

Brazos Bend Junior Naturalist BOBCAT PATCH



First Name - _____ Age - _____

Funding provided
by



The Brazos Bend State Park
Volunteer Organization

✿ Attend one Nature Program or Guided Hike.

Program or Hike - _____

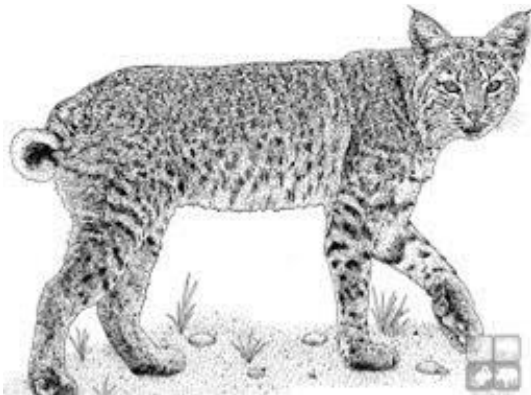
Leader's Signature - _____

✿ Hike the 40 Acre Lake Trail (1.2 miles all the way around).

✿ Remember your drinking water!

✿ When you come to the Observation Tower climb the stairs to the top.

✿ At the top you are surrounded by 3 different ecosystems - a Swamp, a Marsh and a Lake. How are the three ecosystems different?



Look for the flood markers at the bottom of the Observation Tower.

List the 3 years the floods occurred: _____,
_____ & _____.

✿ Read the information panel about "Brazos River Floods".

What is one of the benefits of floods? _____

✿ Hike down the Spillway Trail towards Elm Lake (1.2 miles round trip)
Look for the "Family Life of Alligators" panel.

Why do male alligators bellow? _____

What determines the gender of hatchling alligators? _____

What animals might prey on hatchling alligators? _____

✿ As you hike down the Spillway Trail towards Elm Lake, check off the animals you see along the way:

Wading Bird _____ Alligator _____ Turtle _____ Spider _____ Lizard _____
Dragonfly _____ Snake _____ Butterfly _____ Frog _____ Perching bird _____
Hawk _____ Fish _____ Bee or Wasp _____ Duck _____ Human _____



MORE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK



🦋 Continuing down the Spillway Trail soon you will arrive at Elm Lake.



When you arrive, take a break and sit on the bench. You've hiked about 1 mile since you left 40 Acre Lake parking lot. Enjoy the view over Elm Lake.

🦋 Look for the "Monarch of the Marsh" panel at Elm Lake.

Other than alligators what animals might live in "gator holes"? _____

What is the alligator eating in the picture on the panel? _____

Out of 100 alligator hatchlings how many are likely to survive? _____

🦋 From here you can hike back to 40 Acre Lake parking lot or continue for 1.7 miles around the Elm Lake Trail.



🦋 What is your favorite animal that lives at Brazos Bend State Park?

What do you like best about it? _____

What ecosystem does it live in? _____

Can you name one adaptation that it has to help it survive? _____

What is its "Niche", role or job in nature? _____

Would this animal make a good pet? _____ Why? _____

🦋 Try to draw a picture of your favorite animal.

🦋 What is something you could do to help protect Brazos Bend State Park and other natural places? _____

