

# Abingdon Outdoor Adventurer Activity Book

For children ages 4-14



A project of the Virginia Highlands Festival  
Outdoors Committee  
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Designed by Judi Lenviel



Drawing by Robin Mullins



Use your imagination to make this festival scene come to life. Grab your crayons or colored pencils, and see how colorful and fun you can make it!

You can become an Abingdon Outdoor Adventurer by finding items in the scavenger hunt in this booklet. Follow the booklet as it takes you through Abingdon, looking for animals, trees, and flowers and learning about this town's history.

- Ages 6 and under: complete five activities\*
- Ages 7-11: complete eight activities
- Ages 12 and up: complete twelve activities

\* Activities are marked with a 

Bring your completed booklet to the Youth Tent to receive your official Abingdon Outdoor Adventurer button!



Start at **Lois H. Humphreys Park**—across from the Post Office at 301 W. Main Street. You'll find a huge mural all about Abingdon's place in history.

☀ Name four animals you see painted in the mural: (One is prehistoric!)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

☀ Do you see any Native Americans? \_\_\_\_\_

🦋 What tribe lived and hunted in this area of the USA? \_\_\_\_\_

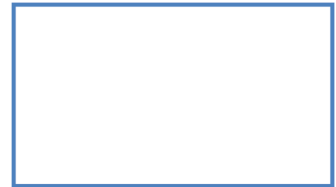
🦋 What trails did early inhabitants and visitors use? \_\_\_\_\_



Head to **Veterans Memorial Park**—Lt. Billy Webb Avenue. Entrance is near Taco Bell in the Town Centre shopping center. There are **more than 30** interesting trees, many dedicated to veterans. (*It's a great place to play TREE BINGO on page 3.*)

☀ Follow the path leading to the Bronze Ribbon Monument. Do you recognize the trees nearby? The American Chestnut tree was nearly extinct, due to a blight, but this grove of blight-resistant trees is flourishing. (*The American Chestnut Foundation developed these trees.*)

🦋 Draw a picture of an American Chestnut leaf. →



☀ Find a tree dedicated to a veteran soldier.

🦋 I found a \_\_\_\_\_ tree.

🦋 It was planted in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_ who was in the \_\_\_\_\_ during \_\_\_\_\_.

(branch of service) (war/years)



Find the **Abingdon Muster Grounds**—From downtown, follow W. Main St to Reedy Creek Rd (Left at Dairy Queen), then make a quick left turn onto Colonial Rd SW. You'll see the Muster grounds field on your right.

☀ You are at the site of the northern start of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Here, in 1780, the local militia *mustered* (got together) for the Battle of Kings Mountain.

🦋 When was the battle of Kings Mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

🦋 This battle was crucial in our nation's winning a war. Which war?  
\_\_\_\_\_

☀ Wolf Creek used to be unhealthy, but many people have worked to restore it.

🦋 What are some signs that this is a healthy stream?  
\_\_\_\_\_



 **Tree Bingo**

| B         | I                 | N            | G           | O         |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| OAK       | MAPLE             | HICKORY      | DOGWOOD     | POPLAR    |
| HOLLY     | MAGNOLIA          | BIRCH        | SASSAFRAS   | CHERRY    |
| PERSIMMON | CEDAR             | <b>FREE</b>  | LOCUST      | CRABAPPLE |
| HEMLOCK   | BLACK GUM         | MOUNTAIN ASH | MTN. LAUREL | PINE      |
| ELM       | AMERICAN CHESTNUT | SYCAMORE     | REDBUD      | SPRUCE    |

**Circle** the trees you spotted to get **BINGO!**

*Bingo is a straight line left to right, up to down, or diagonally.*

So many trees... Abingdon has LOTS of trees. Keep looking!!!



You get a high five if you know which of the trees listed above is the STATE TREE OF VIRGINIA:

\_\_\_\_\_



Abingdon is a Tree City USA. What is the U.S. holiday that Tree Cities USA celebrate?

\_\_\_\_\_

For some help on identifying trees, try this site:

<https://www.arbordav.org/trees/whattree/whatTree.cfm?ItemID=E6A>



**Abingdon’s symbol----the WOLF**

☀ Where have you seen statues of wolves or the name “wolf” around town?

|    |
|----|
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |



Legend says that the explorer Daniel Boone camped at the base of Courthouse Hill. When wolves came out of a cave near the top of the hill and attacked Boone’s dogs, he called the area “Wolf Hills.”

Go to <http://visitabingdonvirginia.com/history-abingdon/> to learn more.



**Virginia’s State Theatre**—across from the Martha Washington Inn on Main St.

☀ What is the name of our theater? \_\_\_\_\_

☀ To barter means to trade one thing for another. When this theater was starting out, you could barter for a ticket to see a play.

🦋 To see the first performance, in 1933, you could either pay

\_\_\_\_\_ cents or bring the equivalent in \_\_\_\_\_ (*victuals*).



Check out this cool trail in Abingdon:



**Virginia Creeper Trail** (Starts at the locomotive on Pecan St.)

☀ The locomotive, pulling a coal car, is an original steam engine from 1907.

🦋 What is the number of the engine? \_\_\_\_\_

🦋 What historic railroad company owned the coal car being pulled by the locomotive?



\_\_\_\_\_

☀ The **Virginia Creeper Trail** used to be a railroad bed for a train nicknamed The Virginia Creeper. Why do you think it got that name?

\_\_\_\_\_

☀ The Virginia Creeper is also a plant. Check this box if you see some Virginia Creeper. (*Hint: it is a vine.*) →

☀ The last train ran in 1977. How long ago was that? \_\_\_\_\_

☀ The Virginia Creeper Trail runs from Abingdon to White Top Station, at the North Carolina line. That's 34.3 miles! Name **THREE** ways people may travel on this trail today:

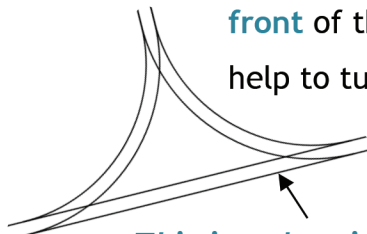


1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Wye Park** is a small, triangular-shaped park, along the Virginia Creeper Trail. (It's a short walk past the restrooms.)

☀ When trains used to travel on the old rail bed, the engine had to be at the **front** of the train both **going up** and **coming back down**. How did a WYE help to turn an engine around?



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*This is a drawing of a simple wye; the lines are train tracks.*

Find out more and see an aerial view of our WYE at: <http://hawkinsrails.net/preservation/creeper/creeper.htm>



**The Panicello Memorial Trail** is Abingdon's newest trail. (Park at the Coomes Recreation Center. The trail begins across the street, near E.B. Stanley Middle School.)

☀️ How many of this 3,300-foot trail's natural features can you spot?

Connect the names to their picture, and then circle the names of what you saw.

🦋 azalea



🦋 rhododendron



🦋 stream



🦋 bird feeder



🦋 pine forest



🦋 bluebird



🦋 butterfly



🦋 meadow



*Panicello* was the name of the home of Abingdon's first federal judge, Peter Johnston. He fought in the American Revolution, and his wife, Mary, was a niece of Patrick Henry. Their home no longer stands; there are only ruins near the trail.

Patrick Henry is famous for this quote. Can you finish it?



Give me

\_\_\_\_\_,  
or give me

\_\_\_\_\_!



There's a **HUGE TREE** on the lawn of the Martha Washington Inn (across from the Barter Theatre and the fountain). Its nuts are reputed to be up to **FOUR** times larger than these nuts usually are. The nuts are also known for being especially **HARD** to crack.

☀️ What kind of tree is it? \_\_\_\_\_

☀️ Which US President was called "Old \_\_\_\_\_" because he was as tough as that tree?



\_\_\_\_\_ Hint: His picture is on our \$20 bill.



**Munchkin Park**—from Cummings St. take a right on Valley St. Then, after taking White’s Mill Road for ½ mile, turn left onto Clark St. The park is on the left.

☀ This is a great place for our youngest adventurers! Do at least THREE activities. Check them off as you complete them.

- Play “Three Billy Goats Gruff” on the bridge.
- See how long you can balance on the balance beam.
- Slide down all three slides!
- Climb up the climbing wall.
- Hang on the monkey bars.
- Play “Engineer” on the train.
- Swing!

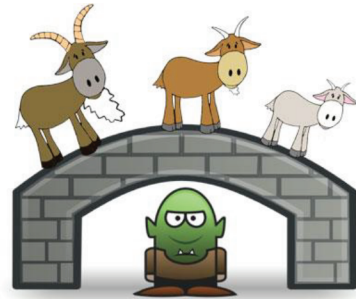


Image: <https://www.bethsnotesplus.com>



**Bill Eberhardt, Jr., Youth Park**—Turn onto Tanner St. from Main St. at Rain restaurant. Find the park at the corner of Tanner and Park.

☀ This park has a special garden that attracts a certain type of butterfly.

🦋 What kind of butterfly? \_\_\_\_\_

🦋 These butterflies go to \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter.

🦋 Draw something beautiful that you see in this garden:



What kind of animal might like swimming around and eating in Town Creek?

\_\_\_\_\_



**Sinking Spring Cemetery**—at the west end of Valley St. (*Brochure available at Abingdon Visitors Center*)

☀ Check the boxes as you find graves of soldiers who fought in different wars:

- 🦋 The Revolutionary War
- 🦋 The War of 1812
- 🦋 The Civil War



☀ What is the name of the log cabin? \_\_\_\_\_

*Just across Russell Road from Sinking Spring Cemetery is the African-American cemetery where Landon Boyd (see below) is buried.*



**Landon Boyd Park** --Following Pecan St toward the VA Creeper Trailhead, turn onto A Street just after crossing the railroad tracks. The park is on the left.

Landon's wife, Kate, was a teacher at the Kings Mountain School.

- ☀ When was Landon Boyd's birth and death? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- ☀ In what war did this former slave fight? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☀ After that war, the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, was nearly tried for treason. What would have been Landon Boyd's connection with this trial?  
\_\_\_\_\_

☀ Mr. Boyd was the marshal of a Richmond parade after the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was passed. What was the importance of that amendment? \_\_\_\_\_



**A Midsummer Night's Dream Fountain**—across the street from the Barter Theatre.

☀ This 800 pound, 16-foot fountain was designed by local artist Charles Vess and sculptor David Spence. Look at it from all sides and see what surprises are found on it. Draw three of the wonderful creatures you see:



\_\_\_\_\_ has completed the required number of activities:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)