

## Discovery Hike

There are over 16 miles of hiking trails at Fairy Stone State Park for you and your family to enjoy. Hiking is a great way to explore the park and discover some of this state park's hidden treasures.

Lead your family on a "Discovery Hike." Grab a trail guide, choose one of the trails and become a guide for your family. Be sure to make several stops along the way. Ask your family, "What do you smell?" and "What do you hear?" and "What do you see?" Remember – Safety first. Be sure to take plenty of water and a first aid kit.

## Nature's Footprints

Animal tracks are easy to find here at Fairy Stone State Park, especially after snow or rain, or in popular feeding spots. Next time you're out on a hike, look around for clues animals leave behind. You never know who has travelled on a trail before you!

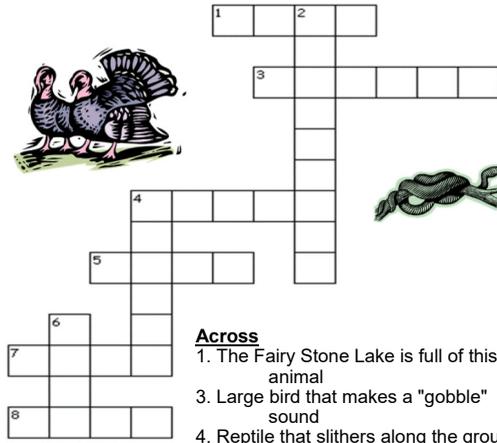
Park Rangers pay attention to these clues so that they can conserve the habitats for the animals in the park.

Match the tracks to the animal that left them behind.



## Animal Crossword

Use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle about the many different animals of Fairy Stone State Park!



### Across

- The Fairy Stone Lake is full of this animal
- Large bird that makes a "gobble" sound
- Reptile that slithers along the ground
- These animals fly all around Fairy Stone State Park
- Large mammal, black in color. Yogi was one
- Amphibian that "ribbets" on the river banks

### Down

- Animals that climb trees and store acorns for the winter
- Insect with 8 legs that makes webs
- Animal commonly seen in fields in the evening, adult males have antlers

## Stewardship

As a Junior Ranger, there are a lot of ways that you can protect the natural spaces we all share. Choose at least one project from the list below to make a difference in the world and have an adult sign once you complete it.

- Pick up and properly dispose of 5 pieces of trash
- Collect any recyclables that your family may have used during your stay and dispose of them properly in the recycle bins at the park
- Reuse something you have already used in a different way (maybe use a soda bottle as a water container or use a grocery bag as a trash bag)
- Give a brief ranger program to a friend or family member

## Record Your Activities

WRITE THE ACTIVITIES YOU COMPLETED HERE:

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WRITE THE TRAIL YOU HIKE HERE:

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HAVE AN ADULT SIGN OFF ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP PROJECT HERE:

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WRITE YOUR RANGER-LED PROGRAM HERE AND HAVE THE RANGER SIGN:

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WRITE YOUR RANGER-LED PROGRAM HERE AND HAVE THE RANGER SIGN:

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Fairy Stone State Park  
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Virginia State Parks

# Junior Ranger Activity Booklet



VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

# Fairy Stone State Park



www.virginiastateparks.gov

## Begin Your Adventure:

We're glad you are going to become a Jr. Ranger! Rangers are an important part of the Virginia State Park System. Some of the duties of Park Rangers are to protect the plants and animals, preserve the history of each park, share their knowledge with park guests, and to ensure the safety of every park guest.

- Raise your right hand and recite the Junior Ranger Pledge

### Official Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to:

- ⇒ Preserve and protect our parks
- ⇒ Care for my natural and historical surroundings
- ⇒ Share what I learn in parks with others
- ⇒ Obey all safety rules
- ⇒ Continue to explore and discover

- Ages 5-8, complete 5 of the activities in this guide
- Ages 9-12, complete 8 of the activities

### After completing your activities:

- You must hike one trail
- Complete one stewardship project
- Participate in at least 2 Ranger-led programs (don't forget to have the Ranger sign your book!).
- If ranger-led programs are not available, complete 1 extra activity.
- Take your completed guide to the Visitor Center to receive your Official Junior Ranger Badge!

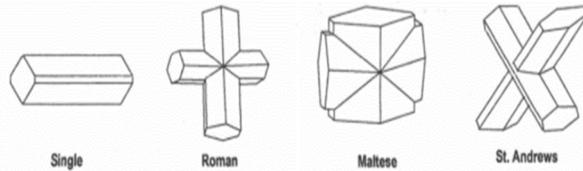


## The Legend of the Fairy Stone

It is said that long ago fairies lived in a certain quiet and remote region in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. One day, as the fairies were playing in the forest, an elfin messenger came from far away and told the fairies the sad news of Christ's death. When the fairies heard the terrible details of his death, they wept. As their tears hit the ground, they crystallized into little stone crosses. The fairies, were reminded of the news every time they saw the crosses, and it made them so sad that they had to leave the area. Their little stone crosses still remain for us to find.

Fairy Stone State Park is named after the stone crystal known as a fairy stone. These stones are formed and found within the park and are shaped like crosses. They are called "staurolite" and are made up of iron, aluminum, and silicate. There are 4 shapes of fairy stones: Single, Roman, Maltese, and St. Andrews.

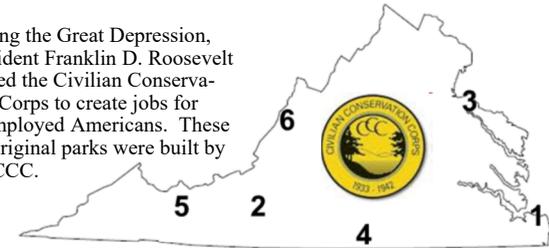
See if you can find each type of fairy stone at our hunt site and check off the ones you find.



## Welcome to Virginia State Parks

Virginia was the first state to open an entire state park system on the same day, June 15, 1936. Six state parks comprised the system: Fairy Stone, Staunton River, Hungry Mother, Westmoreland, Seashore (now First Landing), and Douthat.

During the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt started the Civilian Conservation Corps to create jobs for unemployed Americans. These six original parks were built by the CCC.



Can you identify the six original Virginia state parks?

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ___ Staunton River | ___ Westmoreland |
| ___ Fairy Stone    | ___ Seashore     |
| ___ Hungry Mother  | ___ Douthat      |

## Animal Signs

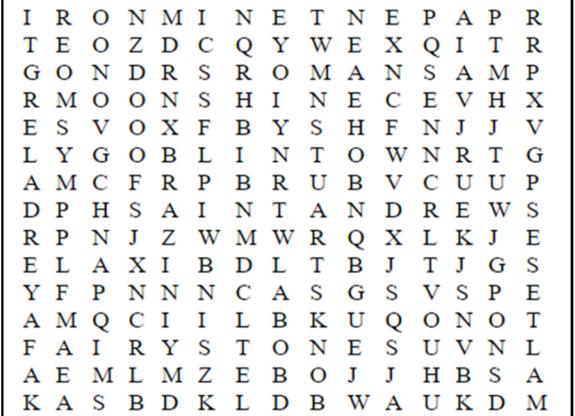
Animals leave behind all sorts of clues as to where they've been or what they've been up to in the park. Tracks are not the only clues an animal may leave behind. Turkeys scratch the ground when looking for food, deer rub saplings with their antlers, and owls leave traces of undigested meals in the form of pellets on the ground. And, of course, there's always scat. That's what an animal leaves behind when it relieves itself!

People leave traces behind as well, in the form of footprints and, unfortunately, litter. As you explore Fairy Stone State park, locate as many of the items below as you can. Place a big "X" over the item when you find it, and connect 3 in a row (up/down/across/diagonal)



## A Town Beneath the Lake

Find the words below that pertain to Fairy Stone State Park.



Fairy Stone	Moonshine	Saint Andrews
Fayerdale	Stuarts Knob	Maltese
Iron Mine	Goblintown	Roman

## Bird Watching 101

Bird-watching is a popular pastime here at Fairy Stone State Park. Many different species of birds can be found here due to the nearby rivers and lake, as well as the different types of habitat in the park.

See if you can spot 4 of the birds pictured below. You may want to use binoculars to view birds from far away. Remember, a good Junior Ranger doesn't disturb the wildlife. Instead, simply observe, enjoy, and move on.



## Are You an Artist?

There are many activities to enjoy here at Fairy Stone State Park. Whether you enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, or watching wildlife, you can always find ways to have fun. Use the space below to draw a picture of your favorite activity here at Fairy Stone!

