



Junior Ranger Report: Summer 2007

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The Mississippi River Junior Ranger Program has been growing, growing, and growing!

Just how many Mississippi River Junior Rangers are there?

Since we started keeping track in 2004, a total of **945 Junior Rangers** have been sworn-in!

So far in 2007, **269 new Junior Rangers** have pledged to explore, learn, and protect the Mississippi River!

This is great news for the Mississippi—thank you for being a part of it!

The Junior Ranger program, within the past year, has offered Junior Rangers more chances to explore, learn, and protect than ever before.

Junior Rangers got to ride on a real working barge, find prehistoric sea fossils, search the river for water insects, and discover Mississippi monsters.

This summer, Junior Rangers can again ride on a barge and dig for fossils. New programs this summer include storm drain stenciling and a Junior Ranger Day at Como Zoo. Check out the

calendar inside for details.

Another great thing happened in 2006, two Junior Rangers graduated into Student Park Rangers.

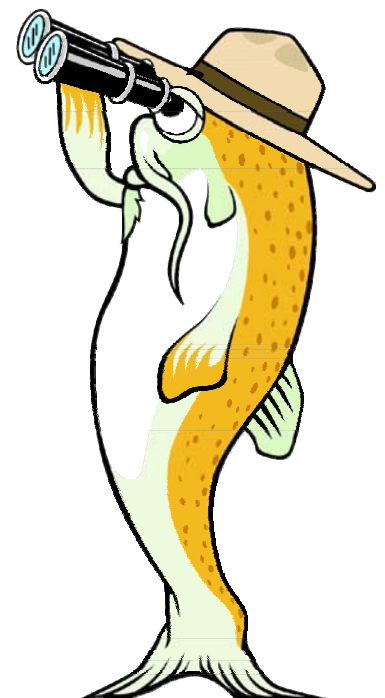
Student Park Rangers Keng Lee and Cheng Xiong earned their Junior Ranger badges for helping to create a new Mississippi River park in downtown St. Paul called the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. See the picture below. Learn more in the Featured Ranger section on the next page.

Junior Ranger Trivia

- There are 945 Mississippi River Junior Rangers.
- 269 new Mississippi River Junior Rangers have been sworn-in so far in 2007.
- Freddie the Flathead Catfish, the Junior Ranger Program Mascot, loves to bird watch.



Student Park Rangers Cheng Xiong and Keng Lee hard at work.



Calendar of Events



Explore,
Learn,
Protect!

Storm Drain Stenciling

Thursday, July 19 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Use paint and stencils, to mark on the street near storm drains with the message, “Please Don’t Pollute! Drains to Mississippi River!” This is a great way to help **PROTECT** the Mississippi River by showing people that all the water (and the trash!) in the streets, goes into the storm drains and straight to the Mississippi River.

Earn a storm drain stenciling button at the program. **FREE**. The organization Friends of the Mississippi River is providing this program just for Junior Rangers. Contact Ranger Ami to register: 651- 290- 3030 x304 or ami_thompson@nps.gov.

Junior Ranger Day at Como Zoo

Saturday, July 28 10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

This summer at Como Zoo, Sparky the Sea Lion is taking a trip down the Mississippi River. Mississippi River Junior Rangers are invited to attend the free Sparky Show at 11:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. You will get a special welcome at the show! As always, bring a friend and they can earn their own junior ranger badge.

EXPLORE the zoo and find a Park Ranger or Freddie the Flathead Catfish to get a Como Zoo Day junior ranger button!

Lilydale Fossil Hunt

Thursday, August 2 6:00 — 7:30 p.m.

Due to this program’s success last year, Junior Rangers can again hunt for fossilized underwater creatures at Lilydale Regional Park in St. Paul. **LEARN** what Minnesota was like when these creatures were alive—it was very different than today! Earn a fossil hunt button for attending. Register with Ranger Ami for details and directions: 651- 293- 0200 or ami_thompson@nps.gov. **FREE**.

Ride a Working Barge

Thursday, August 30— 6:00 — 8:00 p.m.

Junior Rangers ages 10 and up are invited by Aggregate Industries to **EXPLORE** the river by taking a ride on a “working” barge on the Mississippi River. National Park Rangers will be on board. The barge ride will begin and end at the Aggregate Industries Nelson Plant & Marine Division on Lower Grey Cloud Island in Cottage Grove. For more information and to register please call Aggregate Industries (651) 683- 0600.

Rangers at the Minnesota State Fair

Thursday, August 23 — Monday, Sept. 3

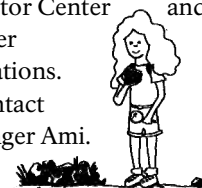
10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

National Park Rangers will again be at the Minnesota State Fair. Find us near the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources building, next to the Adopt- a- River Trash sculpture (just south of the fish pond). Wear your badge and stop by to say “Hi!” and see how people are **PROTECT**ing rivers.

Check out a Discovery Backpack!

Backpacks full of fun exploration tools are available for check out at the Mississippi River Visitor Center and other locations.

Contact
Ranger Ami.



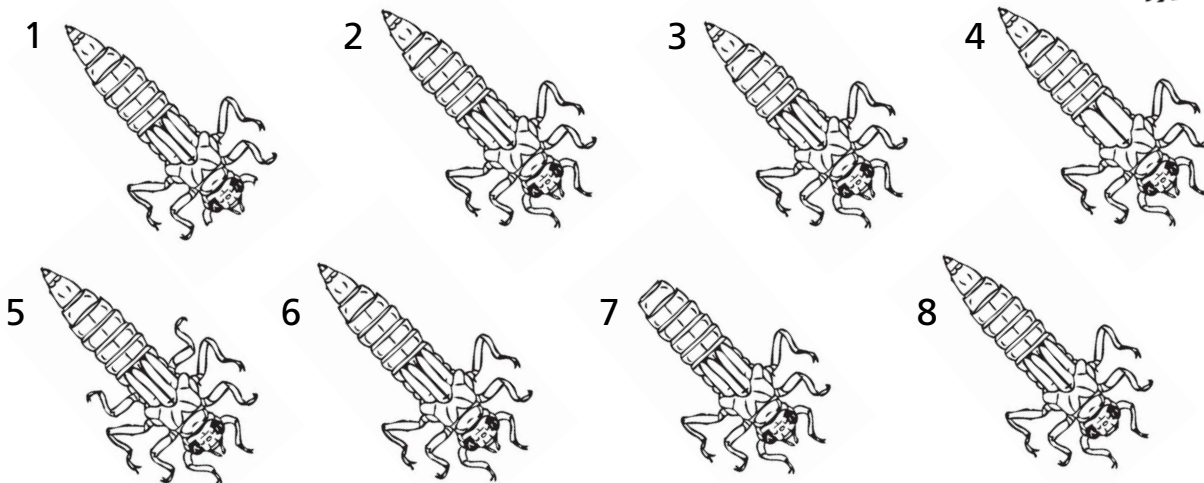
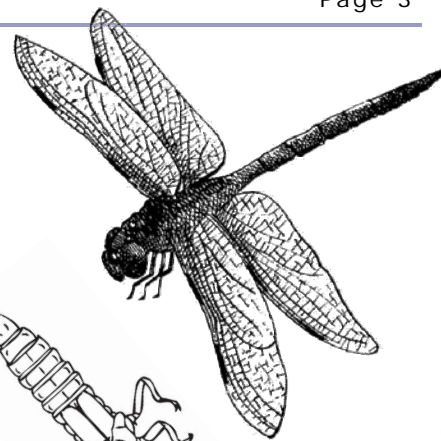
Many more activities listed at
www.livetheriver.org



Ranger Ami and Ranger Keng at State Fair.

Being a Junior Ranger is all Fun & Games!

Which two dragonfly nymphs (babies) are exactly the same? Look closely, it's tricky!



Dragonfly nymphs and other water insects live in ponds and backwaters. Grab a net, an adult, and go out and look for them! Be gentle with aquatic insects and release them back into the water.



To find the answer, count up all the flying birds in this newsletter. You will get a two- digit number which will tell you which two dragonfly nymphs are exactly the same!

Featured Park Ranger: Keng Lee



Keng Lee is currently in the middle of his second year as a Student Ranger. As a Student Ranger, Keng works at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, gives people information about Minneapolis History at St. Anthony Falls, and talks about the Mississippi's plants, animals, and rocks

at Minnehaha Falls. Keng also helps at the Minnesota State Fair.

Keng was a Junior Ranger before he became a Student Ranger. He earned his Junior Ranger badge by helping create a new Mississippi River park called the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. In 2005, Keng was awarded his Junior Ranger

badge by First Lady Laura Bush while she was at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area to promote the National Park Junior Ranger Program.

If you are interested in learning more about the Student Ranger program contact Ranger Ami: (651) 290-3030 x304 or ami_thompson@nps.gov.

Junior Ranger Web Connections

If you don't live near Minneapolis or St. Paul or just can't make it to any of the Junior Ranger programs use the internet to *Explore, Learn, Protect*. Below is a list of some great websites to do just that!

- National Park Service WebRangers: <http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/>
- Build a Prairie: <http://www.bellmuseum.org/distancelearning/prairie/build/>
- The Secret lives of Wild Animals: http://nsf.gov/news/special_reports/animals/index.jsp





Junior Ranger Program
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Mississippi River Junior Rangers

Who are Junior Rangers? You tell us! Send in a picture or drawing that shows you as a Junior Ranger for the next newsletter. Send pictures to Ranger Ami at ami_thompson@nps.gov.

