



U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Hot Springs National Park

# Hot Springs National Park Junior Ranger Activity Book



It is the mission of the National Park Service to protect, preserve,  
and appropriately use the natural and cultural resources at  
Hot Springs National Park and promote public understanding  
and appreciation of those resources.

Funding for this project is provided by the  
Friends of the Fordyce and Hot Springs National Park.



Educational consultant: Jennifer C. Miller

Front cover and back cover: original artwork by Alison W. Parsons ©2004  
[www.bluemoonartgallery.com](http://www.bluemoonartgallery.com)



## What is a Park Ranger?

Park Rangers do many jobs. They provide guided tours, take you on hikes and give campfire programs. Some even dress like people who lived a long time ago to show what life was like back then. Many study plants and animals in the park. Others study ruins, tools, documents and other things that show how our nation developed. Rangers also take care of old houses, furniture, photos, and papers that tell the story of the park. Still others ride in patrol cars to make sure all visitors are safe.

## What is a Junior Ranger?

A Junior Ranger is someone who, after touring the visitor center museum and completing activities in this booklet, promises to take care of Hot Springs National Park. A Junior Ranger has fun learning about the national park and enjoys telling others about the park and activities here. A Junior Ranger, like all rangers, takes care of the park by respecting the rules, helping wildlife, protecting the park history and keeping the park clean.



## The Junior Ranger Pledge



As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help Hot Springs National Park. I will keep learning about its past and its natural resources. I will share this with my friends and family. I will help preserve and protect my home community, too.

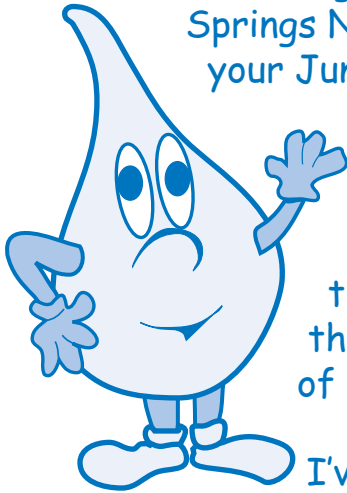
---

Name

---

Date

Hi! I'm H.W. Droplet and I'll be your guide as you discover some very interesting things about Hot Springs National Park and earn your Junior Ranger badge.



You know, all this is here because of one little thing—**ME!** That's right—the beautiful park and all this history is here because of 47 springs of hot water!

I've been over, under and all around this place, so stick with me, and we will see some really cool, and **HOT**, places.

A few **HOT** facts:

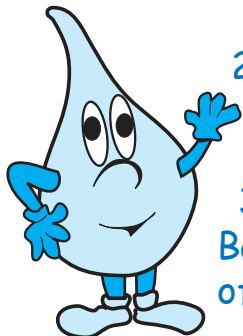
- Hot Springs National Park protects 47 hot springs.
- 850,000 gallons flow from those springs each day.
- The water has a consistent temperature of 143 degrees.
- When bathing for health was most popular, this special hot water was piped to over 20 bathhouses around the city of Hot Springs.

## You can become a Junior Ranger!

Children ages 6 through 12 can become Junior Rangers if they like to explore and use their detective eyes and ears to discover new things, and want to take care of America's special places. Hot Springs National Park is one of those special places and is full of surprises. A Junior Ranger is always on the lookout for the hidden story. Begin in the historic Fordyce Bathhouse...

Here's what you'll need:

1) You need this booklet, and since you are reading it, I'm guessing you have it, and a pencil—available to borrow at the front desk.



2) Enjoy exploring the park and working with your family to complete 7 of the 9 activities in this booklet.

3) When you are finished, take it back to the Fordyce Bathhouse to receive your badge and award certificate as an official **Hot Springs National Park Junior Ranger!**

# The Fordyce Bathhouse

Bathhouse Row was bustling with activity by 1915. Right in the center was the new Fordyce Bathhouse. The Fordyce was advertised as *the most complete, practical and luxurious bathhouse in the world*.



The Fordyce Bathhouse was the finest on Bathhouse Row when it was built in 1915.

Below is a list of words used to describe features in the Fordyce Bathhouse. As you tour the building, search for these words and study the rooms where they are used — you’ll see some pretty strange things! When you **find a word** on the bathhouse tour, **circle it here**. ( ) indicates the floor of the bathhouse

Music room (3)

Massage (2, 3)

Caddo (2)

Gymnasium (3)

Pack room (1)

Ailments (1)

Chiropody (2)

Fordyce Spring (B)

Hydrotherapy (1)

Vapor cabinet (1)

Neptune’s daughters (1)

Zander (2)

**Water is the most important resource in this National Park**, and water is found in and around the Fordyce Bathhouse. **Complete these lines** to describe some water locations:

• In the Men’s Bath Hall, the central f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ shows Hernando de Soto, once thought to have visited the hot springs in 1541.

• You can drink hot water from O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S on Central and Reserve Avenues.

• Cherub t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ are at both ends of the Fordyce lobby.

• Two a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S are on each side of the reservation entrance just outside the Fordyce Bathhouse.

• The Fordyce thermal i \_ \_ \_ \_ can be seen in the basement.

• A thermal spring has O \_ \_ water.

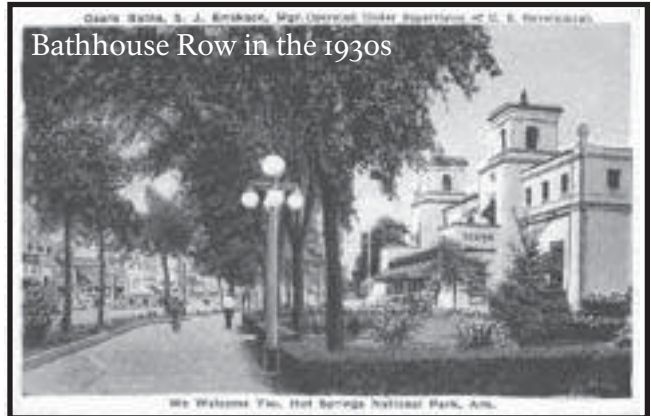


# Bathhouse Row

Bathhouse Row has changed through the years.



The sidewalk on Bathhouse Row, called Magnolia Promenade, at the Reservation entrance, 1905.



The Ozark Bathhouse on Bathhouse Row looks today much like it did over 70 years ago.

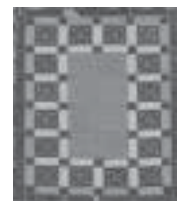
Bathhouse Row is the heart of the city, and a famous place in the National Park. Many bathhouses have come and gone over almost 200 years of bathing history. Today eight bathhouses line Central Avenue. Each has its own look and style, called architecture. Below is an “architectural element” (building part) from each bathhouse. As you enjoy a walk along historic Bathhouse Row, **look closely** at the detail on each bathhouse.

**Draw a line** to connect each architectural element with its bathhouse name.

## Bathhouse name



- Lamar
- Buckstaff
- Fordyce
- Quapaw
- Superior
- Hale
- Maurice
- Ozark



# The Grand Entrance

Here are early photographs of what was once the “official entrance” to the Hot Springs Reservation, and later the National Park. It’s just outside the Fordyce Bathhouse. Notice how the entrance has changed over time.



Grand Entrance —construction, 1893

List three differences between the 1893 picture and the 1905 picture.

---

---

---



Entrance, Government Reservation, 1905

List three differences between the 1905 picture and the 1938 picture.

---

---

---



Entrance, Hot Springs National Park, 1938

In 1921 the name changed from “reservation” to National Park. Find the entrance monument shown below. Write the dates you see

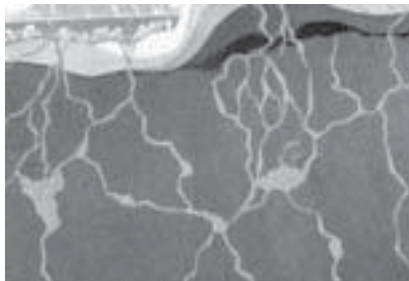
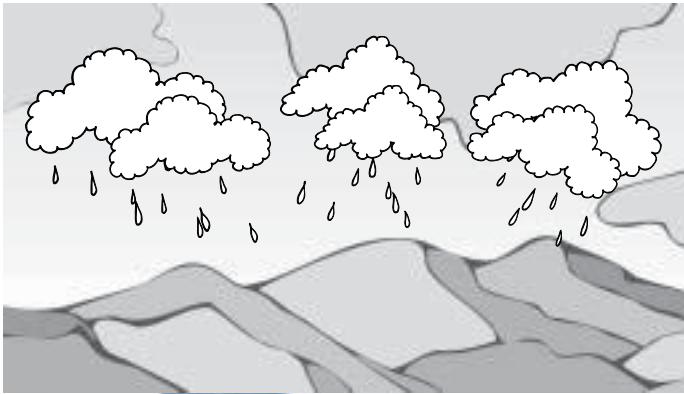
---

Name the animal on top

---



# Why is this water hot?



Geologists (who study how the Earth is put together) and hydrologists (who study water) tell us that **this is not a volcanic area**. This water is heated in a different way.

When rain falls on the mountains around Hot Springs, pores and cracks in the rock take some of the water deep into the Earth. As the water goes deeper and deeper, it heats at about 4 degrees [Fahrenheit] every 300 feet down. This heated water dissolves minerals from the rocks it passes through them.

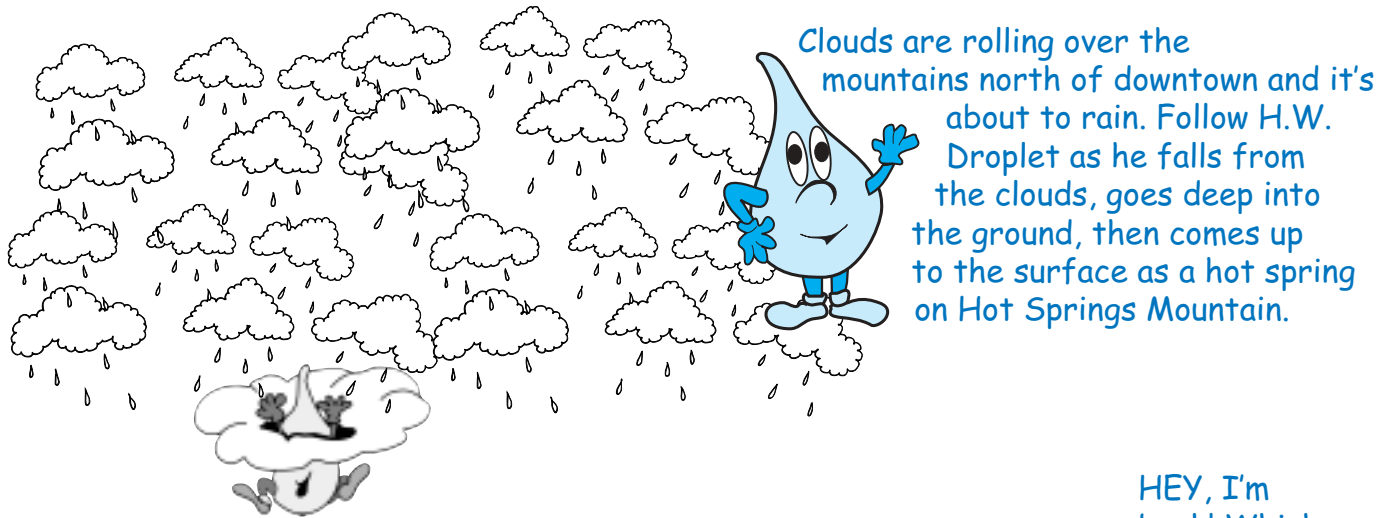
Eventually the water seeps into joints and cracks leading it back up. The water comes to the surface right here—at the base of Hot Springs Mountain.

The water you drink from the hot springs today came down as rain over 4,000 years ago - the same time the ancient Egyptians were building these!



The water you drink from the hot springs today came down as rain over 4,000 years ago - the same time the ancient Egyptians were building these!

# The Water Cycle at Hot Springs National Park



Clouds are rolling over the mountains north of downtown and it's about to rain. Follow H.W. Droplet as he falls from the clouds, goes deep into the ground, then comes up to the surface as a hot spring on Hot Springs Mountain.

It's raining,  
Wheee! I'm falling!



Sugarloaf Mountain

Ouch!  
These rocks  
are hard.

It's slow going -  
I'm warming up.



It's hot  
down here.



Here's a  
crack and  
I'm being  
pushed up!

Climbing ...  
can't stop  
'til I reach  
the top!

HEY, I'm  
back! Which  
spring is this?



Hot Springs Mountain

Water follows a path through several steps before coming to the surface here at Hot Springs National Park. Put a number [1—7] in the space beside each item to show the order in which these events take place.

Cold water follows  
cracks deep into the Earth \_\_\_\_\_

Water comes to the  
surface as a hot spring \_\_\_\_\_

People drink and bathe in the hot water \_\_\_\_\_

Hot water follows  
cracks up to the surface \_\_\_\_\_

The water goes deep and gets hot \_\_\_\_\_

Rain falls on the mountains \_\_\_\_\_

Cold water enters the ground \_\_\_\_\_

# Changes in Hot Springs National Park



I've seen many changes in this special place. Way back in 1832 Congress thought my friends and I were so important that they saved this land so all people could enjoy the hot springs. The idea that America's "special places" belong to everyone began right here at Hot Springs National Park!

## *Back in the day...*

In the early 1800s water from the hot springs poured out of the mountainside into Hot Springs Creek. People sat in the creek to soak in the hot mineral water. People began to "claim" different springs. They built wooden bathhouses over some of the springs and wanted people to pay them to use the water. But in 1875 the government cancelled all the false claims, took charge of the springs, and made rules for the bathhouses.



I remember a busy and fun town. The bathhouses had made this city famous. Wealthy people and well-known people came here to enjoy the baths and walk the trails. Exciting things were happening day and night. In 1921, Hot Springs Reservation got a name change to Hot Springs National Park to make sure all its resources, ESPECIALLY ME!, would be protected forever.



## *Today...*

Hot Springs National Park is a major tourist attraction in Arkansas. The Fordyce Bathhouse is just the beginning of your adventure in discovering the park. Do you have any national park sites in your home state? **List them.**

# A Bath for All

Many Hot Springs bathhouses were designed with the highest and best use of leisure time in mind, as well as bathing. They had parlors for men and women to relax, read, and enjoy music in art-filled surroundings. Guests enjoyed sculpture, fountains, paintings and beautiful stained glass.



This is a drawing of a stained glass window in the Fordyce Bathhouse. Look for it, and write the name of the room it is in \_\_\_\_\_ .

Some of the other bathhouses did not have parlors and gymnasiums but offered baths at a lower price, making them affordable to all. Even those who could not pay could bathe at the Government Free Bathhouse.

But not everyone could use these pay bathhouses. African Americans could work in the bathhouses but until the 1960s, could not bathe there. As a result, black businessmen opened bathhouses away from Bathhouse Row. The National Baptist Hotel and Bathhouse built in 1922 is the only one standing today. You can learn more with an interactive exhibit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

# A Park and a City Growing Together



You've seen by now that this national park has quite an interesting history, and all because of ME!

To promote the water and the baths, the valley was called "*The Nation's Spa.*" Another slogan was "*Uncle Sam Bathes the World!*" By 1921, Hot Springs Reservation had become so popular that the U. S. Congress declared it the 18th national park.

A city grew up close to the park because people coming to the hot springs to take the baths needed places to stay and eat. Business people built hotels and restaurants, saloons, and other entertainment centers. The people in the city were so excited about the park's name being changed to Hot Springs National Park in 1921 that they decided to make that the official name of the city, too. Today that can confuse visitors trying to find the real national park.

How do you know when you are in Hot Springs National Park, the city, or Hot Springs National Park, the park? The National Park Service has a symbol that is used on signs at all national park sites—the arrowhead. Because this park is part of the National Park System, you will see it on signs at park entrances, in front of park buildings and along park roads whenever you are in a national park area. It is also on uniforms, information the park gives to visitors, and booklets like this Junior Ranger booklet.

Each picture in the arrowhead has a meaning. **Match the meaning with the picture by drawing a line** from each statement to the picture on the arrowhead it refers to.



The arrowhead shape stands for the cultural resources the park system protects, from prehistoric Native American sites to other historic sites like Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty.

The mountains stand for the natural places the park system protects. Some of these are Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite and Hot Springs National Parks.

The buffalo and tree show that natural resources at park sites are protected. The buffalo is also the symbol for the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service is part of that Department.

# Hot Springs and Health

“Taking the waters,” meaning to take baths and drink the water, brought people to Hot Springs. While they were here for the baths, doctors also told them how much mineral water to drink and even what time of day to drink it! Doctors also encouraged bathers to exercise and get fresh air.

Trails on Hot Springs Mountain and West Mountain gave visitors a place to walk for exercise. Local stables also rented horses for riding on the trails, and carriage and auto tours to overlooks and the tower on top of Hot Springs Mountain were popular. There were local people who led trail riding groups, too. What a fun way to spend the afternoon after your bath!



Today you can still walk on those trails, built over 100 years ago. All of the trails are shown on the park map. You can walk up to the Hot Springs Mountain Tower and look at the beautiful mountain scenery just as visitors did a long time ago! Remember to take some water along to drink, and always walk with a buddy.

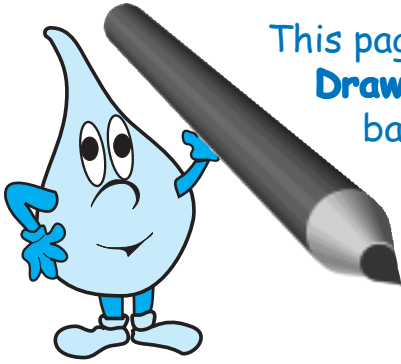
Some trails, such as the Grand Promenade, became places to stroll in your finest clothes, listen to concerts and meet the high society of the time.

**Enjoy a walk** on the Grand Promenade. Bring a cup and have a **taste** of the famous Hot Springs water from the Noble Fountain at the south end. The ranger at the visitor center desk can give you a paper cup.

**Name** the American symbol you see on the Noble Fountain. \_\_\_\_\_ .

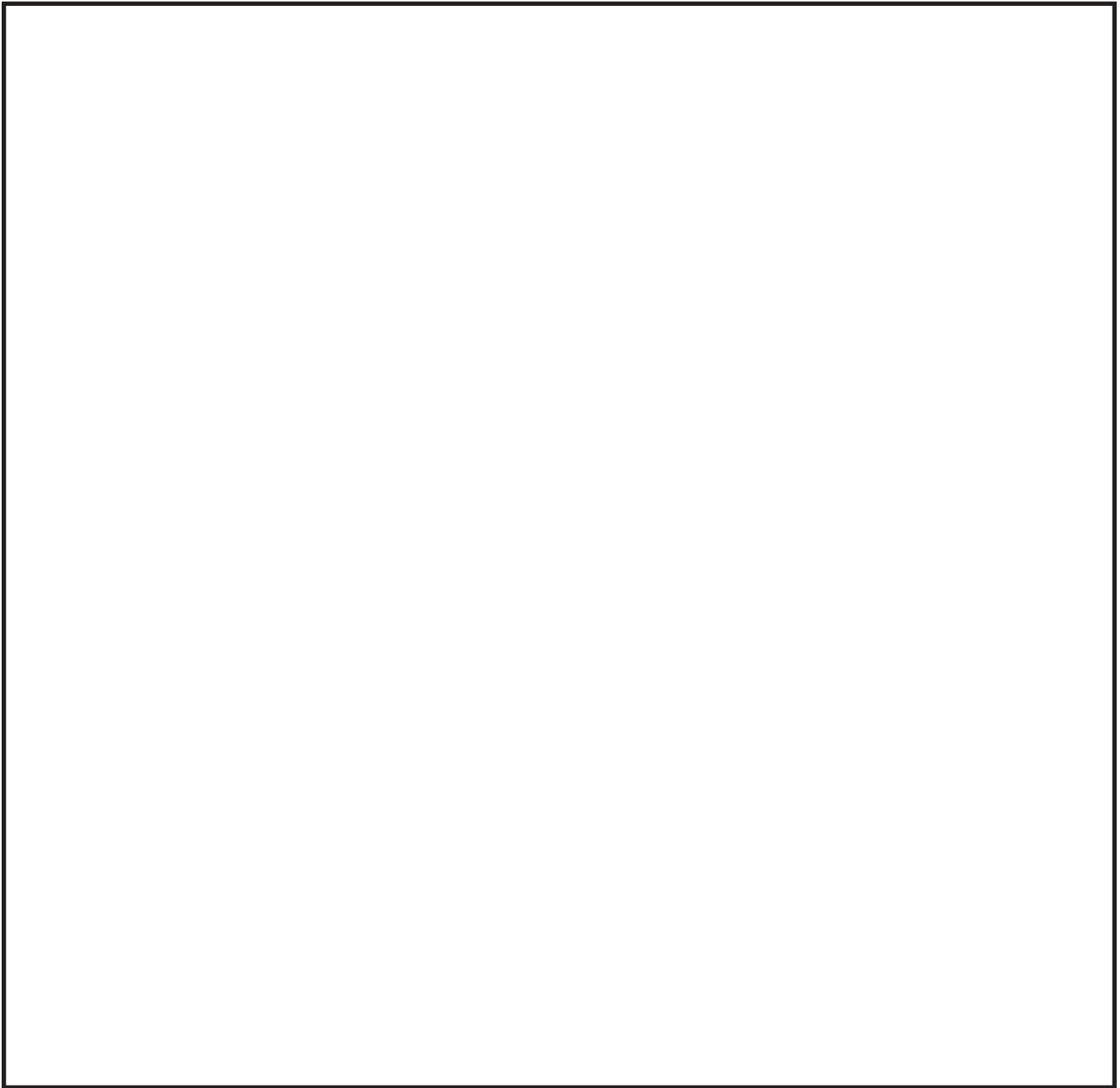
Look for these as you stroll along the Grand Promenade. I stay clean under these green lids. Water from each spring is protected by these boxes and piped to bathhouses and fountains. Did you notice that each spring has a name?





This page is all yours!

**Draw** your own stained glass window for a fancy bathhouse, or draw a postcard showing your favorite part of your visit to Hot Springs National Park. When you have time you can color it.



**Congratulations!** You have learned a lot about Hot Springs National Park and have earned your Junior Ranger certificate. Take this booklet to the Hot Springs National Park Visitor Center and receive your badge. **Come back to see us again!**

# National Park Service



## JUNIOR PARK RANGER

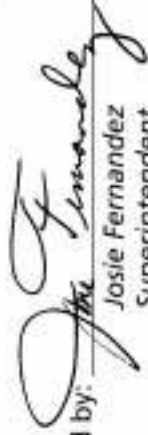


This is to certify that

\_\_\_\_\_

Has successfully completed the requirements for the  
Junior Park Ranger at Hot Springs National Park

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_ National Park Service Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Josie Fernandez  
Superintendent



The Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center on historic Bathhouse Row  
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

The National Park Service cares for the special places  
saved by the American people  
so that all may experience our heritage.