



Hit the Road... It's State Fair Time!

Junior Rangers! Have we got something super fun for you! Pack up your family and plan a road trip to Salem before summer ends and you're back at school.

We like to call it "Oregon's newest state park," since Parks became the proud parent of the state fairgrounds late last year. But it turns out it's really not so new. In fact, the fairgrounds has quite a long history! Did you know that the first unofficial Oregon State Fair was held in 1858? How old does that make the Fair?

The first Oregon State Fair was held in 1861 on four acres along the Clackamas River, but it soon moved to 50 acres in Salem. With more land, other attractions were added to the horse events and displays of livestock, vegetables and fruit. Quilters, canners and bakers organized friendly competitions and soon the story of Home Arts was born.

By 1870, the fairgrounds was just about its current size of 185 acres

People come from all over the state to Salem every August and September to enjoy the fair with family and friends. We hope you will enjoy it, too.

This "special edition" of Beaver Tracks focuses on this year's fair. It's so chock full of fun things to do, you'll want to go every day! Below and to the right are just some highlights, then look inside for lots more.

There's no way I'm missing out on this!
JOIN ME!



Sunday, August 27

OREGON'S GOT TALENT!

Who is Oregon's most talented star? Watch those who were finalists in their home counties compete live for the ultimate state prize!

Monday, August 28

LES SCHWAB TIRES KIDS' DAY.

All carnival ride tickets are **ONLY \$1 each!** (with coupon).

August 29-30-31

3 DAYS FOR UNLIMITED RIDES!

Wear your purchased wristband for unlimited ride sessions. Be prepared to zoom fast and furious and get in all the rides you can.

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Good Golly, Miss Molly! These Contests Are **JUST FOR FUN!**

Old-Time Butter Making Contest – We provide the ingredients, but you provide the action. Shake, shake, shake the cream into butter and sample it on crackers. Have a yummy, buttery good time! Open to ages 5 – 8, and 9 – 12.
FRI., AUG. 25 – 4:00 p.m.

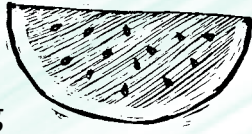
Milk Moustache Contest
We provide the milk, YOU provide the moustache! Four age categories: 6 and under, 7 – 11, 12 – 17, 18 and up. Get your parents to enter, too!
SAT., AUG. 26 – 5:30 p.m.

Balance A Potato on your Head Contest – What? Yes, that's right. Try balancing a real potato on your head (don't worry, it's not a baked one!) and be the first to reach the other side of the room. Four age categories: 6 and under, 7 – 11, 12 – 17, 18 and up. Wouldn't you like to see your dad do this?
SUN., AUG. 27 – 5:30 p.m.

Farmyard Bingo – Been to the farm lately? Meet your barnyard friends in this fast and unique twist on traditional bingo. Play for free, open to all and prizes will be awarded!
SUN., SEPT. 3 – 5:30 p.m.

Home Arts Contests For Kids (and Kids at Heart!)

All-State Watermelon Seed Spitting



Spit your way to fame in this 13th annual seed spittin' extravaganza. Bite into a sweet, juicy watermelon and see just how far your three competition seeds will fly. Entry categories for men, women, kids ages 8 – 15, and kids ages 7 and under. Have a spittin' good time working on your own spittin' image!

SAT., AUG. 26 – 4:45 p.m.

Great Piñata Decorating

Open to everyone aged 12 and up who know how to let their imagination soar. Find a friend to work with you and double the piñata fun. We supply the base, paper, paste and tape. All you need is enthusiasm and a great sense of fun, fun, fun! Sign-ups take place on contest day until all spots are filled.

SUN., AUG. 27 – 2:45 p.m.

Make It With Duct Tape



Here's your chance to get your creative juices going and impress your friends and family. Will you be crowned the King or Queen of duct tape ingenuity? For adults or adult/child teams. Registration info and rules at: www.oregonstatefair.org/fair/contests/HA06Lowes.pdf
MON., AUG. 28 – 2:15 p.m.

Home Arts Contests for Kids

(Cont. on pg. 6)

State Fair Familyville Acts You Won't Want to Miss

Who's On Stage? (besides your State Park friends . . .)

T. TEXAS TERRY

T. Texas Terry blends his cowboy skills like rope spinning, whip cracking and gun twirling with lots of audience participation to create his "Comedy Wild West Show." It's full of laughs, surprises and a guaranteed good time for all.

SHENANIGUNS!

The Wild West Goes Wacko! Law and disorder prevail when Deputy Leon Jones and Sheriff Hopalong casually strap on big iron and face off against dangerous dimwit desperadoes.

DOGGIES OF THE WILD WEST

Marshal Rowdy Yo along with his silly sidekick, Calamity Jo, amaze and amuse audiences with a cast of "Pooches from the Prairie." These multi-talented comedic canines include "Barks Brooks," America's newest country music singing sensation; "Miss Prissy, "the world's only pup to balance on one paw; "Precious," famous for her jump roping skills; "Pistol Peanuts," full of head balancing tricks; "Peppy," the paw-scootin,' dancin'est doggie in the West, and, the star of the show, Hollywood High Diving Champion "Paco."

CALAMITY JO'S MAGICAL WILD WEST SHOW

Jo pairs up with "Sadie the Silly Filly," the most famous pinto pony from Saddle Sore, South Dakota in this musical, comical, magical show full of balloons and puppets.

Strolling Along, you Might Meet Up with...

WASHBOARD WILLY

With his own kind of energy, Washboard Willy has become a children's Pied Piper of rhythm. His interactive style combines rhythm sound effects and comedy to delight audiences of all ages.

WON ISRAEL: MIME

With audience involvement and what seems like impossible physical illusions, Won's show is nonstop action full of costume changes, precise movements and sound effects. How does he disappear down staircases, elevators and escalators without warning? His Gunslinger, Motorcycle Daredevil and Karate character sketches will make you roar.

ROBERTO THE MAGNIFICENT

Magnificent in comedy, juggling and crazy stunts, Roberto has earned smiles of delight from audiences for 25 years.

MONSTER SHOP BUMP'N

*See the Beastie Creatures racing around in their colorful costumes to entertain kids and charm the big folks. The Beasties are not your everyday theme park characters; they are unique, colorful, talented, and energetic performers who bring the Beasties to life right in front of your eyes.

“Z-z-z-z-Zap! N-n-n-y-y-yrt!”

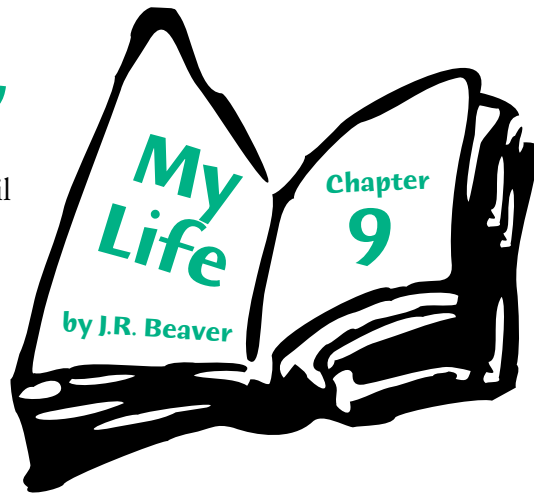
“Whack!” J.R.’s strong beaver tail slapped at the annoying mosquitoes swarming above his face. “Youch!” cried J.R. as he awoke with a start. “I slapped myself right in the head!” Finding absolutely no humor in that, J.R. quickly jumped to his webbed hind feet. He realized that now was the time to get up and begin his day.

Peering out the doorway of the tiny log cabin he had slept in, J.R. could see the weather had changed dramatically. He had hoped to enjoy yet another clear and sunny day. He had dreamed of hurrying down the hill to the grand ocean, playing all day on Indian Beach and cooling off in that wonderful surf when he got too hot. He had also hoped to explore more of the cool, shady forest with those big, tall trees. His stomach growled in hunger as he thought about munching on the best, juiciest saplings he could find. But instead of bright sun greeting him today, a dense layer of fog hung thick in the trees. J.R. could barely see 10 feet in front of him.

“Rap, rap!” A knock at the door sounded. Curious, J.R. swung the door wide open. To his surprise, there stood the kind state park ranger who had greeted him the afternoon before when he had arrived, huffing and puffing at the top of Clatsop Loop Trail.

“Top ’o the morning to you, J.R.,” Ranger David greeted him cheerfully.

“And a good morning to you, too,” replied J.R. He was glad to have some company once again. “What are you up to today?”



“Actually, that’s why I am here,” said Ranger David. “I wanted to tell you that I’m heading into town soon to get some supplies... and then...,” David continued as he winked, “then, I am driving straight to Salem, our capital city, to attend a very special event.”

“A very special event?” asked J.R., intrigued.



“Yep! Uh-huh. Right you are, J.R. Hey, that rhymed! So, do you want to know where I’m going and what I get to do?”

“You bet I do! Please tell me.” J.R. thumped his tail in anticipation.

“Well... I’m going to the State Fair. I’m going to work a few days at the Oregon State Parks yurt and cabin display, and get to meet all kinds of interesting people. I will answer questions and tell people about our parks, programs and services. I’m really looking forward to it.”

“That sounds like a really fun time, Ranger David. I was thinking I would like to stay on the coast, but with this weather, I just don’t know. I might have to change my plans,” J.R. said reluctantly.

“Oh, this?” David asked, gesturing at the air. “This is just morning fog. It will burn off soon enough. It should be another beautiful day for you here at Ecola State Park.

Unless,” David teased with a glint in his eye, “unless of course you’d like to join me. I could use the company, and besides, it sure seems like there would be plenty of ways you could help out while you are there,” he added.

“Really? I’m always ready for my next adventure!” J.R. exclaimed excitedly. “But, what happens at the State Fair? How might I be able to help?” J.R. had some worries about that. Besides, he had just learned to love that great big ocean. He wasn’t sure he was ready to leave just yet.

“Listen, let me tell you a secret and maybe it will help you decide. After I work at the Natural Resources and State Parks area, you know what I like to do?” David

My Life, Continued on pg. 6

August 25

1:15 to 1:45 p.m.
& 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Flying Squirrels:

Frequent Night Flyers

These elusive nighttime mammals have amazing superpowers, allowing them to glide up to 100 feet. These critters, often forgotten because they are seldom seen, play a very important role in our northwest forests.

August 26

1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Corsets, Suspenders and Pantaloons

See how your clothing is so much different from the clothes worn by a family in the 1860s.

4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Wants You!

Step back in time and imagine what life was like for young men in the CCC. Learn how the men received their uniforms and their wages. Participants will also receive their "orders" as we determine who will build what at Silver Falls State Park.

August 27

12:30 to 1 p.m.

A Cascade Blockade

Discover the cause of weather patterns in central Oregon. Join in and help build a human Cascade Mountain range that blocks weather patterns.

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Creepy Crawler Hidy Ho

Discover the fascinating reptiles and amphibians found in Oregon. How hard is it to find a turtle in the grass?

August 28

12:30 to 1 p.m.

Oregon Whale Watching

Did you ever see a whale? Would you like to see more? Discover how knowing about whale swimming styles can help you spot a whale, track its movement, and experience the thrill of Oregon Whale Watching. "Wally the Whale" will be on hand for a demonstration.

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Crabbing and Clamming on the Coast

Calling all seafood lovers! Join us for a demonstration of the equipment, tide tables and information needed to crab and clam on the Oregon Coast.

August 29

12:30 to 1 p.m. &

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Meet a Mountain Man

Step back in time to hear tales told by a mountain man. Hear about early Oregon explorers and their encounters with bears, cougars, and other wild critters. See a demonstration of a black-powder gun used in days gone by.

August 30

12:30 to 1 p.m.

Beacons that Beckon: Lights Along the Oregon Coast

Learn about Heceta Head Lighthouse as a shining example of maritime safety. How do lighthouses work? What was it like to be a lighthouse keeper? Break the code that still guides sailors to safety. See and touch a real lighthouse prism. Discover all this and more from a Heceta Head Lighthouse park ranger.

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Water, Wheels, and Wheat: The Story of Oregon's Oldest Water-Powered Grain Mill

Sort your own grain using a 1920s hand-crank cleaner machine. See how Willamette Valley pioneers hand-hewed trees into building timbers. Learn how Oregonians in the 1800s ran their businesses on water power, decades before electricity, steam, or gas engines. Experience all this and more, from one of Oregon's newest state parks, Thompson's Mills.

August 31

12:30 to 1 p.m. &

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Oregon Trail Memories

Come enjoy living history. Listen to "Buck" Neighbor recall the hardships and triumphs his family faced. Learn about the character and lifestyles of pioneers who made the great state of Oregon what it is today. Your whole family will enjoy this lively presentation.

September 1

1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Water, Wheels, and Wheat: The Story of Oregon's Oldest Water- Powered Grain Mill

(see August 30 description above)

4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Fur, Fangs, and Feathers

Discover some of the fascinating wildlife found in Oregon such as black bear, mountain lion, elk, whale, rattlesnakes and those mysterious owls. Hear the sounds of wildlife and learn to hoot like an owl!

chedule



September 2

1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Fun With Trails

Canoes, kayaks, mountain and street bicycles and hiking boots on display. Come hear about trails in Oregon state parks. Seymour the Safety Serpent will make an appearance.

4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Fur, Fangs, and Feathers

(see Sept. 1 description above)

September 3

12:30 to 1 p.m. & 3:30 to 4 p.m.

Beach Safety

This family program will help you learn how to play safely at the beach. Waves, logs and steep cliffs all look fun, but are among the most common hidden dangers at the beach. This lively and interactive presentation will show you how to play it safe and enjoy the sunny coast.

September 4

12:30 to 1 p.m.

Volunteer Road-Trippin': A Hop, Skip and Big Jump Across Oregon

Families gather 'round and take a "road trip" across Oregon with OPRD's volunteer coordinator. Play our interactive game and find out why volunteers are at the heart of what we do.

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Dancing with J.R. Beaver!

Who is J.R. Beaver? And how did he get to be such a great dancer? Come join Oregon State Park's mascot for fun, frolicking times and some lessons on loving our parks. Younger children can learn how to become an official Junior Ranger. Older children can learn the value of volunteering by creating a project of their own.

A Winter's Rest

J.R. is as busy as a beaver this month visiting so many kids at the Oregon State Fair and having the time of his life. Now, J.R. needs a bit of a rest before building a new beaver lodge for the winter. While he finds a clear mountain stream to make his new home, can you help him figure out which state park to visit early next year? He'll be itching to travel by then.

Write a letter to J.R. telling him which Oregon State Park is your favorite and why. Your letter may end up in the next issue of Beaver Tracks or better yet, J.R. just might go to the park you suggest.

Send letters to:

J.R. Beaver, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301-1271

Fair Time Word Search

Search for the State Fair activities below in the chart first, then when you visit the fair, be on the lookout to see if you can find them in action!

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

Food	Games	Booths	Art
Fairlift	Photography	Concerts	Hobbies
Talent	Crafts	Ribbons	Horse Show
Contests	Gardens	Floral Arranging	Agriculture
Grand Prize	Livestock	Exhibits	Carnival
Natural Resources			

My Life, Continued from pg. 3

leaned just a bit closer and whispered, “I like to go on as many carnival rides as I can. It makes me feel like a kid again.”

“Carnival rides?” J.R. asked. “I’ve seen rides before, but only from a distance. Once I stopped to see a big party, an area with lots of bright lights, a big round wheel in the sky, and zippy boxes with people in them moving all around, up and down. I’ve also heard ...” and J.R. shuddered at the thought, “lots of screaming coming from the place. Is that a carnival? Is that what you’re talking about? I just don’t know about getting on one of those rides myself. How could you think it’s fun? It seems way too scary to me. Why would people be screaming if they weren’t scared?”

“Those screams you hear are screams of delight, my furry friend,” laughed Ranger David as he leaned over to ruffle J.R.’s fuzzy head. “And if you pay close attention, you hear much more than screams. People are laughing, joking, and yelling because they’re having the time of their lives. You ought to try it. I think you’ll get hooked once you go.

“Sold!” exclaimed J.R. “I like to follow the fun, so I’m taking a road trip to the Oregon State Fair. Whooo-hooo, Beaver Bellies! Now I can’t wait!” J.R. laughed so hard that even his belly jiggled. Then he got a funny look on his face as he paused for a moment. “Well... there is just one thing though. Do I have time for one more swim in the ocean before we leave?”

“Sure thing, J.R.,” David smiled.

“Deal!” shouted J.R., grabbing his vest and hat as fast as he could. “Off to the State Fair we go!”



Home Arts Contests For Kids

(Cont. from pg. 2)

Old Fashioned Corn Shucking

Become the Grand Champion Shucker in this 11th annual contest that shows who’s the boss when it comes to gettin’ that corn ready for cooking. A truckload of fresh corn will set the scene, while folks gather ’round to watch the musical pursuits. Shuck away while the music plays and claim that champion title. For men, women and kids, ages 8 – 15. Participants get to carry off all the ears they can peel. No shucks here, pardner!

WED., AUG. 30 – 5 p.m.



Dress A Fruit or Vegetable

Uh-huh. That’s right. Dress your veggies just as you like ’em! Bring a fruit or vegetable dressed for a “Road Trip” to the Info Booth in the Jackman-Long building and get free admission to the Fair. Four age categories: 6 and under, 7 – 12, and 13 – 17.

THURS., AUG. 31 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Trash to Treasure Contest

You’ve heard the saying. One person’s trash is another person’s treasure. Your job is to bring in your very best treasure made from used or recycled materials. Free admission to the Fair on this day is offered to each entry. This 3rd annual contest is for teens 16 and older, so tell your older brothers and sisters. See the official contest rules at www.oregonstatefair.org/fair/contests/HA06Trash.pdf

THURS., AUG. 31 – 1 p.m.



Creative Card-Making

Make a masterpiece card! Will you be the one who makes the next hit “designer” statement? All materials are provided. Contest limited to the first 25 participants in each division who pre-register that day. One division is for children, ages 6 – 13; one is for ages 14 and above.

THURS., AUG. 31 – 3:45 p.m.





have to wrestle it from me to find out! Truthfully, ALL Oregon's state parks have something special about them, if you just take the time to learn and explore. I promise you, you'll be amazed at the beauty, history and variety. Have fun making new discoveries as you travel.

Lastly, I do see my friend Smokey Bear every year at the Oregon State Fair. Sometimes people get us confused. How could they? I am so much cuter! Plus, I have a cool vest with stuff in the pockets.

See you at the Fair!
J.R.

Howdy J.R.,

Me and my family have been to Fort Clatsop & Fort Stevens and traveled the trails of Lewis & Clark. I even earned a Lewis &



Clark Corps of Discovery badge. I love State Parks! I want to say thanks for all you've done to keep the parks clean and nice. You can be sure all of us kids will do our part to keep the environment clean! I think I've been in your program six years. My favorite state park is Beverly Beach. What's yours? Well, I've got to go, but if you happen to come across Smokey Bear, say "hi" to him for me, please. Bye now!

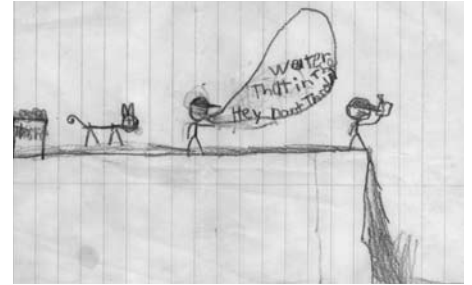
Sincerely,
Lydia, age 12

Howdy yourself, Lydia!

A big huge congratulations to you since you earned your Corps of Discovery badge. In fact, I am so excited for you that I will shout it from the rooftops, er... I mean, from my beaver dentop! CONGRATS LYDIA!
And, to all you dedicated Junior Rangers out there: YOU are truly the ones (along with our park rangers and hosts) who help keep our lovely parks so green and clean. Thank you!
Speaking of our wonderful parks, you will never get me to claim which is my favorite. You'd

might think about participating in the Youth Service Award program, especially since you live so close to a park!

All for now!
J.R.



Dear J.R.,

Polluting is bad, so can you put this in your newsletter so that kids will not litter?

Your friend,
James
p.s. You're cool.

Hi James-

I'm happy to put your drawing and note in Beaver Tracks, but I have a feeling it's not kids who do the littering. I find it hard to believe that anyone, no matter the age or background, could throw something on the ground without a care. I'll bet you know exactly what I mean. The parks, our cities and towns, our rivers and marshes, and all the wild places we enjoy are where plants, animals and people live together. When people carelessly throw trash out without using a trash can or recycle bin, it affects every living thing. Humans are funny like that, and although I try my hardest to understand them and not get mad, it ruffles my fur, big time! Lucky we have all those Junior Rangers to help educate the others and to make a real difference.

Your friend too,
J.R.

Dear J.R.,

My name is Kira, and I was wondering how many more years do I have until I am too old to be a Junior Ranger. I'm turning twelve in September, but I have been a Junior Ranger since I was about two years old! Are you going to visit Bullards Beach State Park? If so, I will make sure I visit you since we live in Bandon. I love camping. My sister and I have been Junior Rangers for a long time. Bye for now!

Kira

Hi there, Kira!

I'm so glad you wrote to me. It looks like you may just win the prize for the person who's been a Junior Ranger the longest. Although it's a lot harder for really young ones to understand and participate in all the games and crafts in a park's J.R. Program, they still have a great time with their older brothers and sisters. The J.R. Program is really intended for 6 to 12 year olds. The activities are all designed for kids of that age group. After you turn 13, you



OPRD
 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
 Salem, OR 97301-1271

Best in Show

Simple 7 Step Recipe for a Blue Ribbon Junior Ranger!



Ingredients:

Big Sense of Responsibility
 Caring Heart
 Concern for the Environment
 Kindness
 Respect for Others
 Desire for Fun

Smiles and Laughter
 Eagerness to Learn
 Sharing Attitude
 Honesty
 Integrity
 Love

Directions:

1. In small bowl, mix together 1 big, full **Caring Heart** (*make sure it is beating first!*), 1 cup of **Kindness**, and a healthy dose of **Concern for the Environment**
2. Stir in a well-rounded **Big Sense of Responsibility**, adding a heaping spoonful of **Respect for Others**.
3. Toss in a great **Desire for Fun**, 2 full cups of **Honesty**, and fill to the brim with liquid **Integrity**.
4. Scoop mixture out of bowl and press onto cutting board. Sprinkle on 3 tbsp **Sharing Attitude** and 4 ounces of **Eagerness to Learn**.
5. Take out rolling pin, and roll in just a dash of **Smiles and Laughter** to taste.
6. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.
7. Take out of oven and let cool! Top it off with a quick splash of **Love** before serving.

Voila! You now have in front of you the perfectly aged and baked Junior Ranger.
 Make a hopeful wish before eating. Enjoy!



Answer Key

Answers to Fair Time Word Search on page 5.

