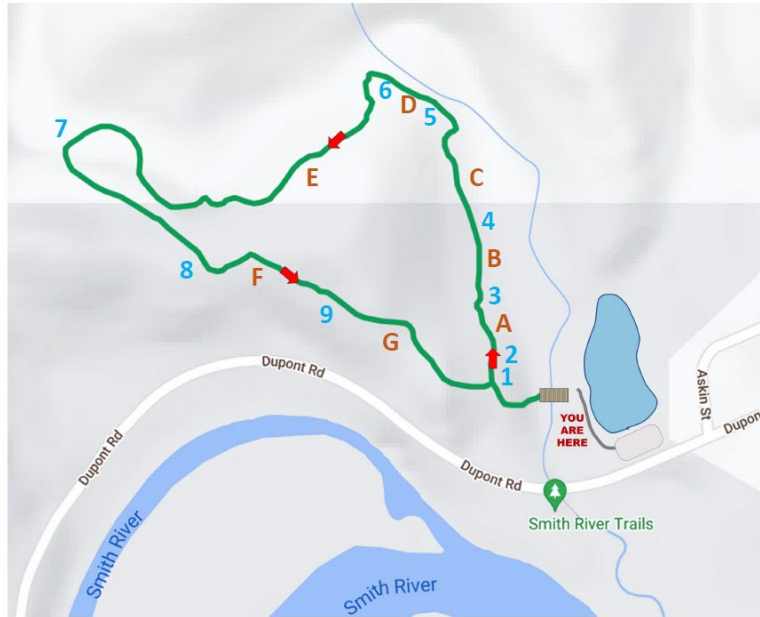




Doe Run Family Scavenger Hunt



MINI ID SIGNS

1. Lichen
2. Moss
3. Fern
4. Fungi
5. Mountain Laurel
6. Dens
7. Wild Ginger
8. Riverview
9. Nests

BIRDS

- A. Nuthatch
- B. Pileated Woodpecker
- C. Blue Jay
- D. Crow
- E. Raven
- F. Eastern Bluebird
- G. Ruby-throated hummingbird
- H. Great Horned Owl

Thank you for joining us on the **Doe Run Family Scavenger Hunt!** We hope you enjoy your hike and time with family and friends. This family activity follows the one-mile Doe Run Trail along the creek and over the mountain. **For the scavenger hunt, you will look for nine identification signs and eight metal birds that have been placed along the trail – enjoy the hunt!**

A large variety of birds, insects, mammals, fungi, and plants await in this natural environment for you to observe. Be on the lookout for our nature signs along trail that inform about certain organisms.

- Start here at the bridge by taking three deep breaths of fresh air with your family. Now, walk across the bridge and take a right to begin your walk along Doe Run Trail.
- The first sign will be Smokey-eye Boulder Lichen near the rocks.
- The second sign will be about Moss. You can find moss along the entire trail.

- Continue along and look for a native bird, the Nuthatch. The White-breasted Nuthatch often climbs upside down the trees, foraging for insects among the tree bark. They get their common name from their habit of jamming large nuts and acorns into tree bark, then whacking them with their sharp bill to “hatch” out the seed from the inside. [Click here](#) to see an adorable female Nuthatch perching upside-down on a tree.



- The next sign will be about Ferns. Look closely in the spring to find fiddle-heads.

- Continue along and look for another native bird, the Pileated Woodpecker. They are the largest woodpecker found in Virginia, nearly as large as a crow. Listen closely for them pecking at dead trees. [Click here](#) to see a video of a female Pileated Woodpecker pecking along a tree.



- The next sign to find and learn about is Fungi. While often pronounced as “funji”, the correct pronunciation is “fung-gye.”

- While continuing to stay on Doe Run Trail, look for the next bird among the trees – a Blue Jay. The Blue Jay is a large songbird with striking blue color. The Blue Jay frequently mimics the calls of a Red-shouldered Hawk. They are very fond of acorns and credited with helping spread oak trees. [Click here](#) for video of a Blue Jay.



- After a viewing at the creek, go up the hill into a thick stand of shrubs, looking for the next sign about Mountain Laurel.

- While going through the Mountain Laurel, look for the next bird up in the trees. An American Crow can often be found in treetops and is known for its “caw” sound. Most crows do not breed until they are four years old, and often help parents take care of younger siblings. [Click here](#) to listen to an American Crow cawing.



- As you come down the hill, close to the creek again, look for the next sign about dens. Look around to see if you see any dens in large trees along the creek. Raccoons often use holes in trees for dens along creeks.

- While walking along the fence, take a left to go up the hill and look for the next bird that is similar to an American Crow, but larger – the Common Raven. [Click here](#) to listen to an adult Raven calling.



- As you continue up the hill and around the trail, look for the next sign about Wild Ginger. The mauve blooms can be found in April or May.

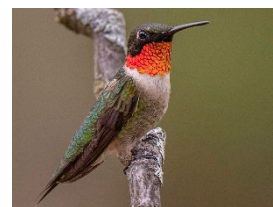
- While on the ridge of the mountain, look for the next sign about the Smith River – the Riverview sign. The Smith River is a cold-water stream to three different types of trout, brooks, browns and rainbows.

- Continue along the trail looking for the next native bird – the beautiful Eastern Bluebird. Eastern Bluebirds prefer grassland areas where they can search for insects as a ground forager. [Click here](#) for video of an adult male Eastern Bluebird.



- Not much farther along the trail, find the next sign about Nests. Birds and mammals make nests in trees.

- The next bird to look for in the trees is the smallest bird found in Virginia during the summer months – the Ruby-throated hummingbird. They prefer open woodlands where they can search for nectar from flowers. [Click here](#) for video of an adult male hummingbird.



- BONUS BIRD:** Look closely as you near the end of the trail, a majestic Great Horned Owl hides among the trees.



Thank you for joining us for the Family Scavenger Hunt along the Doe Run Trail!

Facts, photos and videos of birds are credited to Cornell Lab: All About Birds. Your online guide to birds and birdwatching. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>

Metal birds placed along the trail were generously provided by [Roman Metal Works](#) in Boones Mill, VA.

To learn more about the Dan River Basin Association, visit www.danriver.org. To become a Friend of DRBA, visit <https://donorbox.org/2024-drba-donations>.

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