison pasture. Make tally marks next to each animal to record how many you see.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# I Spy Hike

Hike a Refuge trail.  
Find something that is .....

- Made by an animal
- Flying
- Made by humans
- Eating grass
- As tall as you
- As long as your shadow
- Small
- Soft
- Round
- Smooth
- Food for an animal
- Shade/shelter for an animal



# Animal Tracks

Draw a line matching the animal to its tracks.

