Indiana Dunes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Junior Wildland Firefighter Activity Booklet

"SCORCHY" SQUIRREL

Dear Junior Firefighter,

You're invited to discover wildland fire's role in our National Parks and become Junior Wildland Firefighters for the National Park Service. Learn how firefighters manage fire to protect property, lives, and ensure forest health.

To become a Junior Wildland Firefighter and earn a SCORCHY fire patch you must…

- Be 7 to 12 years of age.
- Attend the Junior Wildland Firefighter Program at the National Lakeshore's Campground. Times of program are located at: http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jrwildlandfirefighters.htm

OR

- Answer the questions in this book.

Bring your completed book to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Dorothy Buell Visitor Center and receive your **SCORCHY** fire patch. Booklet May also be mailed to:

NPS Fire Management Office
1100 N. Mineral Springs Rd,
Porter IN 46304

_____

Name

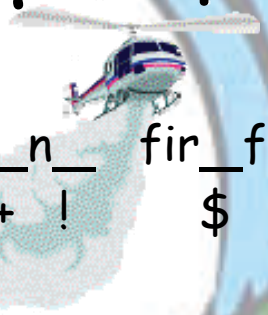
Friendly Fire

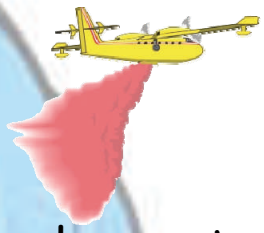
Wildland fire or forest fires are an essential, natural process. Fire has helped shape our ecosystems at Indiana Dunes for thousands of years. Fire helps recycle dead plants, releasing nutrients back into the soil. These nutrients help new plants grow which provides habitat for animals. Fire is a combination of heat, oxygen, fuel, and an ignition source. This is called the fire triangle. Lightning causes some forest fires, but people often cause them through carelessness.

Hmm, what job do wildland firefighters do? Solve the word puzzle below to find out!

Use the examples below to help you... CRACK the CODE

Answer:	A	B	C	D	E
Code:	+	#	%	!	$





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What's the Difference?

Wildland firefighters fight forest fires. House fires are put out by structural firefighters. Although the job is different, a lot of the equipment that the firefighters use and wear is alike.

Can you find some similar equipment used by each kind of firefighter?

Look at the list of safety equipment in the middle of the two fire-fighters. Draw a line from the equipment listed to where it is located on both of the firefighters.

STRUCTURAL/HOUSE FIREFIGHTER

WILDLAND/FOREST FIREFIGHTER

Helmet

Back Pack

Eye and eye Protection

Tool

Gloves

Leather Boots

Fire Resistant Coat and Pants

Fire Engine Tool Scramble

Wildland firefighters use fire trucks to carry people, water, and tools to wildfires. The activity below lists some of the tools that firefighters carry on their fire trucks to control wildland fires.

If you want to be a firefighter you need to know your tools! What tools are these? Draw lines between them.

1.
Chainsaw

2.
Fire hose

3.
Wildland fire helmet

4.
Chaps

5.
Drip torch

6.
Pulaski

Protects your legs when using a chainsaw

Used for lighting prescribed fires

Cuts and scraps fireline trenches

Used for cutting trees down

Used to protect your head from falling trees

Used for flowing water

Fire Investigator

Read the story:

During your visit to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore you decide to explore one of the many unique trails of the Dunes. You're hiking along through the black oak forest. All of sudden you come across a cluster of oak trees whose trunks are black near the ground. As you come around the bend in the trail, you see that some of the trunks are only black on one side of the trees. You think to yourself, "Isn't that strange?"

You keep walking. All along the trail you notice that the soil is black, but there are fresh green shoots of grass poking up. The trees here are also charred at the base of the trunks.

Ok, that's it! It's been at the back of your mind, but now you're positive. A fire burned through here! Was it a campfire out of control? Was it by accident or on purpose?

Solve the puzzle to find out who caused the fire. Write your answers on the lines below.

Use a combination of letters and pictures to make words. It may be helpful to "read" the puzzle out loud. Some of the pictures make a sound of the word, but are spelled differently. Be sure to look where the arrows are pointing in some of the pictures.

+ S + T + S - F

_____

3-RE SP+ -H FA+ -BE

_____

2 -y+ EP 3-RE 10-T+V+ + -CE

_____

H+ -S + THY.

_____

Junior Wildland Firefighter Training Quiz

Answer the questions below from the presentation.

- **List the big three that make up the fire triangle.**

  A.

  B.

  C.

- **Your family is on a camping trip in the Indiana Dunes. While you are setting up your tent, you find a set of matches. What should you do?**

  A. see if they work and try to light a fire.

  B. leave them on the ground.

  C. pick them up and give them to an adult.

- **Name something that could start a wildfire.**

  _____

- **What should you do if you see smoke or a fire where it does not belong?**

  A. Call 911 or tell an adult..

  B. Don't say anything.

  C. Go look at the fire.

Firefighter Physical Training

In order to become a wildland firefighter you have to pass a physical fitness test. Firefighters have to carry a 45 pound backpack for 3 miles under 45 minutes. Forest fires take many hours and sometimes days to put out. That is a lot of hiking around and working! As a junior firefighter you need to stay fit and eat healthy. Now it is time to test your fitness!

Can you pass the Junior Wildland Firefighter Test?

Put a check mark next to all of the physical tests you complete.

1. Do 5 knee push ups _____
2. Do 10 jumping jacks _____
3. Do 5 sit ups _____
4. Do 10 bicycles _____

Junior Wildland Firefighter Pledge

As a Junior Wildland Firefighter, I _____, promise to protect and preserve the plants, animals, and history of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. I will share what I have learned about wildland fire in National Parks, and will continue to explore our national treasures.

Firefighter Definitions

Ecosystems- A collection of living things and the environment in which they live. For example, a prairie ecosystem includes coyotes, the rabbits on which they feed, and the grasses that feed the rabbits.

Fire Triangle

Fire is a chemical reaction which needs three things to be present so it can happen:

OXYGEN(air we breath) + HEAT(lightning, spark) + FUEL(trees, grasses) = FIRE

If one of these is not present, the fire cannot start. If one of these is taken from a fire it will go out.

Recycle- to reuse. When a fire burns through a forest it turns some trees into ash. This ash then mixes with the soil. This new soil provides nutrients for other plants and tress to live on.

Habitat-the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.