



# LOS FLORES RANCH PARK JUNIOR RANGERS GUIDEBOOK



City of Santa Maria  
Recreation & Parks  
Department



## WELCOME!

We're so excited that you want to become a part of history by becoming a Los Flores Ranch Park, Junior Ranger!

To do so, please complete the activities on the next few pages and return your booklet to the Los Flores Ranch Park Office at 6271 N. Dominion Road to receive your **Junior Ranger** badge and a **Junior Ranger Certificate** signed.

Before you get started, there are some things you should know. On your mobile device, install the iNaturalist app or visit [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org). Using the app, take a picture of unknown wildlife and iNaturalist will identify it for you.

### **All of the natural and cultural resources at Los Flores Ranch Park are protected.**

This means that all plants, animals, rocks, feathers, and artifacts are protected at Los Flores Ranch Park and cannot be collected.



Staff and volunteers work hard to protect these resources so that everyone who comes to Los Flores Ranch Park can enjoy the park's wonderful treasures.

**Now you are ready to get started on your journey to become a Los Flores Ranch Park, Junior Ranger!**

LOS FLORES RANCH PARK  
**JUNIOR RANGERS**

## Are You Safety Smart?

Los Flores Ranch Park is a great place to visit, to have fun, and to learn about plants, animals, and history. But in order for your visit to be fun, you need to be **Safety Smart**. Fill in the following sentences with the letter of the picture that best completes each sentence.

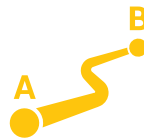
- 1) Always wear a helmet when riding your \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ or on marked roads to protect our open space wildlife that may nest in the area (like the California Quail which is a ground nesting bird.)
- 3) When you go hiking or biking you should always take \_\_\_\_\_ with you.
- 4) Please do not \_\_\_\_\_ because they could bite you. 
- 5) Do not touch \_\_\_\_\_ because it could give you a rash and make your skin itch.
- 6) Watch out for \_\_\_\_\_ after you go hiking or biking.
- 7) Look and listen for \_\_\_\_\_ when you walk or ride your bike around the perimeter roads.
- 8) No \_\_\_\_\_. 
- 9) Never play with matches or a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) If you think you see a fire, \_\_\_\_\_.



**A. Bike**

**F. Report it immediately or call 911**

**B. Feed the animals**



**G. Always stay on designated trails**

**C. Ticks**



**H. Smoking**



**D. Food & Water**

**I. Poison Oak**



**E. Vehicles**



**J. Lighter**



**Answer Key:** 1) A-Bike; 2) G-Always stay on designated trails; 3) D-Food & water; 4) B-Fed the animals; 5) I-Poison Oak; 6) Ticks; 7) E-Vehicles; 8) H-Smoking; 9) J-Lighter; 10) F-Report it immediately or call 911



# JUNIOR RANGERS PROMISE

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your name here)

## 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, conservation and our heritage.
- Know the three “**R**”s—**R**euse, **R**educe and **R**ecycle.
- Leave No Trace (only footprints).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)



## Signs and Symbols Match

Rangers use these signs and symbols to help people find their way and stay safe in the park. Do you know what these signs mean? Take the challenge!

Draw a line to connect the sign or symbol with its description.



Viewpoint



Native Garden (Exhibit)



Trail Courtesy



Wheelchair Accessible



Dogs Allowed On Leash



Recycling



Hiking Trail



Picnic Area



No Smoking & No Fires



Visitor Center



Closed Trail



Restroom



**Activity:** Circle the signs that you saw during your park visit.

## Native Garden Guide and Uses



**1. La Purissima Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos purissima*)** - Chumash and other Native Indians made the berries into a beverage and jelly. Some Native Americans used this very hard wood as arrows. Manzanita means "little apple" in Spanish.



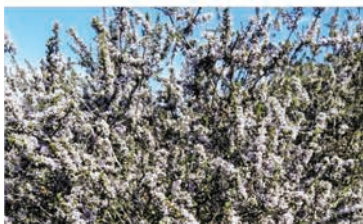
**2. California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)** - Native Americans made tea from the stems, which helped reduce fevers. Despite the common name it is not a true sage. Used ritually, blessing of pipes. Burned as incense after a funeral. Purification with smoke.



**3. Narrow Leaved Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)** - Chumash used the stems. An important fiber plant. Cordage was made of it for nets, belts, and dance regalia. The sap was dried and chewed (like gum).



**4. Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularia* var. *consanguinea*)** - Used by the Chumash as an antidote for poison oak. Thought to have been used to brush away the spines when collecting prickly pear cactus fruit.



**5. Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*)** - The wood is very hard and long lasting, and was used by the Chumash for digging sticks, poles, fence posts and other tools like awls and wedges. Flowers known to be used for washing hair. Note-they made rattles from the cocoons of the ceanothus silk moths.



**6. Toyon or California Holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)** - Chumash cooked or roasted the Berries. Wood was used for tools, wedges, awls, hide scrapers and cooking implements.



**7. Prickly Pear Cacti (*Opuntia*)** - Introduced from Mexico. Fruit was eaten and today the young joints (before spines harden) are sliced, boiled and eaten. Chumash said to use the needles of the cacti to tattoo.



**8. Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*)** - Stocks used for fire sticks. Chumash were known for using branches for making fish traps along rivers and streams. Also used the stalks for arrow shafts. Some Native Americans used it in a wash for the scalp to encourage hair growth.



**9. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)** - A favorite and important source of plant food for the Chumash and native wildlife. Acorns were storable through winter. After the Tannins were leached out of the acorns they could be eaten in a soup, as porridge or baked as a bread. The bark made excellent cooking coals. Oaks were truly the "tree of life" in many Native American cultures.



**10. California Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*)** - Berries were gathered historically by West coast Indian tribes for culinary as well as medicinal purposes. Coffeeberry bark was and still is a popular herbal remedy for chronic constipation.



**11. Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)** - This was very important to the Chumash. Wood was used for Poles for house framework and cradleboard. Shoots used for baskets and seed beaters. Bark used in lashing and skirts. Also used as a tea for fevers. Only willow was used for wood burning in a Chumash sweathouse.



**12. Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)** - One of the many sage plants used by the Chumash. Seeds toasted for food. Leaves used in a tea for flu and said that hunters put them in their mouth so deer could not smell them.



**13. Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)** - Chumash used the berries as a food source. The flowers as a Tea for coughs and colds. The wood was used for Bows and musical instruments. Warning: the leaves of all elderberries are toxic and should not be eaten.



**14. California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)** - Chumash ate the fruit of the wild rose raw. The Chumash used dried powdered rose petals like a talcum to relieve chafing in babies. They would use the rose hips and strung them for wearing as necklaces and earrings especially by children.

## What I See, Smell and Hear

Animals use all of their senses to survive in the wild. People also use their sense of hearing, touch, sight and smell to give us information about our environment. Our senses can tell us if we are in danger or if we are having fun. We can use our ears to judge distance or direction. Our nose tells us if something is good or bad to eat. Many of us forget to use all of our senses because we tend to be more interested in what we can see.

Sit down by a tree in a quiet place. Pretend that your tree had big ears, a big nose and very large eyes, giving it the ability to hear, see, and smell very well. Make a list of five things that your tree would be able to hear, see and smell.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

How many sounds are man made? \_\_\_\_\_

- **Circle which sound you would consider to be noise pollution**
- **Put a check next to the ones that came from something you couldn't see.**

Which was the farthest away? \_\_\_\_\_

How many smells were man made? \_\_\_\_\_

How many things did you see that were man made? \_\_\_\_\_

## Watchable Wildlife

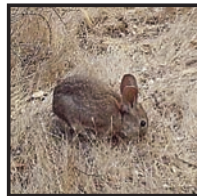
Los Flores Ranch Park provides a home for many animals. As you explore the park, watch for the animals pictures below. All of them live at Los Flores Ranch Park or use the park as a rest stop. **Draw a circle around each animal you see.** Remember, many of these animals are hard to see unless you are quiet and look very carefully.



Coyote



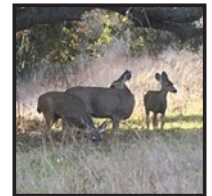
Pack Rat



Rabbit



Bobcat



Mule Deer



California Quail



California Ground Squirrel



Feral Pig



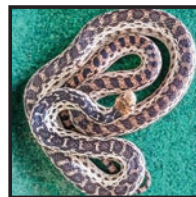
Western Toad



Tarantula



Horned Lizard



Gopher Snake



California King Snake

Unscramble the words below to discover animals that may be found at Los Flores Ranch Park:



1) ooytec \_\_\_\_\_



4) rlicafonia qilau \_\_\_\_\_



2) yrga ofx \_\_\_\_\_



5) tntaaualr \_\_\_\_\_



3) ownbr bta \_\_\_\_\_



6) ertswne skkni \_\_\_\_\_

Unscramble Answers: 1) Coyote; 2) Gray Fox; 3) Brown Bat; 4) California Quail; 5) Tarantula; 6) Western Skink

## State Bird and Flower: California Quail and California Poppy

Please color the California Quail and  
California Golden Poppy.

California Quail



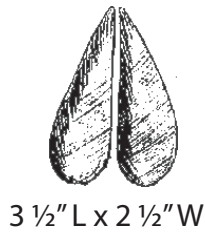
# Tracks at Los Flores Ranch Park!

There are many animals living at Los Flores Ranch Park, but you may not see them during your visit. Discover what animals live in the park by looking for the clues they leave behind. Animals leave clues like tracks and scat in places they have visited.

**HINT:** Look in areas with wet sand or along a dirt trail in the morning, before the tracks can be disturbed.

\*Track pictures not actual size.

**2-TOED TRACKS=**  
Hoofed Animals  
(deer, moose, elk)



Toes spread when in soft mud or when the animal is running. Dewclaws show.

**TRAIL PATTERN**  
Trail width: 6"  
Stride length: 21"-24"



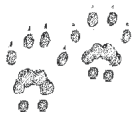
**4-TOED TRACKS WITH NO CLAW MARKS** = cat family (bobcats, mountain lions, house cats). Cats have retractable claws and walk with their claws tucked inside.



**4-TOED TRACKS WITH CLAW MARKS** = dog family (foxes, dogs, coyotes, wolves) Dogs do not have retractable claws so their claws are always "out."



**4-TOED FRONT FEET AND 5-TOED BACK FEET** = most rodents (shrews, mice, voles, squirrels)



**5-TOED FRONT FEET AND 5-TOED BACK FEET** = opossums, raccoons



**5-TOED FRONT FEET AND 5-TOED BACK FEET** = bears and you!

Measure and draw the tracks you found. Write the animal you think made them.



## LFRP Word Search

V	E	M	B	M	Q	E	X	M	L	B	X	X	J	N	L	Q	O	U	K
D	C	D	G	K	A	R	Z	K	G	I	R	E	L	I	N	U	B	V	H
E	O	O	I	N	J	U	Y	M	D	N	D	G	O	W	T	L	D	T	B
E	A	C	N	L	I	X	T	P	N	O	R	T	H	S	N	L	X	S	G
R	R	Z	Q	G	S	K	O	O	L	C	H	D	I	S	E	K	A	N	S
Y	R	H	X	T	L	D	I	B	E	U	O	D	K	C	Q	G	A	O	Q
L	O	G	Y	X	J	O	N	H	M	L	E	N	A	L	E	A	B	S	K
G	R	C	M	L	U	T	M	A	T	A	J	F	O	D	C	E	D	I	M
B	O	S	T	C	B	V	G	E	L	R	T	C	N	X	L	R	R	U	O
M	B	S	Y	G	F	X	R	M	R	S	N	G	O	X	I	J	P	G	B
K	Y	P	Z	I	P	X	W	S	N	A	J	Z	S	B	H	T	N	X	P
A	U	D	E	Z	C	Z	K	C	M	A	T	Q	I	D	X	I	I	N	O
A	N	I	M	A	L	T	R	A	C	K	S	E	O	X	N	X	J	N	M
U	Y	I	A	V	L	K	C	K	S	C	V	U	P	R	W	S	P	G	F
O	A	K	T	R	E	E	R	O	L	O	P	R	A	E	A	L	F	N	K
G	T	S	I	C	P	A	N	F	M	W	U	E	J	E	L	I	Q	U	U
F	T	R	Q	N	B	U	G	G	X	P	L	T	Z	R	K	A	W	F	I
V	B	M	F	B	V	L	M	Z	C	X	A	J	H	R	I	R	H	O	W
B	I	N	I	A	G	A	T	I	S	I	V	S	T	Q	N	T	N	Q	C
X	F	T	A	R	B	Z	J	A	H	Z	L	T	S	R	G	J	A	F	T

ANIMAL TRACKS

BINOCULARS

BIRDS

COMPASS

CONGLOMERATE

COW

DEER

FUN

HIKING

JACK RABBIT

LAND SLIDE

LEARNING

LOOK

NORTH

OAK TREE

OIL

OUTSIDE

POISON OAK

SAGE

SNAKES

SOUTH

TRAILS

VISIT

WALKING

## Be A Litter-Getter

Litter is harmful to wildlife, looks ugly, and is costly to clean up. Animals may eat cigarette butts which can make them sick. Deer and raccoons will eat plastic and foil which can block their intestines. Birds, and other small animals can get tangled in plastic bags and other small plastic items and harm them.

You can prevent this from happening by being a "Litter-Getter". Pick up a "Litter-Getter" bag from the office or use your own bag and start collecting litter. After collecting a bag of litter, choose three pieces of litter and explain how each can harm wildlife or our environment.

Piece of litter #1 \_\_\_\_\_

How is this harmful? \_\_\_\_\_

Piece of litter #2 \_\_\_\_\_

How is this harmful? \_\_\_\_\_

Piece of litter #3 \_\_\_\_\_

How is this harmful? \_\_\_\_\_

Extra: Pick up a "Litter-Getter" sticker for each bag of trash you collect. After three (3) bags of trash, you receive a "Litter-Getter" pencil made from recycled dollar bills or blue jeans.

Tell your family and friends to throw away trash and recycle glass, aluminum, and plastic.

Live by the three "R"s: Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. Look for this symbol the next time you want to recycle something!



## What's Wrong at this Park?

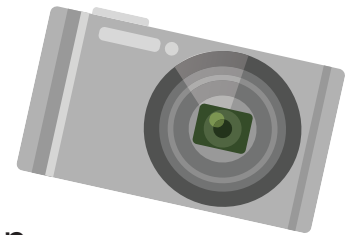
Look at the picture below and see if you can find at least four things in this park that should not be happening. Circle what you find wrong.



## Final Project

Must complete 3 projects of your choice with direction from staff at the Visitor Center:

- Plant a tree at Los Flores Ranch Park
- Work on the Wildflower Seed Project
- Volunteer one (1) hour at the Native Garden
- Collect 2 pounds of fallen acorns
- Attend any Monthly Guided Nature Walk at Los Flores Ranch Park
- Take digital pictures of Los Flores Ranch Park wildlife and submit them to the Visitor Center (cameras are available at the Visitor Center) or from your mobile device, upload them to [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org) or through the iNaturalist app in the Los Flores Ranch Park section.



Which projects did you complete?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS CERTIFIES THAT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(YOUR NAME)

**HAS COMPLETED THE  
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM AT**



**AND IS HEREBY CONSIDERED AN  
OFFICIAL JUNIOR RANGER**

GIVEN ON \_\_\_\_\_

RANGER \_\_\_\_\_

**LOS FLORES RANCH PARK  
JUNIOR RANGERS**



# LOS FLORES RANCH

Recreation Open Space

6271 Dominion Road

Directions from Santa Maria: Head South on Hwy 101. Turn left at Clark Avenue Exit. Turn right on Dominion Road.

HOURS OF OPERATION | Spring/Summer Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 8:00 AM-7:00 PM with last entry at 6:00 PM  
Fall/Winter Hours: Thursday-Sunday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM with last entry at 4:00 PM

VISITORS CENTER: (805) 938-7618 | Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/losfloresranch

**Docent-Led (Guided) Nature Hikes at Los Flores Ranch Park are held the second Saturday of the month (February-November) from 9:00-11:00 AM**

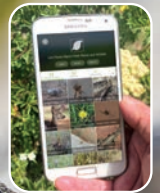
Registration opens 2 weeks before each hike and is required. *Space is limited.*

Register online at [www.cityofsantamaria.org/register](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/register) (search keywords: nature hike)

# iNaturalist



Join our iNaturalist project and add your observations while you explore the wonders of nature at Los Flores Ranch Park!



Get the **FREE iNaturalist** app today and help document Los Flores Ranch Parks plant and wildlife database with this fun family project. Snap a photo of your amazing findings and upload them to our iNaturalist project

[www.inaturalist.org/projects/los-flores-ranch-park-plants-and-wildlife](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/los-flores-ranch-park-plants-and-wildlife)

Take the Los Flores Ranch Park Trails with you.

Download the app now.

## OuterSpatial

