

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does the scheme cost?

Absolutely nothing - signing up to be a Junior Park Ranger (JPR) school is totally free! One of the main aims of The Parks Trust charity is to encourage people of all ages to get outside and enjoy nature, while protecting our wildlife and lovely parks. This scheme is just one way we do that!

What is the role of a JPR?

JPRs should be passionate about nature and will be responsible for encouraging others from their school to get outside and enjoy nature too! They will learn lots about how to look after the environment and protect nature in the local area. This can be achieved by taking part in four ways recommended by this program:

- Reading the monthly nature bulletin (either electronically or as part of an assembly)
- Setting up and updating a noticeboard to display info about JPR and your group's achievements
- Running competitions, quizzes and other activities with your group
- Getting involved in activities organised through The Parks Trust



What is the role of a JPR Coordinator?

The main role of the Coordinator is to facilitate meetings and plan any activities, and assemblies where the bulletin could be read out. You are also there to support JPRs by finding them a noticeboard in the school, helping to maintain it and supporting them with their competitions/quizzes etc. These tasks generally equate to 2-3 hours per month.

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What are the benefits for the JPRs?

- Access to free resources on our website
- Invitations to 4 FREE, exclusive weekend workshops as well as other activities with The Parks Trust
- The chance to win £200 worth of equipment or school sessions for your school for winning our "Outstanding Rangers Award"
- A JPR-branded pin badge and activity journal to keep
- A scrapbook for your school's JPR group to record all your achievements throughout the year

When are the workshops and does the Coordinator need to attend?

Workshops are run four times a year on a Saturday. All JPRs are invited, but there will not be space available for everyone to attend. Tickets are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so it is important to share reminders of these when prompted by the monthly newsletter so that parents/carers can book on in time. JPR parents/carers are responsible for signing up to the workshops once they have received the link from you. We do not contact parents/carers directly until the booking has been made so all information about booking workshops should come from you.

Adults are not required to attend. Our staff are DBS-checked, First Aid-trained and fully equipped to lead the sessions. The theme of the workshop is different each season and will be hosted in a different park each time to enable the JPRs to explore more of Milton Keynes.

When are this year's workshops?

Saturday 9th November 2024 - Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve

Saturday 1st March 2025 - Howe Park Wood

Saturday 26th April 2025 - TBC

Saturday 28th June 2025 - Elfield Park Nature Reserve



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What is the Outstanding Rangers Award and how do we apply?

The Outstanding Rangers Award is a group achievement for your school. Throughout the year, you will collect evidence of the tasks your JPRs have achieved, including drawings, photos and copies of activities like quizzes.

You may choose to record your evidence digitally or keep it in a scrapbook form. Whatever your preference, please share it with us by Friday 6th June 2025 so we can decide on a winner. We will look over submissions and choose a school to receive £200 worth of Outdoor Learning sessions or nature equipment for your school!



It is free to apply for the award, but we do need evidence in order to count you. We recommend taking photos and keeping track as you go to reduce your end-of-term admin.

What are JPR Sharing Events?

Sharing Events are a chance for our JPR groups from across Milton Keynes to take part in fun activities with us at The Parks Trust, and will give you a taster of what we get up to at our JPR workshops and Outdoor Learning sessions. The Sharing Events will be a chance for you to have fun, share ideas with other schools and meet other Coordinators.

Sharing Events for this academic year will take place on:

- Thursday 19th June at Campbell Park – 12.30pm-2.30pm or
- Friday 20th June at Howe Park Wood – 9.30am-11.30am

Please note you only need to book onto one of these sessions as they will be repeated over the 2 days. Details and reminders will be sent nearer the time but we hope you will be able to come along!