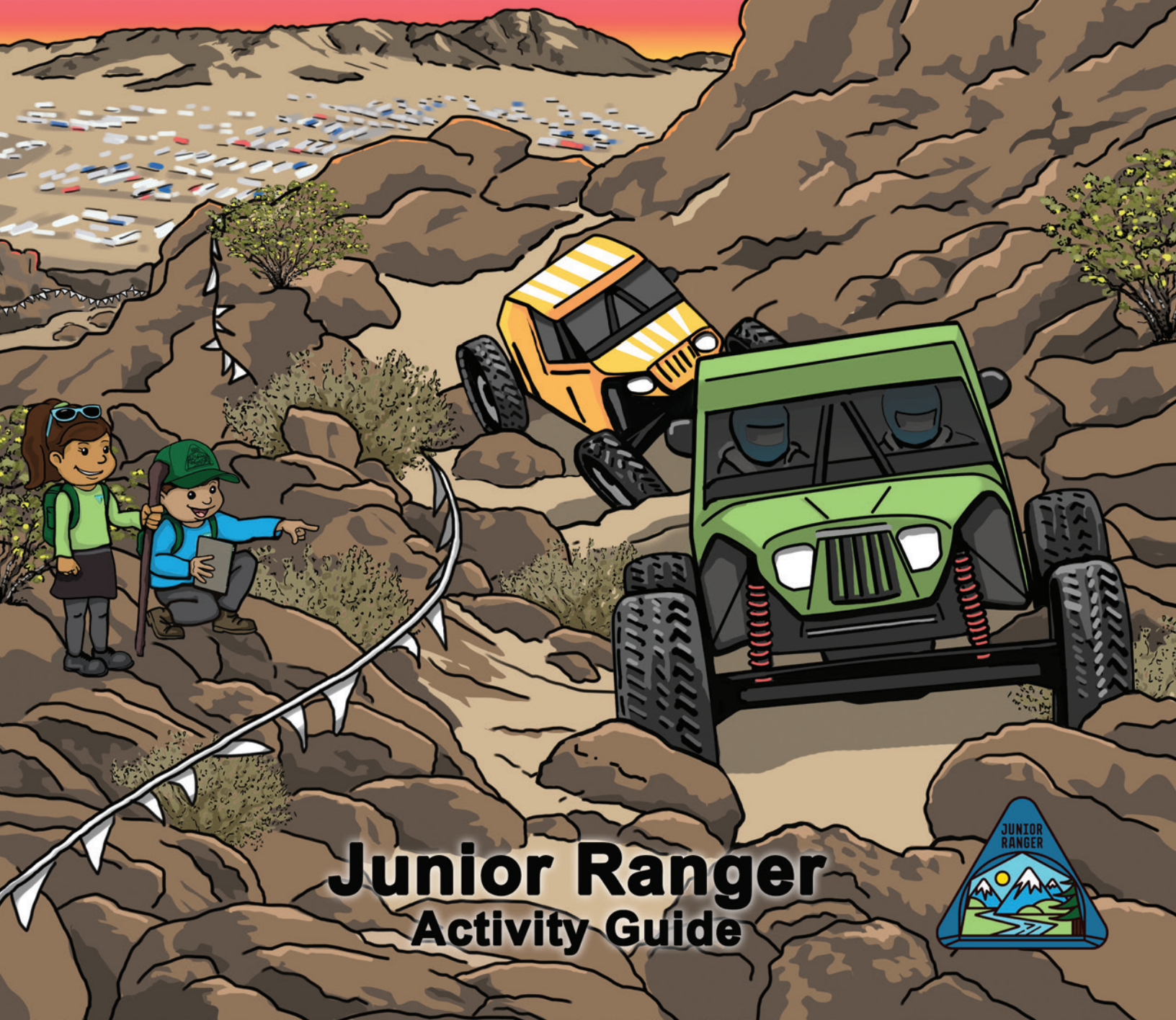


U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

California
Desert District
Barstow Field Office



Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area



Junior Ranger Activity Guide



What is a Junior Ranger?

A Junior Ranger follows the motto of:

Safety First, Every Ride, Every Time.

A Junior Ranger cares for plants, animals, and the land.

A Junior Ranger encourages others to recreate responsibly.

Receive your Junior Ranger badge and signed certificate:

After you complete six or more activities in this book, you can receive your Junior Ranger badge and signed certificate by doing one of the following:

- 1) Bring your booklet to one of the Bureau of Land Management offices or visitor centers listed on the back cover

OR

- 2) Mail your booklet to : Bureau of Land Management
Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd.
Barstow, CA 92311
Attention: Junior Ranger Program



Welcome to Johnson Valley OHV Area

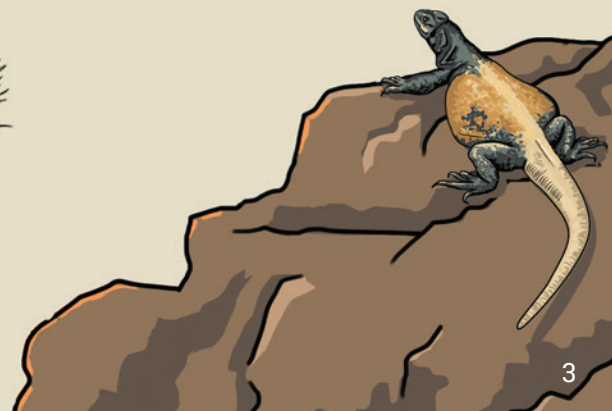
Johnson Valley is a varied landscape for the off-highway vehicle (OHV) driver. It has steep red rocky mountains, rolling hills, open valley, dry lake beds and sandy washes. Elevations go from 4,600 feet at Hartwell Hills down to 2,300 feet at Melville Dry Lake.

Johnson Valley offers a riding opportunity for every skill level. The southeast part of the riding area offers a large mass of hills known to the rock crawler world as the "Hammers." This area is for experts and has gained the attention of off-roaders in recent years through an event called "King of the Hammers". The area north of the Hammers offers a quality riding experience for beginner and intermediate riders and some small dune riding experience.



Anderson Dry Lake on the western boundary of the area is used for casual riding for intermediate and beginner riders and is popular with off-roaders. Cougar Buttes area has small rolling hills for the beginner, rocky ridges for the more experienced riders, huge rock structures for the rock crawlers and is a popular place for motorcycle trials events.

We invite you to get outdoors and explore the Johnson Valley OHV Area. Pack water and food and enjoy a ride. Look for interesting plants and wildlife. Listen for birds and buzzing insects. OHV Recreation is a healthy way for family and friends to have fun, explore trails and discover wonderful things along the way!



Safety First, Every Ride, Every Time

While you complete the activities in this booklet, make sure you follow our Junior Ranger motto of “*Safety First, Every Ride, Every Time*” by modeling appropriate OHV behavior and wearing your personal protective equipment Every Ride, Every Time!

Safety Gear – Seven for Safety

1. A **HELMET** is your most important piece of equipment. Select an approved helmet that fits snugly and can be securely fastened.

2. **EYE PROTECTION** should be worn with all helmets to protect eyes from branches, rocks, dust, or bugs. Eye protection includes goggles or a face shield on your helmet.

3. A **LONG-SLEEVE SHIRT** prevents scrapes, burns, bug bites and brush rubs.

4. **PANTS** prevent scrapes, burns, and brush rubs. Although leather, denim, or corduroy pants are fine, synthetic riding pants are the most durable and are available in many riding shops.

5. **GLOVES** protect hands during a fall and also keep fingers warm. Synthetic riding gloves provide a better grip. Fingerless gloves are not suitable for OHV riding. Motorcycle gloves are the best; they are curved for the most comfort and best grip.

6. **BOOTS** must go over the ankle. Suitable boots may include over-the-ankle hiking boots; however, the best, most comfortable, and safest boots are those designed for riding.

7. **BODY ARMOR** (neck brace, chest protector, kidney belt) is strongly recommended for both beginners and experienced riders. Beginners take heed and remember, experienced riders have learned the hard way to wear this additional safety gear for their own protection.

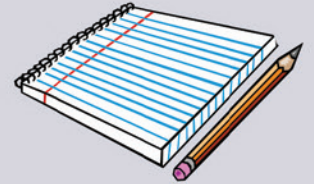
Safety Gear



Pack Your Pack—Let's Go for a Ride!

There are many things you need to take along while some items are better left behind for a day on the trail. Imagine this is your bedroom, and you are about to go to Johnson Valley to go riding for the day.

"Pack" your backpack by circling all the things you would take on your ride. Remember, even if you are planning to go just for the day, it is a good idea to be prepared to spend the night – just in case.



Ten Essentials	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Map, water, compass, matches, first aid kit, sunscreen, flashlight, snacks and a jacket.

Senses Ride

Now that you have your safety gear on and your backpack ready, take a ride throughout Johnson Valley and use your senses to discover the natural world around you.

Listed below are four of our five senses: sight, sound, smell and touch. We have not included taste in this activity because some of the plants in this area might be harmful if eaten! Use each one of your senses to learn about something along the trail and describe it below.

Example:

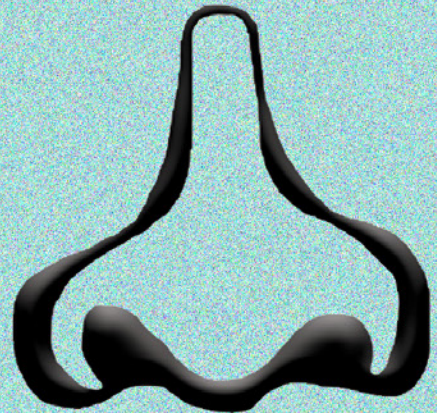
Sight: I saw some animal tracks in the sand near a burrow.

Sight:



Sound:

Smell:












Touch:



Wildlife Detective

Hit the trails and explore Johnson Valley to see what wildlife you may encounter. Many animals are shy. We sometimes find clues they leave behind in their habitat. Check off the clues below as you find them. Walk quietly, listen closely and stay alert. You never know what animal may cross your path.

Don't put your hands or feet in areas where you cannot see such as on a ledge, or in a crevice, and use caution when you pick up rocks or debris where a rattlesnake may be hiding!! Good luck wildlife detective!

<input type="checkbox"/>	 Leaf chewed by an insect	<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal tracks 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Insect buzzing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scat (droppings) 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Bird tracks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spider Web 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Animal burrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	A nest in a tree 
<input type="checkbox"/>	 A feather	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add your own

Johnson Valley Bingo

Go on a scavenger hunt in Johnson Valley. Look for, but don't collect, the items in the boxes below. Remember to leave the plants and rocks where you find them.

Place an "X" on items that you find. Find four in a row down, across or diagonally in order to complete this activity. Can you find them all?

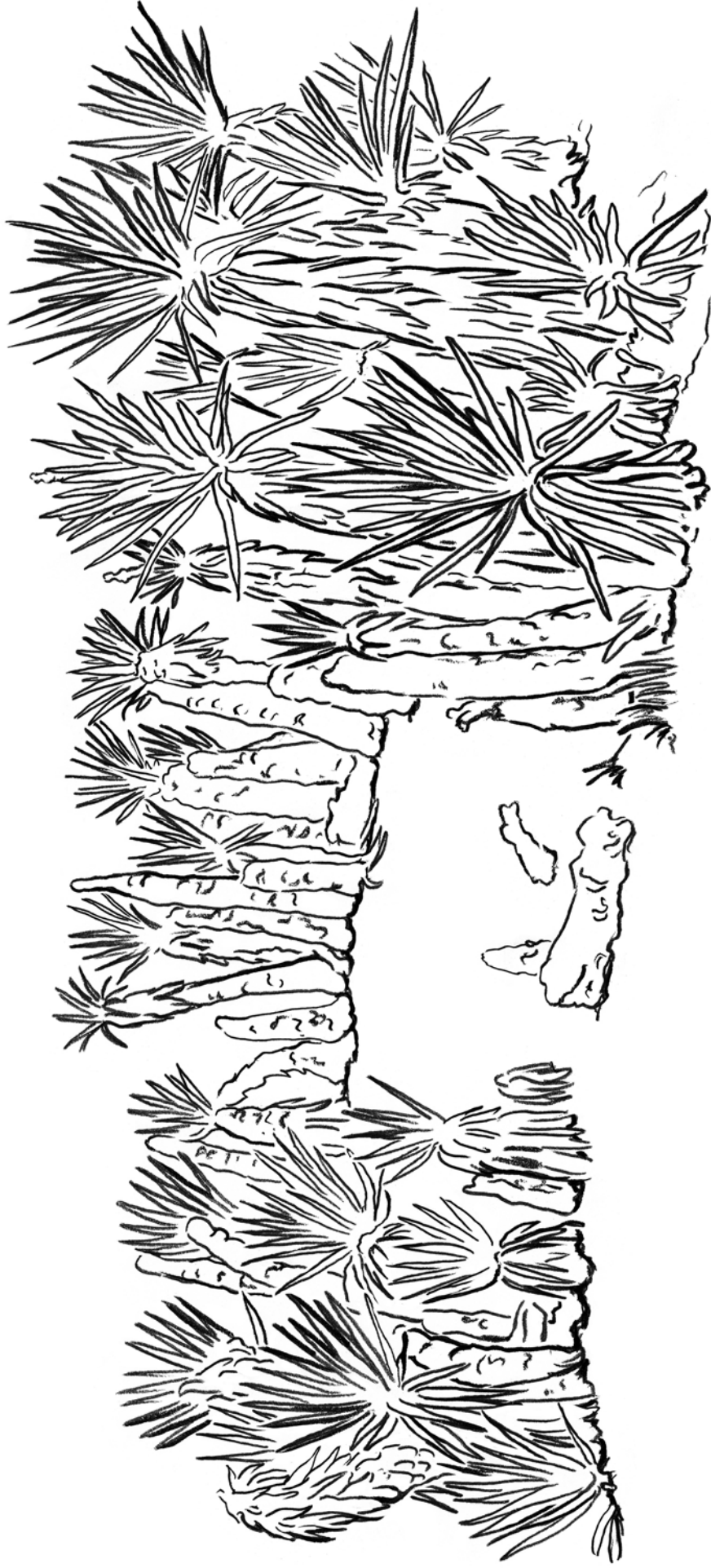
INSECT	BLM SIGN	CACTUS	BIRD
HAWK	JOSHUA TREE	BOULDER	BUTTERFLY
DUNE BUGGY	RV	MOTORCYCLE	AIRPLANE
ATV	ANIMAL TRACKS	LIZARD	WILDFLOWER



Yucca Rings

Located within the Johnson Valley OHV Area is the Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings Preserve Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Mojave yucca, (*yucca schidigera*) can sprout from seeds when fertilized by the yucca moth, or can clone itself by producing copies of its DNA within the sprouts.

Yucca rings can be as large as 20 feet in diameter and have up to as many as 130 stalks. This ring below started from a single plant and is a natural clone of the original. Rings as rare as these are thought to be up to 2,500 years old. Please use caution when operating your OHV around these plants and help preserve and protect this valuable scientific natural resource.



Public Lands Belong to You

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that cares for more than 245 million acres of land.

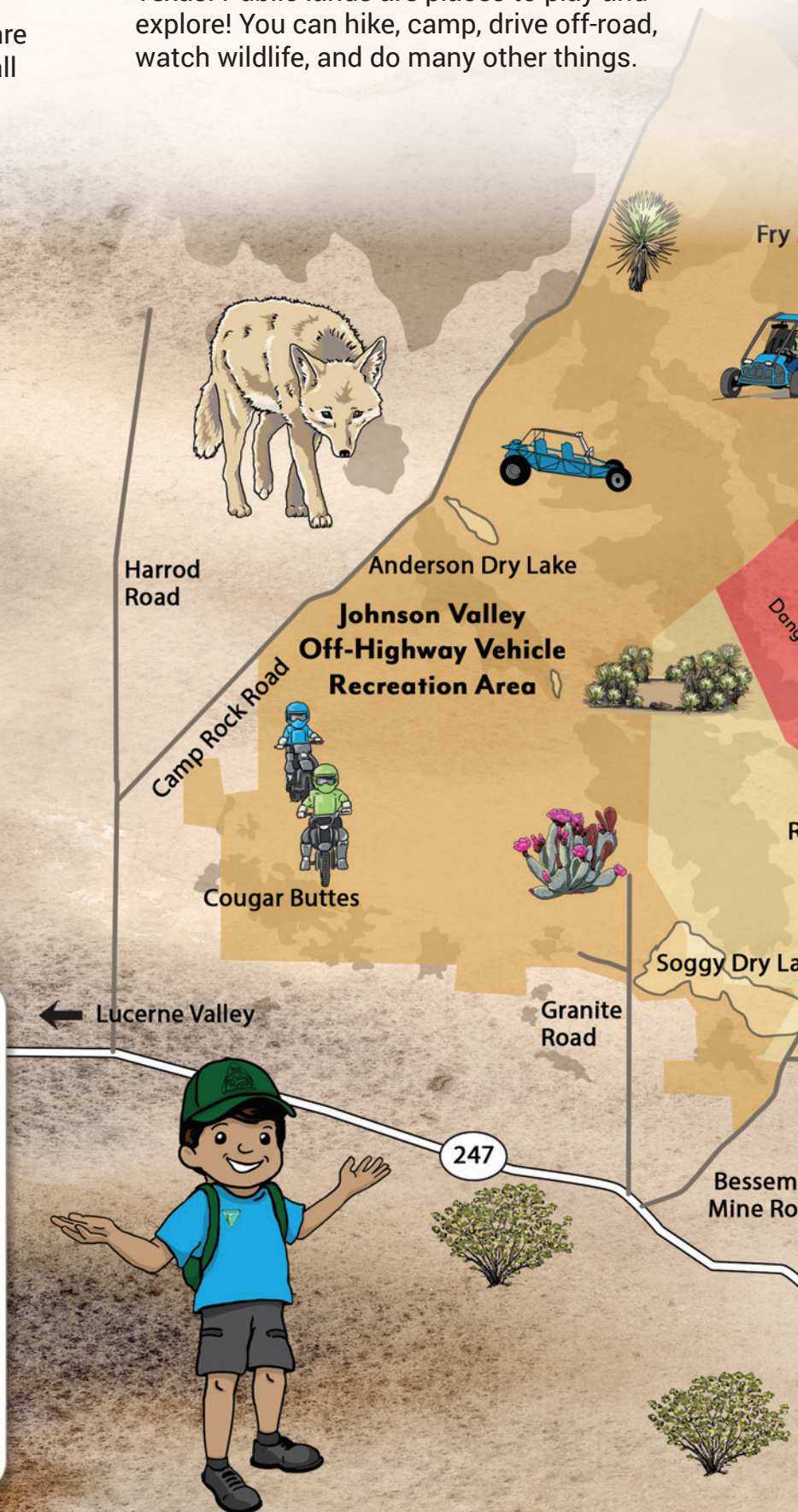
Most of these lands are in the western part of the United States. These lands are called public lands and they belong to all

Americans, including you! If you put all these lands together they are almost equal in area to all the land in the states of California and Texas. Public lands are places to play and explore! You can hike, camp, drive off-road, watch wildlife, and do many other things.

Trace Your Route

There is so much to explore in and around the Johnson Valley OHV Area. This map shows a few places where people like to visit.

Along the way, look for some of the plants and animals that are pictured throughout the map. Circle the ones you see.



In 2013, boundaries between the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (Combat Center) and BLM changed, expanding the Combat Center into the Johnson Valley OHV area by 144,000 acres. Now 88,000 acres are for exclusive military use and 56,000 acres are shared between the public and the military.

The Marine Corps is authorized to conduct military training in the Shared Use Area for two 30-day periods each year, during which time it is closed to the public. For the remaining 10 months, the Shared Use Area is open to the public and managed by the BLM. We hope you will get outside and enjoy Johnson OHV area as well as other BLM land!



The Good and Bad of Fire

Fire permits are required and may be restricted in the fire season (May – October).
Fire danger is extreme during most of the year.

Across

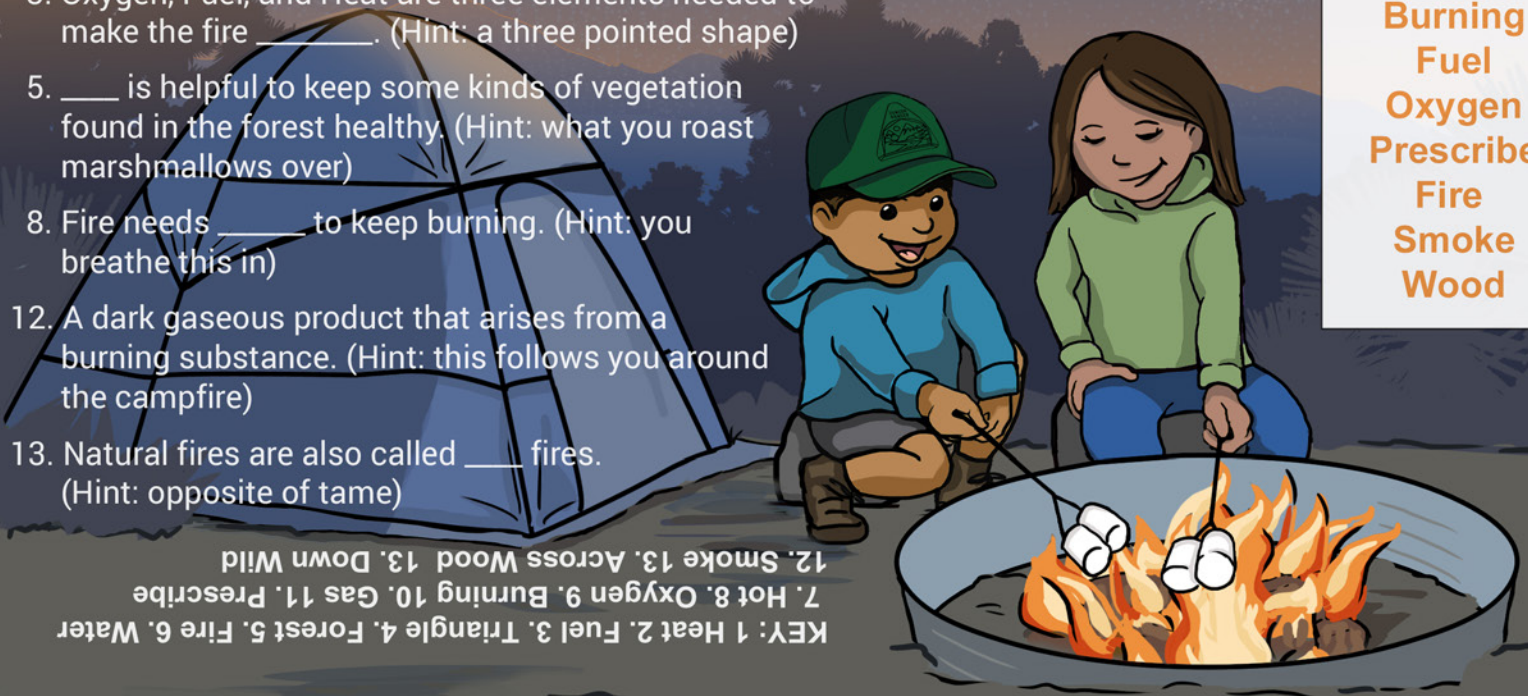
2. Layers of pine needles, dead wood, and shrubbery can act as ___ for fires. (Hint: another word for gas)
4. A _____ can experience both good and bad fires. (Hint: trees live in a _____)
6. ___ puts out wood, paper, trash, and cloth fires. (Hint: you also drink this)
7. Fire is fast and ___ (Hint: opposite of cold)
9. Fire needs oxygen, heat, and fuel to keep it _____.
10. Fire happens when fuel heats up, turns into a ___, and reacts with oxygen in the air. (Hint: It's not a liquid or a solid, it's a ___)
11. Fire managers _____ controlled burns to keep forests healthy. (Hint: Doctor's _____ medicine like fire fighter's _____ fires)
13. When ___ is heated, it releases flammable gases that reacts with oxygen and ignites. (Hint: what trees are made of)

Down

1. Fire gives off _____. (Hint: another name for warm)
3. Oxygen, Fuel, and Heat are three elements needed to make the fire _____. (Hint: a three pointed shape)
5. ___ is helpful to keep some kinds of vegetation found in the forest healthy. (Hint: what you roast marshmallows over)
8. Fire needs _____ to keep burning. (Hint: you breathe this in)
12. A dark gaseous product that arises from a burning substance. (Hint: this follows you around the campfire)
13. Natural fires are also called ___ fires. (Hint: opposite of tame)



**Wild
Triangle
Gas
Forest
Water
Heat
Hot
Burning
Fuel
Oxygen
Prescribe
Fire
Smoke
Wood**



KEY: 1 Heat 2. Fuel 3. Triangle 4. Forest 5. Fire 6. Water
7. Hot 8. Oxygen 9. Burning 10. Gas 11. Prescribe
12. Smoke 13. Across Wood 13. Down Wild

Connect to the Stars!

Can you use the images below to guide you in connecting the stars into constellations?



Map It Out

Get a copy of the Johnson Valley map and take a close look at it. Use the map legend to find the trails, campsites, landmarks, and roads.

Find a special spot on the map you think would be interesting to visit. Make sure it is someplace you have time to visit and that there is a safe way to get there. Also mark your campsite in case you get lost!!

What is it? (example: Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings) _____

How can you get to this special place? Write directions. What roads or trails would you drive on? Where would you park? Would you need to hike? _____

Go find your special place (following the Jr. Ranger Safety Tips of course!). What are your first impressions of your spot? How does being at your spot make you feel?

Write about your spot:



A decorative border of green hibiscus flowers surrounds the page. The flowers are stylized with white outlines and are arranged in a repeating pattern along the top, bottom, and sides of the page.

Be An Outdoor Artist

In this activity you can sketch pictures of nature or outdoor activities in Johnson Valley.

You can also use your smart phone to take pictures and then share them with your friends.

Sketch at least one picture of something in nature and at least one picture of an outdoor activity. Look for interesting shapes and interesting colors.

OHV Riding Should Be Fun and Responsible!

Find 10 mistakes made by these riders.



ANSWERS: ATV riders are chasing animals, girl is throwing litter, riders are riding off the trail, riders are not wearing over the ankle boots (flip flops and untied shoes are dangerous!), two riders on the ATV, no goggles (eye protection), no face protection, no gloves, no long sleeves, riders wearing shorts, girl's has no helmet, man's helmet not fastened.

Leave No Treads!

The desert is home to many plants and animals. While Johnson Valley is an open area, off-route recreation travel through adjacent wildlands can cause damage or disturbance to the soil and wildlife habitat. It can take hundreds of years for nature to repair the damage.

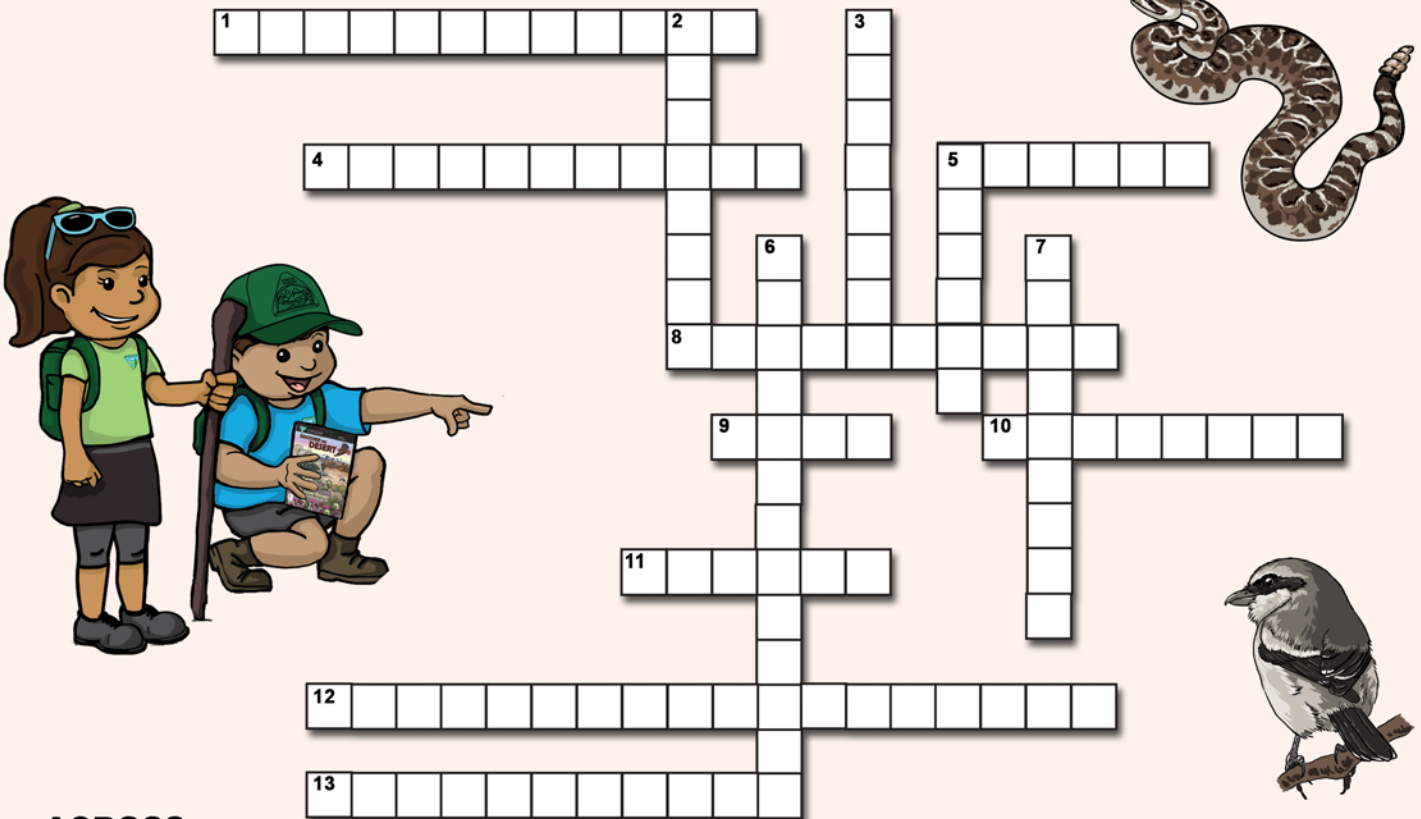
Complete this family's journey using the brown open routes to Johnson Valley.



What Will I Do When I Grow Up?

As you worked through this book, did you notice how many different activities the BLM manages on public lands for the people of the United States? This is called multiple-use management - using the land in a combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. It takes a lot highly-skilled professionals to take care of the nation's lands and resources. Right now, one of the biggest challenges for protecting and managing the land is finding the new generation of protectors.

Complete this crossword puzzle of careers that help protect the public lands of the California Desert District. Which of these jobs would you like to do?



ACROSS

- 1 I help control and put out wildfires
- 4 _____ Resources I make sure the computers are working
- 5 I manage wildlife and fisheries habitat
- 8 _____ Planner I plan opportunities for visitors to enjoy their public lands
- 9 _____ Surveyor I find old and new boundaries of public lands
- 10 I work with plants
- 11 _____ Affairs I communicate with the public and the BLM
- 12 I make sure radio systems and telephones are working properly
- 13 I manage water quality

DOWN

- 2 I design and construct roads, campgrounds, pipelines and more
- 3 _____ Biologist I manage wildlife and fisheries habitat
- 5 I work with land access and ownership
- 6 I use clues left behind to piece together the mysteries of earlier cultures
- 7 I manage the mining and minerals on public lands



Junior Ranger Oath



I promise to help protect the California Desert District, public lands, my community, and the earth by being an active and responsible steward of the environment.

I promise I will not feed wild animals.

I promise to respect the laws and rules of the land when I find rocks, fossils, plants, artifacts, or historic objects so that everyone may enjoy them.

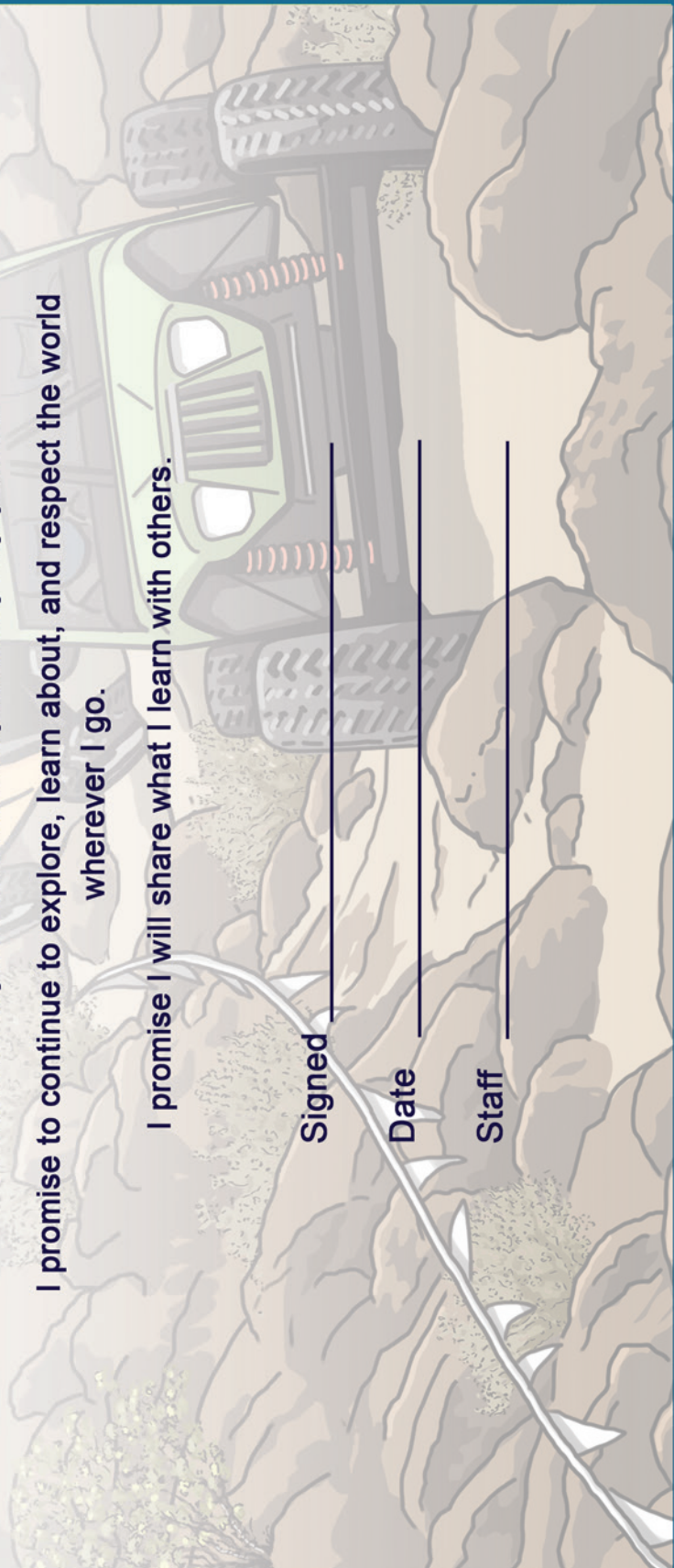
I promise to continue to explore, learn about, and respect the world wherever I go.

I promise I will share what I learn with others.

Signed _____

Date _____

Staff _____





U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

California
Desert District
Barstow Field Office



California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
(951) 697-5200

Desert Discovery Center
831 Barstow Rd.
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6060

Bureau of Land Management
Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd.
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000

