

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How much does the program 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 program 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

## 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 8th November 2025 - Floodplain Forest Nature Reserve

Saturday 7th March 2026 - Howe Park Wood

Saturday 25th April 2026 - To be confirmed

Saturday 20th June 2026 - 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 have naturally collected evidence of the tasks your JPRs have achieved, including drawings, photos and copies of activities like quizzes.

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026, Florie will be visiting JPR schools to chat to your groups and hear about the activities you have taken part in. Florie will look at the planning sheet which was used at your first meeting, and the group can share their favourite moments and talk about what they have achieved.



The school that has best completed their “mission” that was set at the beginning of the year will win £200 worth of outdoor equipment or outdoor learning sessions for their school! If you would like to enter, please book a slot for Florie to come and visit when details are shared nearer the time.

## What are Sharing Events?

For 2025-26 we have decided not to run Sharing Events in the same format as we have traditionally done. We appreciate that the pressures brought on by the end of the academic year make it hard to plan trips and we want to make being a JPR Coordinator as easy as possible!

Therefore, this year, you will instead be invited to exclusive JPR tree-planting workshops instead. We hope that this will still be a good way to meet JPR groups from other schools, while also taking part in a fun activity together and helping provide amazing habitats for the wildlife of Milton Keynes! Tree planting sessions will take place in November or February and you will be contacted about these nearer the time in case you would like to come along - we'd love to see you there!

