

# BACKPACK THE PARKS

Expeditions in Education



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At Expeditions in Education, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom walls. That's why we're thrilled to introduce our "Backpack the Parks" initiative, designed to ignite students' curiosity and love for the great outdoors while fostering a deeper understanding of our national parks.

With "Backpack the Parks," educators have the unique opportunity to curate and pack 8 engaging activities into backpacks, making it easier than ever for students to check out and explore the wonders of our national parks. From hands-on science experiments to wildlife scavenger hunts, each activity is carefully crafted to immerse students in the beauty, history, and natural wonders of these treasured landscapes.

Join us in empowering the next generation of park enthusiasts and conservationists as they embark on unforgettable learning adventures in our nation's most cherished natural spaces. With "Backpack the Parks," the journey to discovery begins with the turn of a backpack strap, and the possibilities for educational exploration are endless.



# Backpack the Parks!



## *Instruction*

### **Step 1: Ask for Donations of Backpacks and Clean Them Up**

- Reach out to parents, local businesses, or the school community to request donations of gently used backpacks.
- Inspect the donated backpacks for any damage or excessive wear.

### **Step 2: Print the Activity Cards and Laminate**

- Prepare activity cards that detail each of the educational activities you plan to include in the backpacks.
- Print these activity cards on durable cardstock paper.
- Laminate the activity cards to protect them from wear and tear during use.

### **Step 3: Put Cards on Rings**

- Hole punch each laminated activity card.
- Use rings or zip ties to secure the cards together, creating a set of instructions for each activity.

### **Step 4: Purchase or Collect the Materials Needed for the Activities**

- Create a list of materials required for each activity, as outlined in your activity plan.
- Gather all the necessary materials for each activity. This may include items such as magnifying glasses, sketchbooks, rocks, clay, flashlights, and more.

### **Step 5: Put Materials in Ziplock Bags**

- Organize the materials for each activity into separate ziplock bags.
- Ensure that each bag contains all the necessary materials, making it easy for students to access and use them.

### **Step 6: Attach the National Park Tag to the Outside of the Bag**

- Create or print a National Park-themed tag that identifies the backpack as part of the Backpack the Park program.
- Attach this tag securely to the outside of the ziplock bag or backpack.

# Activity 1: Create a Timeline of Jimmy Carter's Life

## Jimmy Carter Historical Park

### Materials:

- Poster board
- Markers, pictures of Jimmy Carter at different stages of his life
- Glue

### Instructions:

1. Take a poster board and draw a horizontal line across it.
2. Glue pictures of Jimmy Carter at different ages along the timeline.
3. Write short descriptions or key events next to each picture.

## Activity 2: Design a Campaign Poster

### Materials:

- Poster board
- Colored pencils
- Drawing supplies
- You can also create this digitally

### Instructions:

1. Imagine you're running for president.
2. On the poster board, draw a colorful campaign poster with your picture, a catchy slogan, and a few promises to voters.

## Activity 3: Write a Letter to President Carter

### Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils

### Instructions:

1. Write a friendly letter to President Jimmy Carter.
2. Tell him about something you admire about his life or presidency.
3. Mention a question you have or something you'd like to learn from him.

## Activity 4: Habitat for Humanity Challenge

### Materials:

- Building blocks
- Small toy houses
- Recyclable Materials

### Instructions:

1. Build and build a small house using building blocks or recyclable materials.
2. Discuss how Habitat for Humanity helps families have homes.
3. Donate your toy houses to a local charity.





# Jimmy Carter Historical Park

## Activity 5: Interview a Family Member

### Materials:

- Pen
- Paper

### Instructions:

1. Interview a family member about their memories from the 1970s, when Jimmy Carter was president.
2. Ask questions about what life was like during that time.

## Activity 6: Create a Nobel Peace Prize

### Materials:

- Craft supplies
- Paper
- Markers

### Instructions:

1. Design your own Nobel Peace Prize medal.
2. Write a short speech about how you would promote peace in the world.

## Activity 7: Build a Model of Plains High School

### Materials:

- Craft supplies
- Cardboard
- Pictures of Plains High School

### Instructions:

- Recreate Plains High School using craft materials.
- Learn about its history and significance in Jimmy Carter's life.

## Activity 8: Plan a "Day in Plains, Georgia" Brochure

### Materials:

- Paper
- Colored pencils
- Markers

### Instructions:

- Create a brochure for tourists visiting Plains, Georgia.
- Include pictures and information about key places to visit.

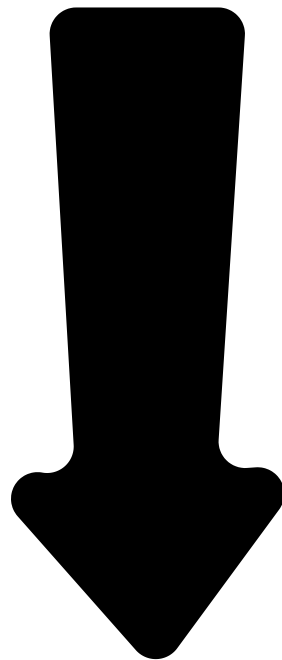
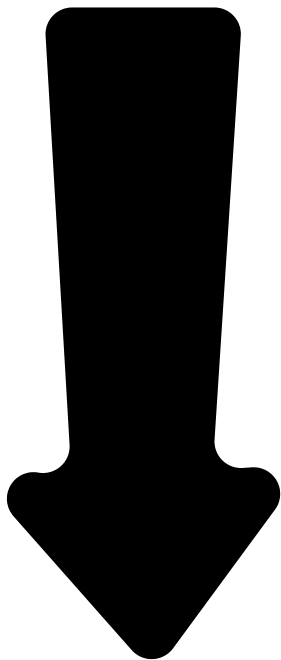


# Activity Cards

Print on cardstock

Laminate

Put on rings





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## **Activity 5: Interview a Family Member**

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- Paper
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- Create a brochure for tourists visiting Plains, Georgia.
- Include pictures and information about key places to visit.





**BAG TAG BELOW!**



**Jimmy Carter  
National Historical  
Park  
Backpack the Parks!**

**#ExploreTheParksWithUs**

**"Pack Your Curiosity,  
Explore Nature's Beauty!"**

**[www.expeditionsineducation.org](http://www.expeditionsineducation.org)**

## **Jimmy Carter: A Life of Service**

Jimmy Carter was born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. He grew up on a peanut farm with his parents, Earl and Lillian, and three siblings. Little did he know that he would go on to become the 39th President of the United States and a globally respected humanitarian.

**Early Years:** Jimmy's childhood was simple but filled with hard work on the farm. He loved reading and was an excellent student. Education was important in his family, and his mother, a nurse, often read books to him. Young Jimmy would walk four miles to the library to borrow books since his family didn't have a car.

**Navy Service:** After high school, Jimmy joined the U.S. Navy. He served on submarines and studied nuclear engineering. This experience would later shape his career in politics.

**Returning to Plains:** After leaving the Navy, Jimmy returned to Plains and took over the family peanut farm. He also got into local politics and served as a county commissioner and later as the governor of Georgia.

**Becoming President:** In 1976, Jimmy Carter ran for President of the United States. He promised to bring honesty and integrity back to government. He won the election and became President. During his presidency, he worked on many important issues, including energy conservation and peace in the Middle East.

**Life After the Presidency:** After leaving the White House, Jimmy and his wife, Rosalynn, didn't stop working. They founded the Carter Center, an organization that helps solve global problems like disease, poverty, and conflict. Jimmy became a respected diplomat and worked to promote peace and human rights worldwide.

**Legacy:** Jimmy Carter is remembered for his commitment to helping others. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his efforts to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. Even in his later years, he continued building homes for those in need with Habitat for Humanity.

Jimmy Carter's life is a reminder that with hard work, education, and a heart for service, anyone can make a big difference in the world.

## **Habitat for Humanity: Building Homes, Changing Lives**

Habitat for Humanity is a remarkable nonprofit organization with a mission to provide safe and affordable housing for people in need all over the world. This one-page overview sheds light on Habitat for Humanity's incredible work, its impact, and how you can get involved.

**What is Habitat for Humanity?** Habitat for Humanity is an international organization founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. Its vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The organization operates in nearly 1,400 communities across the United States and in over 70 countries globally.

**How Does it Work?** Habitat for Humanity builds homes for families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them. These homes are sold to the families at no profit, and the families also contribute "sweat equity" by helping build their homes alongside volunteers.

### **The Impact:**

- Habitat for Humanity has built or repaired over 800,000 homes around the world.
- It has helped more than 29 million people achieve strength, stability, and independence through housing.
- The organization's work extends beyond housing to community development, disaster response, and advocacy for affordable housing.

### **How You Can Get Involved:**

1. **Volunteer:** You can join volunteers in your community to help build homes or provide other valuable services.
2. **Donate:** Financial contributions are vital for purchasing building materials and supporting Habitat's mission.
3. **ReStore:** Many local Habitat for Humanity affiliates run ReStores, where you can donate or purchase new and gently used furniture, appliances, and building materials. Proceeds support Habitat's work.
4. **Advocate:** Raise awareness about the need for affordable housing and advocate for policies that support it.

### **Resources:**

- [Habitat for Humanity International](#)
- [Find Your Local Habitat](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Donate to Habitat](#)
- [Habitat ReStore](#)



## **TIMELINE:**

### **1924:**

- October 1: James Earl Carter Jr. is born in Plains, Georgia.

### **1943:**

- Graduates from Plains High School as class valedictorian.

### **1943-1953:**

- Attends the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Graduates and marries Rosalynn Smith.

### **1953-1954:**

- Serves as a naval officer on various submarines.

### **1954:**

- Jimmy Carter's father, Earl Carter, dies.

### **1953-1961:**

- Returns to Plains to take over the family peanut farm.

### **1962:**

- Elected to the Georgia State Senate.

### **1970:**

- Announces his candidacy for Governor of Georgia.

### **1971:**

- Elected as Governor of Georgia.

### **1976:**

- Announces his candidacy for President of the United States.

### **1977-1981:**

- Sworn in as the 39th President of the United States on January 20.
- Establishes the Department of Energy and Department of Education.
- Signs the Panama Canal Treaty.
- Camp David Accords lead to peace between Egypt and Israel.
- Creates the Superfund program to clean up hazardous waste sites.
- Forms the U.S. Department of Education.
- Introduces energy conservation measures.
- Instituted amnesty for Vietnam War draft dodgers.

### **1980:**

- Faces an unsuccessful re-election campaign against Ronald Reagan.

### **1981:**

- Leaves the presidency and returns to Plains, Georgia.

### **1982:**

- Establishes The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **1986:**

- Publishes his memoir, "An Hour Before Daylight."

### **2002:**

- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in diplomacy and conflict resolution.

### **2011:**

- Diagnosed with brain cancer, undergoes successful treatment.

### **2020:**

- Becomes the longest-lived U.S. President in history on March 22.

### **2021:**

- Continues his work with The Carter Center and various humanitarian efforts.

Jimmy Carter's life has been marked by his dedication to public service, diplomacy, and humanitarian work. His legacy is one of service, advocacy for peace, and improving the lives of people both in the United States and around the world.

# **Jimmy Carter's Nobel Peace Prize: A Legacy of Diplomacy and Humanitarian Efforts**

**Introduction:** The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the world's most prestigious awards, recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to peace and the betterment of humanity. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was honored with this esteemed prize in 2002. This one-page overview delves into the reasons behind this well-deserved recognition.

**Jimmy Carter's Commitment to Peace:** Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, has been a tireless advocate for peace throughout his life. His presidency was marked by a dedication to resolving conflicts and promoting diplomacy on the world stage. He facilitated the historic Camp David Accords, a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, in 1978. This achievement demonstrated his commitment to finding peaceful solutions to long-standing conflicts.

**The Nobel Peace Prize Award:** In 2002, Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of work in conflict resolution, humanitarian efforts, and his unwavering commitment to human rights. The Nobel Committee recognized his role in promoting peaceful elections, reducing arms proliferation, and advancing global health initiatives through The Carter Center, an organization he co-founded with his wife, Rosalynn.

**The Carter Center's Impact:** The Carter Center has played a pivotal role in addressing pressing global issues, including disease prevention, election monitoring, and peace negotiations. Notably, it has contributed to eradicating diseases like Guinea worm disease and advancing democracy in numerous countries.

**The Nobel Peace Prize as a Testament to Service:** Jimmy Carter's Nobel Peace Prize serves as a testament to the power of diplomacy, dialogue, and humanitarianism. It underscores the importance of individuals and organizations dedicated to making the world a more peaceful and equitable place.

## Plains, Georgia

**Introduction:** Plains, Georgia, is a small town with a big heart, known for its Southern hospitality, rich history, and the birthplace of 39th U.S. President Jimmy Carter. This one-pager invites you to explore the unique attractions and experiences that Plains has to offer.

**The Jimmy Carter National Historical Park:** One of Plains' most prominent attractions is the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park, dedicated to the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter. Visitors can explore:

- **Jimmy Carter's Boyhood Farm:** Tour the place where President Carter spent his formative years.
- **Plains High School:** Visit the school where both Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter attended.

**Plains Depot:** The Plains Depot is a historic train station turned museum, featuring exhibits on Plains' history and the impact of the railroad on the town's development.

**Plains Historic Inn & Antique Mall:** Stay at the Plains Historic Inn, which offers cozy accommodations and browse the Antique Mall for unique souvenirs.

**Plains Better Hometown:** This organization works to preserve and revitalize Plains, making it an even more charming place to visit.

**Plains Inn and Café:** Enjoy Southern cuisine and hospitality at the Plains Inn and Café, where you can savor classic dishes and experience true Southern charm.

**The Billy Carter Gas Station Museum:** Explore the humorous legacy of Billy Carter, President Carter's brother, at the Billy Carter Gas Station Museum, featuring memorabilia and anecdotes from his life.

**Plains Veterans Park:** Pay tribute to veterans at the Plains Veterans Park, featuring monuments honoring those who have served in the U.S. military.

**Plains Trading Post:** Shop for unique gifts, including peanut-based products, a nod to Plains' peanut farming heritage, at the Plains Trading Post.

**Annual Peanut Festival:** If you're visiting in September, don't miss the Plains Peanut Festival, a lively celebration of Plains' agricultural heritage, featuring arts, crafts, food, and entertainment.