



# J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



Become a

# Junior Ranger!



Follow these steps and you'll be on your way:

1

Grab a pencil and begin by flipping through the pages in this booklet.

2

Find your "Ranger Ranking" below and complete the minimum number of pages. **Need help?** Ask your family, a ranger, any "Ding" staff, read signs, or check the internet!

3

Visit the Visitor & Education Center desk to complete the **Junior Ranger Pledge** on the back of this booklet, claim your badge, and become a Junior Refuge Ranger!

Recommended  
number of  
pages:

## Ranger Rankings



Osprey Level  
(Ages 6-8)

4-8 pages



River Otter Level  
(Ages 9-12)

9-13 pages



American Alligator Level  
(Ages 13+)

14+ pages

Welcome to

# J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge!



## What is a National Wildlife Refuge?

**National Wildlife Refuges** are federal public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's wild plants and animals.

» What state are you from?

---

» Can you name a refuge in your state?

---

To see a full map of the NWR System, go to <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/>



» How many can you count?

---

## Florida's National Wildlife Refuges



J.N. "Ding"  
Darling  
National  
Wildlife Refuge

**"Ding"? Is that some type of bird?**

No! Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling was a nationally-published editorial cartoonist who served as the first Director of the U.S. Biological Survey (later called the U.S. Fish and Wildlife). **"Ding" is short for "Darling".**



## Ranger Rules:

# Leave No Trace

It is important to respect our outdoor spaces while visiting.

*There are seven principles we can follow to minimize our impact while spending time in outdoor places:*

1 Plan ahead and prepare.

2 Travel and camp on durable surfaces.

3 Dispose of waste properly.

4 Leave what you find.

5 Minimize campfire impacts (be careful with fire).

6 Respect wildlife.

7 Be considerate of other visitors.

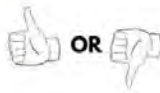


## Circle "Thumbs up" or "Thumbs Down"

» Can I pick a flower and take it home?



» Can I take photos of what I see?



» Can I feed or offer water to wildlife?



» Can I fish?



» Can I play my music loud enough for everyone to hear?



» Can I go off the designated trails to get a better view?



Cross out 3 **BAD** practices in the the scene below:

Circle 3 **GOOD** practices in the the scene below:



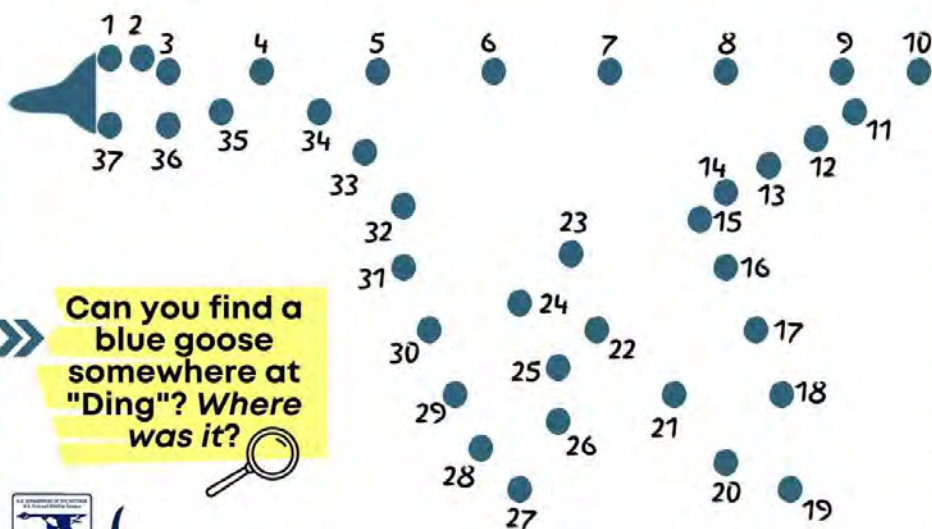
Did you know?

Jay Norwood  
Darling designed  
the iconic "blue  
goose"

Connect

A Goose

Color your  
goose **blue** to  
add the final  
touches!



Can you find a  
blue goose  
somewhere at  
"Ding"? Where  
was it?



HELLO  
my name is

Puddles

The blue goose is the  
official symbol for all  
National Wildlife  
Refuges. It can be  
seen on Refuge  
boundary markers,  
entrance signs,  
brochures, and  
exhibits since 1936!

Puddles is the  
official mascot  
for all National  
Wildlife  
Refuges.



# Design a

Visit the Visitor and education center to learn more!

# Duck Stamp

## What is a Duck Stamp?

A Federal Duck Stamp serves as free admission into any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee.



98 cents per dollar spent on a duck stamp goes directly towards land conservation through U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Who drew the first duck stamp? 

Start designing a duck stamp!

### Did you know?

There is an annual adult and junior competition to design the Federal Duck Stamp for that year? Scan the code below to learn more!



# Wildlife Drive



# Scavenger Hunt



Mangrove  
tree



Bird in  
flight



Standing  
bird



Marsh  
Rabbit



Anole  
(An-ole)



Photographer



Bicyclists



Fish  
(or someone  
fishing!)



Observation  
tower



Zebra  
Longwing



Spider web  
(check the  
trees!)



Insect



# Tune into Nature



We live in a busy world. Sometimes its important to just stop and listen. **As you explore "Ding", fill in the chart below with all of the sounds you hear. Use the "free spaces" to fill in your own sounds.** There is so much to hear!

What  
made  
that  
sound?



screeching _____	crunching _____	<b>What do you hear?</b> _____	whistling _____
chirping _____	swooshing _____	splashing _____	cracking _____
buzzing _____	<b>What do you hear?</b> _____	tapping _____	flowing _____
splashing _____	cawing _____	squeaking _____	<b>What do you hear?</b> _____



**FREE SPACE!**

What is the **closest** sound you can hear?

What is the **furthest** sound you can hear?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Ecosystems

**Four Florida ecosystems that you can find at "Ding":**

An **ecosystem** is a community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific habitat.

» **ESTUARY:** Where a body of fresh water, such as a river, meets the ocean.

» **UPLANDS:** Higher, dryer ecosystem that is further from the ocean. Usually contains fresh water.

» **COASTLINE:** Where land meets the ocean.

» **OCEAN:** A huge body of salt water

Can you label the four ecosystems in the picture below?

2

1

