

JUNIOR NATURALIST BOBCAT CHECKLIST (NO TIME LIMIT)

Creekfield Hike: (Must be either a staff led hike or complete the Creekfield Lake Self-Guided Manual & Scavenger Hunt found at the Nature Center. Guided hikes are offered every Saturday and Sunday morning. Visit www.brazosbend.org for listing.

Hike Leader's signature

Self Guided Manual Hike

Nature program: _____

Presenter's signature: _____

Nature program: _____

Presenter's signature: _____

Hike the Horseshoe Lake Loop Trail. Park at the loop at the end of the Elm Lake Picnic area.

Read the first interpretive panel on you way to the horseshoes for the answers to the next 2 questions.

Why did settlers fear the cane? _____

What two animals are now gone from this area (extirpated)?

1) _____ 2) _____

Read the next interpretive panel for the next 2 questions.

What is an oxbow? _____

Which horseshoe lake is man-made? _____

How many benches are located on the horseshoe loop trail? _____

Hike the Red Buckeye Foot Trail. Park near the trail head sign in the Hale Lake picnic area parking lot halfway between the pavilion and the rest rooms. Inquire with staff about trail conditions.

Locate the interpretive sign located along the Brazos River portion of the trail. Answer the following questions.

Where is the lowest point in the park? _____

When does the red-buckeye bloom? _____

Hike the portion of the trail leading to where Big Creek empties into the Brazos River. We call this area the “mouth” of Big Creek.

Visit the George Observatory. Park in the Nature Center parking lot and take the crosswalk. Follow the section of trail with the footlights. The Observatory is open on Saturday only starting at 3:00.

Go to the top of the Observatory and find the weather vein located on the north side of the deck. Did you know that all telescopes are aligned with the North Star?

1. Is the wind blowing? YES NO
2. What direction is the wind blowing? _____

Go inside the Observatory and find the weather station. Check the wind direction. Are you correct?

Wind direction _____

Wind velocity _____

Air temperature _____

Humidity _____

Rainfall: daily _____ monthly _____ yearly _____

The average rainfall for this area is approximately 46”.

Are behind or we ahead? _____

What effect do you think this has on the park’s ecosystems? _____

On your way back to the parking lot you will calculate each planet’s distance from the sun. Each foot equals 4.43 million miles, the average distance of each planet from the sun.

SUN – plaque is located on the outside wall of the building.

MERCURY – also on the wall is 8 feet from the SUN plaque.

$$8 \times 4.43 = \underline{35.4 \text{ million miles}} \text{ from the SUN.}$$

VENUS – (in the flower bed) _____ miles from the SUN.

EARTH – (in the flower bed) _____ miles from the SUN.

MARS – (light posts from now on) _____ miles from the SUN.

JUPITER - _____ miles from the SUN.

SATURN - _____ miles from the SUN.

URANUS - _____ miles from the SUN.

NEPTUNE - _____ miles from the SUN.

PLUTO - _____ miles from the SUN.

Present completed form at the Nature Center. It is not be open all day, every day. It is ALWAYS open on weekends from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Form is yours to keep.