



# Family Packs

## Calling All Families

Does your family like to try to figure out the names of things, measure temperatures or use a compass to find a location?

Would you like to use magnifying glasses or binoculars to see things up close?

Is someone in your family fond of coloring, sketching or drawing?



Then try out Glacier's Family Pack. Parents can check them out for free from the Apgar or St. Mary Visitor Centers for 24 hours.

# Ask a Ranger today!

## Contents of Family Pack:

- Naturalist Journal
- Binoculars
- Bug Box
- Blindfolds
- Color cards
- Compass
- Hanger
- Hand lens
- Pencil pouch with colored pencils, pencils, eraser and sharpener
- Ruler
- Thermometer

## Guides:

1. Birds of Glacier National Park Field Checklist
2. Mammals of Glacier National Park Field Checklist
3. Animal Tracks
4. Bugs & Slugs
5. Montana Trees & Wildflowers
6. Montana Wildlife
7. Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains
8. Glacier-Waterton Lakes National Parks Trails Illustrated Map
9. Key to the Coniferous Trees of Glacier

# Activities in Pack

## Life in Glacier - Big AND Small

Place this clothes hanger on the ground somewhere (a grassy area works well). Use the magnifying glasses to get down on your hands and knees and look closely at what's inside the hanger. Try a number of spots and compare them. Maybe you'll want to sketch something from your hanger investigation into the naturalist journal? Are you surprised by what you found? Most people notice all of the big mountains, tall trees, and large animals in Glacier, but few take time to look at all the small life we have here too.

## Bug Box

Even bugs are protected in Glacier National Park! They feed the birds, the salamanders, the garter snakes, the shrews, and many more animals. Plus, many insects help to pollinate the flowers and trees.

If you want to look more closely at a bug, you can put it in here, but not for too long! It needs to get back to its home, so look at it a short time and then put it back where you found it. Use the "Bugs & Slugs" guide to see if you can identify it. (By the way, do we have slugs in Glacier National Park? How could you find out?)

## What Color is the Forest?

Glacier's forests, meadows and mountains contain more colors than we realize. Use the color cards and try to find something natural in Glacier that matches your color **exactly**. Hold your color next to the object. Are they the same color? How many of the colors from the cards could you find in Glacier? Use the colored pencils to record some of the items you saw and their colors. How many colors do you think there are in Glacier? How many colors do you think you have in your neighborhood?

## Which Tree Is It?

See how good your family members are at making observations. Blindfold one person and turn them around a bit before

you lead them to a tree that is along the trail or sidewalk (try not to walk off trail). Let them smell, feel, and put their cheek against the tree. Give them enough time so that they think they can find their tree when you return them to the starting spot and take off their blindfold. Can they find their tree? How about you? Try using the "Key to the Coniferous Trees in the Lake McDonald Valley" to identify each of your trees. How can you tell if you are right? Almost half of Glacier National Park is coniferous forest. Do you know what coniferous means? (Hint: it has to do with cones.) Was your tree a coniferous tree?

## What's the Temp?

Many of the scientists in Glacier are studying the temperature and how the temperatures have changed over time. Use the thermometer to compare temperatures in a variety of places. (Be careful of the sharp point.) Record the temperatures you take in the spaces in the Naturalist Journal. Why are they different or the same?

## Compass Adventure

Did you know the earth is like a giant magnet?! So the red end of this compass arrow will always be attracted to the "north" pole of the earth's magnetic field. Loop the compass string over your head and then hold the compass so that the arrow swings freely. Turn the circle of the compass until the red arrow lines up with the "N". (The white dot on the red end will be between the two white marks under the "N".) What happens when you turn your body? See how the red arrow keeps moving back to point to the same direction? So that's how you know which way is north. Cool, huh?

Glacier is a huge wilderness area and rangers and back country hikers often need to use a compass to make sure they are going in the right direction. See if you can follow these clues to get to the correct locations to learn about camping in bear country. (Clues vary in packs.)