

**“I Spy” Self Guided Outdoor Activity**  
**Visual Scavenger Hunt**

\* Please, enjoy the scenic beauty and wildlife habitat of the Garden of the Gods Park! Stay on trails and leave all the plants, animals, rocks and other natural features just as they are in the park. This game is designed to follow the Perkins Central Garden Trail, but can also be used anywhere in the park.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Pinon pine tree.** Is an evergreen tree that can grow up to 40 feet tall with one-inch needles. Pinon nuts (seeds) develop in the cones and provide food for lots of insects, birds and other animals. The nuts do not form if the growing season is too dry.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Bear Proof Trash Can.** Our goal is to keep the bears safe and healthy. Bears can find many natural foods like acorns and berries in the park.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Holes high in the rocks** act like a big apartment building for lots of birds, insects, rodents, bats and a pair of prairie falcons. The holes are caused by erosion or weathering.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Tree or plant growing out of the rock.** How does it grow out of solid rock? Seeds find their way (by birds or wind) to a crack with just enough soil to start growing. As roots grow, erosion continues and plants get larger.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **The Magpie** is a large (18-22 inches) black and white bird with iridescent blue and green feathers. It has a long tail, likes to make noise, and is related to the common crow.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **Magpie nest** in various tree tops (they like gambel oak brush). The nest looks like a large, round bundle of sticks and is more visible in the winter months. It is different from other birds' nests because it has a “roof” that adds to the protection of the nest.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Kissing Camels** is found on top of North Gateway Rock. Natural erosion has shaped the sandstone to look as if there are two camels kissing. Can you find other shapes or sculptures in the park?

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. **Prairie Falcon** is a large (14-18 inches) bird of prey with a brown-colored back and a banded tail. From below, it appears light with dark streaks and dark armpits. These falcons can dive at very fast speeds to catch their favorite prey – other birds, such as pigeons and swifts.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. **Gambel Oak**, also known as **Scrub Oak**. Look for a shrub-like tree, 5-30 feet high with gnarled gray branches, green oak-shaped leaves, and acorns. These acorns are a critical food source for the park's wildlife.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. **Signature Rock** is a boulder near North Gateway rock that is covered with historical signatures, even a few from 1858. Carving on the rocks is illegal today. Many historic signatures and formations have been lost to vandalism.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. **Rock climber.** Rock climbing is legal if the climber has registered with the park, uses safety gear and has a partner. There is a \$500 fine for climbing without correct gear or registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. **Yucca**, also called **Spanish Bayonet**, has green, dagger-shaped leaves. During summer, the plant has large white flowers and is pollinated at night by nocturnal yucca moths. American Indians living in the area had a use for every part of this plant. To name a few, flower petals and seed pods were used for food, roots for a soap and shampoo, and the leaves for weaving sandals, baskets, and mats.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. **Chipmunk.** These tiny rodents are brown with black and white stripes along their bodies. They can be seen anywhere in the park, but keep your eyes open because they are fast!

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. **Scrub Jay** is a slightly smaller bird than the magpie (11 -12 inches). It appears blue to bluish gray with a whitish gray breast. The scrub jay is an omnivore that eats many different things, such as insects, eggs, acorns and seeds.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. **Mr. Perkins' bronze plaque** is located on the south end of North Gateway Rock and commemorates the gift of land that started the Garden of the Gods Park. Several restrictions came with the gift, including that the park remain forever free, keep its name the same, and that there be no alcohol in the park.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. **Pikes Peak** is visible to the west after passing Sentinel Rock. The peak was once known as the Sun Mountain to local American Indians. The peak is now named for explorer and military man, Zebulon Pike. The peak is 14,115 feet tall.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. **Old Pack Rat midden (nest)** is on the west face of South Gateway Rock about 60 feet off the ground. It appears as a large, black, tar-like residue in one of the larger holes. This old midden has been tested to be 4,300 years old. Scientists think that the hole's opening has increased significantly in size due to erosion. Pack rats are rarely seen but are still part of the Garden's wildlife today.

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. **Rocky Mountain Juniper** trees are evergreen trees that have a uniform, cone-shape to them. Many are the same size because they were planted together in the 1930s for erosion control. The girl trees have bluish cones that look like berries and the boy trees have pinhead-size brown spore sacs.