Educational Adventures in Rocky Mountain National Park
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Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Welcome to Adventure

Rocky Mountain Conservancy
The Rocky Mountain Conservancy was established in 1931 to provide educational literature to Rocky Mountain National Park visitors. Its founders hoped to stimulate interest in the park’s natural and cultural history. As a nonprofit organization allied with the National Park Service, and now with Colorado State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservancy has developed special programs through the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute to cultivate enthusiasm for our public lands.

Conservancy Field Institute Adventures
Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute adventures! It’s our 56th year offering exciting, in-depth and educational field-based learning experiences in Rocky Mountain National Park. Discover and explore a wide range of topics, custom educational adventures, special classes, youth and family programs, and courses on hiking and skill-building, photography, art, natural history and cultural history. For more information about specific classes, view the different course descriptions in the catalog or online at RMConservancy.org. Tell a friend, and share this great experience!

Rocky Mountain National Park serves as a premier classroom without walls. This spectacular landscape encompasses montane meadows, subalpine forests and alpine tundra rising from trout-filled streams and glacier-carved valleys to the summit of Longs Peak at 14,259 feet.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy’s Field Institute program is committed to educating the public through the talents of excellent instructors. Most classes include lectures and field trips that enable participants to experience the park in an atmosphere of personal instruction. Most classes require hiking, introducing an element of difficulty because of the high altitude and variable weather. Participants must be in good health and arrive equipped for sudden weather changes.

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Key:
RMNP, Rocky = Rocky Mountain National Park

Partners in Education
A perfect alchemy: The partnership between the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and RMNP is the perfect alchemy where both organizations, by working together, have the potential of creating transformative experiences for each park visitor. Author Robert Pirsig wrote, “One of the most moral acts is to create a space in which life can move forward.” I love that idea: to create a space for new ideas to flow, new thoughts to take shape, for new projects and programs to develop and grow. Since 1931, the Conservancy and the park have been creating space for each other to grow. Through collaborative work on educational programs and research projects, we provide opportunities to those who want to steward this land for future generations.

As we continue to create space for each other to explore, I hope you, too, will explore your part of this alchemy. I encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities that the Conservancy provides, especially these Field Institute classes. As Enos Mills said, “In our great national parks we have an unrivaled outdoor school that is always open.”

Rich Fedorchak
Chief of Interpretation and Education
Rocky Mountain National Park

For intensive exposure and in-depth learning opportunities in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute program is unparalleled. Explore the park with expert instructors who share their natural and cultural history specialties with abandon. Your participation in these unique classes supports and enhances one of the oldest national park field programs in the country! Immerse yourself in an incredible learning experience that can only be obtained through a field studies course. Enjoy your journey through the majestic Rocky Mountains, and let us be your guide!

Rachel Balduzzi
Education Director
Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Registering for a Field Institute Program

Registrations can be made online at RMConservancy.org or by telephone at 970-586-3262. Members of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy receive a discount on most adult Field Institute programs and tours. To receive this discount immediately, join the Conservancy when you register. Registered participants will receive a syllabus for each class.

Programs are cancelled one week before the scheduled meeting date if minimum enrollment has not been met. Please register early!

Refund Policy

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of $25 per participant for a one-day class, $50 for a multi-day class, $5 per kids’ class and $15 per bus tour seat. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of the program will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a program, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given. A $10 fee will be charged for switching classes.

Become a Member and Save!

Conservancy members receive 10% off most classes (excluding kids’/family programs, bus tours and custom classes), as well as 15% off items in the Conservancy’s Nature Stores in the park and at our online Nature Store. Become a member and save — and make a difference to Rocky Mountain National Park! Visit RMConservancy.org to learn more.

Thank you!

How Strenuous is My Class?

A significant portion of most field classes is spent outdoors, and programs are held rain or shine. Mountain weather can be unpredictable, so be prepared for sudden weather changes. Rainwear, comfortable hiking boots or shoes, layers of clothing, and hat and gloves are standard gear for summer classes. Participants should also carry plenty of drinking water to prevent dehydration, nausea and dizziness, which are common at the park’s elevation.

Participants must honestly evaluate individual levels of physical fitness. Participants assume full responsibility for their safety, provide their own health and accident insurance, and must sign a health/risk and hold-harmless waiver.

Earn Credit with Field Institute Programs!

Teachers can receive teacher recertification units for full-day and multi-day classes, approved through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). Each full day of class time is equal to 0.5 unit of credit. Credit fees are in addition to class fees and are $25 per semester or threaded series of classes. For more information on threads and additional credit details, visit RMConservancy.org.

University credit is available from Colorado School of Mines (CSM) for some full-day and multi-day classes. A complete listing of classes eligible for teacher recertification credit through CSM can be found on page 27 of this catalog. Additional credit details are available by calling the Field Institute at 970-586-3262.

Level I: Short-distance walks on maintained trails and/or indoor classroom sessions in accessible buildings

Level II: Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain

Level III: Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 ft.

Level IV: Hikes of more than five miles per day with elevation gain of more than 1,000 ft.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy gives special thanks to the following photographers for contributing their images for this catalog: Leslie Angel, Rachel Balduzzi, Marlene Borneman, Fred Clatworthy Collection, John Conroy, Fall River Productions, Phyllis Holst, Lee Kline, Mari Lane Gewecke, Sharon Mitchell, Estee Murdock, NPS, Putney Nature Images, Gary Quay, Karen Ramsay, Jeremiah Ramirez, Forrest Shafer, Larry Van Sickle, Jim Ward, Madeline Wilson and Richard Youngblood.

Cover photo: Josh Figgs, www.compasscoalition.com
Back cover photo: Natalie Dowty

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Custom Educational Adventures

Custom programs designed especially for your group near Estes Park and Grand Lake

On-demand:
Day-trek Adventures with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Starting at $20 per person
Various Instructors

Select from a variety of educational opportunities including geocaching, hiking with a naturalist, bus tours and photography. These half- to full-day classes are designed to introduce youth, families and other groups to the wonders of nature through guided discovery. You select the day and the topic, and we will provide the exploration and learning.

On-demand:
Stream Ecology & Fly-fishing

$125 per person (minimum 2 people)
Instructor: Dr. Tom Adams

Enjoy customized stream ecology and fly-fishing classes designed to match both your level of experience and preferred level of physical activity. Find solitude within a half-mile of popular trailheads, or hike deep into the backcountry to access remote lakes and streams. Discuss aquatic insect life cycles, how to match the natural hatch with artificial fly selection, streamside stealth, casting techniques and ethics for preserving Rocky’s pristine stream ecology.

(Fly-fishing rods, reels and flies will be provided.) ◆◆◆

On-demand:
Wintertime Wonders Bus Tour

$250 for up to 4 people; $50 per each additional adult; $25 per each additional child ages 12 and under
Various Instructors

Rocky is an amazing place to visit during the winter as elk and deer graze along the road, and snow-capped peaks rise majestically in the distance. Join a naturalist guide on a trip through the park in wintertime. From the comfort of a heated 14-passenger mini-bus or 12-passenger van, guests can experience the serenity of areas such as Trail Ridge Road (to Many Parks Curve) and the Bear Lake Road corridor. On-demand options include short walks of the group’s choice and/or a modified schedule to meet the needs of individual participants.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park and complimentary hot beverages are included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Adventure Awaits!
Contact us to arrange your Custom Adventure this summer.

With advance notice, most of the regularly scheduled bus tours and classes can be customized for a group.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Journey to the Top!
A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
Dates: June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; July 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26; August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30; September 5, 6, 12, 13
$75 per adult;
$45 per child age 12 and under

One of the premier attractions of Rocky Mountain National Park is Trail Ridge Road, the nation’s highest continuous paved highway. Trail Ridge Road meanders through various life zones on its way through the park and over one of the largest, most pristine stretches of alpine tundra in the lower 48 states. Participants receive a unique overview of the park’s history, flora, fauna and geology while viewing landscapes from the comfort of a 14-passenger mini-bus or 12-passenger van, with opportunities for taking pictures at the many stops along the way. ◆

Both lunch and entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park are included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Sunset Safari:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 8, 15, 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
$50 per adult;
$25 per child age 12 and under

Take a sunset safari over Trail Ridge Road to experience the changing light, active wildlife, and the calmness of dusk with an ascent in elevation from 7,522 feet in Estes Park to more than 12,090 feet. Along the way, a professional educational guide will lead interpretive walks and talks to discuss geology, flora, fauna and the cultural history of Rocky at a number of pullouts, before arriving at Rock Cut to view the sunset over the Never Summer Mountains. Participants will have opportunities to take photos while enjoying the comfort of a 14–passenger mini-bus or 12–passenger van. ◆◆

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

NEW!
Peak to Peak: Historical Highway 7 Bus Adventure
Dates: June 10, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19; September 2
$50 per adult;
$25 per child age 12 and under

Deep within the valleys of the Rocky Mountains lie many hidden landmarks revealing passage of the native people who were the first to walk this land, the mountain men, and the gutsy early settlers. Join a Conservancy educational guide on interpretive walks to discuss the cultural history and landmarks of the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway while traveling in a 14-passenger mini-bus or a 12-passenger van. The day includes plenty of opportunities to tour sights listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the Rockies as a backdrop. ◆

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
From Meadow to Tree Line:
An Educational Adventure by Bus

Dates: June 17; July 1, 15, 29; August 12, 26; September 9
$50 per adult;
$25 per child age 12 and under

It’s easy to get swept up by the stunning views of the high country and overlook the interesting things occurring in the meadows and forests below. Join our naturalist guide on a 14–passenger mini-bus or 12–passenger van, and revel in the lower elevations of Rocky Mountain National Park. Spend the morning in the park’s most distinctive and breathtaking locations, including the Alluvial Fan, Many Parks Curve, Moraine Park, and discover the details in the forests and meadows as we explore the cultural and natural history of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

NEW!
East Across the Divide:
A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure

A Grand Lake-area Class

Dates: June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 1
$75 per adult;
$45 per child age 12 and under

Rocky holds breathtaking scenery, incredible wildlife viewing, and opportunities to connect with the past on this journey from west to east along Trail Ridge Road across the Continental Divide. Join a professional guide to explore some of the park’s history, flora, fauna and geology along Trail Ridge Road from the comfort of a 14–passenger mini-bus or 12–passenger van. Opportunities for pictures will be provided at many stops along the way, including the Holzwarth Historic Site, Milner Pass, the Alpine Visitor Center, Rock Cut, Forest Canyon Overlook and Lava Cliffs.

Both lunch and entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park are included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Old Fall River Road Trip:
An Educational Adventure by Bus

Dates: July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; September 7, 14
$75 per adult;
$45 per child age 12 and under

Travel in Rocky was not always as simple as it is today. Join us from the comfort of a 12–passenger van as we switchback through time to traverse the park’s oldest road up to the Alpine Visitor Center and back down to Estes Park via Trail Ridge Road. Old Fall River Road (built in 1914) will bring us to the hard-to-reach regions of the park to see spectacular waterfalls and historic buildings. View the handwork of our past that has been intricately paired with engineering feats of today. Enjoy a visit to the Alpine Visitor Center before returning to Estes Park along awe-inspiring Trail Ridge Road.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Elk Expeditions

Dates: September 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29; October 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13
$50 per adult;
$25 per child age 12 and under

The fall rut is a spectacular display of elk mating behavior featuring bugling, posturing and herding displays. This extraordinary event will be available for viewing from the comfort of a 14–passenger mini-bus or 12–passenger van staffed by a professional educational guide who will discuss elk ecology, interpret activity and answer questions about elk. Elk artifacts such as antlers, skulls and fur will be available for participants to see and touch.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

From Elk to Aspen:
An Educational Adventure by Bus

Dates: September 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29;
October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
$50 per adult;
$25 per child age 12 and under

It’s impossible to ignore the magic of fall in the Rockies, as morning sunlight glows through golden aspen leaves and elk bugles echo in the distance. Experience these autumnal wonders from the comfort of a 14–passenger mini-bus or 12–passenger van on a journey in Rocky Mountain National Park. Join a professional naturalist guide on a morning excursion to discover the plants, animals and wanderers of the park. Learn how Rocky’s inhabitants are shaped by this rugged climate.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Winter Ecology: A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids & Families

Dates: January 27; February 10, 24; March 10, 31
$10 per adult; FREE for children age 12 and under (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Olson Fellow

Discover the serene beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park in the winter during this four-hour snowshoe hike. This fun and educational program will lead participants through snow-covered pine, spruce and fir forests to learn how plants and animals survive winter using unique adaptations and keen survival skills. Learn about the properties of snow, and get outside to enjoy it yourself! ◆◆◆

Lions, Coyotes & Bears! Oh, My!

Dates: June 14; July 6 (Grand Lake), 12, 26
FREE for children ages 4-6 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

What does it take to be a predator in Rocky Mountain National Park? Take a look through the eyes of these mysterious animals. Through adventures in various habitats, the creation of a handmade predator, and other fun activities, kids will learn all about the sneakiest animals in Rocky Mountain National Park and what it is like to walk in their paws. ◆◆

Solstice, Moonbeams & Stars: Family Astronomy

Date: June 16
$25 per adult;
FREE for children age 12 and under (Advance registration is required.)
Instructors: Deborah & Paul Price

Why do the seasons change? How do moon phases happen? It all has to do with going round and round! On the weekend before the summer solstice, take part in hands-on activities that explain how our days get longer and shorter. Explore the circular orbit of the moon to see firsthand how our lunar phases work. Learn about some of the other fascinating celestial objects that circle around in the Milky Way and pique our curiosity about our universe. End the night with telescope viewing of the wonders of the night sky. This class is designed for families with children ages 5 and up. ◆

Hidden Valley Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure

Dates: June 19; July 3, 17, 31
FREE for children ages 9-13 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

Using a GPS unit, discover the natural treasures of the Hidden Valley area. Follow the clues left in nature to uncover the hidden mysteries located in this subalpine ecosystem. This class is designed for kids and parents who want to spend time in Rocky Mountain National Park learning about nature while enjoying the adventure and fun of practicing a new skill. This class is recommended for first-time geocachers. ◆◆

Kids’ Art in the Park

Dates: June 20; July 4, 18; August 1
FREE for children ages 6-10 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

In this series, students can unleash their creative potentials through various art forms including photojournaling, painting, sketching, and crafting. These artistic activities will allow students to see the world through a new lens and discover that Nature is truly an artist. Each day will focus on a different art medium, offering a new perspective and skill set. Rocky Mountain National Park is one of our world’s most beautiful places, and this is an opportunity to take home your very own piece of it. ◆◆

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!
Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids’ Survival Basics!
Dates: June 20; July 18; August 8
FREE for children ages 7-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow
Thunderstorms? Bears? Trails that lead to nowhere? Learn to prepare for whatever nature throws your way! Learn the basics of outdoor survival, from what to pack for a hike to how to survive a night alone in the wilderness. And learn to make a fire and build a shelter from materials found outdoors. ◆◆

Who Pooped in the Woods?
A Mammal Mystery
Dates: June 21; July 5, 13 (Grand Lake), 19
FREE for children ages 7-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow
Who doesn’t love a good mystery? This program will have kids solving real-life mysteries from start to finish. They will learn to recognize different animal signs like scat (a fancy word for poop) and tracks, and make a cast of an animal track to take home. ◆◆

Bugs, Beetles & Butterflies:
Tiny But Amazing Creatures of Rocky
Dates: June 21; July 19, 20 (Grand Lake); August 2
FREE for children ages 4-6
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow
Bugs often are seen as annoying and gross, but they actually are quite extraordinary! They are able to lift impressive weights, fly great distances, and jump to astonishing heights. Learn the basics of our little bug friends through art and exploration as we capture bugs with nets, study them with magnifying glasses and create our own bugs to take home. Learn what bugs are and what they need to live. It may shock you to discover what our tiniest of neighbors are capable of doing! ◆◆

Kids’ Fly-fishing & Stream Ecology
Dates: June 22; July 6, 20; August 10 (Grand Lake)
$25 for children ages 7-15
Instructor: Rachel Balduzzi
Fly-fishing is a sport that dates back centuries, and it draws beginners and seasoned anglers alike to Rocky Mountain National Park. Kids have a unique opportunity here to learn what fly-fishing is about — what lives in the riparian ecosystem, the aquatic food web, fly-casting techniques — and, finally, to dip their lines. All fly-fishing gear will be provided. ◆◆
Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee. Ask for details when you register.

NEW!
Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
Dates: June 26; July 10, 24; August 7
FREE for children ages 8-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow
This class will introduce kids to how maps work, how to read a legend, and how to create their own maps through a fun exploration of the surrounding environment. Using games and a navigational scavenger hunt, kids can discover the parts of a compass and useful mapping techniques. Kids will gain a basic understanding of navigation as well as develop the ability to plan a route and orienteer with or without a compass. ◆◆

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
YOUTH & FAMILY CLASSES

What’s Hiding Underwater?
Dates: June 27; July 11, 25, 27 (Grand Lake)
FREE for children ages 8-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

Kids have a natural curiosity about water and want to examine living things up close. Streams and ponds have an abundance of creatures living just below the surface and around the shoreline. Using hand lenses, kids will explore a stream and learn about some of the macroinvertebrates found in the shallow waters of the Big Thompson and Colorado Rivers. As the group moves along the riverbank, fish biology will be explored, as well as evidence of larger animals and the roles different organisms play in the food chain.◆◆

Geology Rocks!
Dates: June 28
July 12; August 2
FREE for children ages 7-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

Discover what puts the “rock” in Rocky Mountain National Park during this geologic adventure. When visiting Rocky, folks routinely drive by, walk on or overlook hundreds of different kinds of rocks scattered throughout the landscape. Take a closer look at these cool rocks, and discover their origins and how to identify specific rocks and minerals in the park. Explore the Alluvial Fan, one of the most recognizable geologic landforms within the park, and create your own pieces of geologic history to take home.◆◆

Plants for Young Sprouts
Dates: June 29
July 13, 27;
FREE for children ages 4-6
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

Do plants drink, even if they don’t have mouths? Do they sweat, even though they don’t have foreheads? Do all of Rocky Mountain National Park’s creatures have fur, feathers or scales? In fact, some of the oddest, most-curious creatures have bark and blossoms! Encourage your young sprout to discover what Rocky’s leafy giants and human visitors have in common in this hands-on, exploration-based program. Kids will leave with their own woodland creature hand-made from plant materials.◆◆

Campfire Ghost Stories:
Living History Tales of the West
People from the past come to life in these hour-long presentations portraying the colorful history and adventures of past residents and visitors to the Estes Valley. Join these characters as they recount tales of humor, exploration and danger, and discover what life was like for them during their stay in and around Rocky Mountain National Park. Time for questions and roasting marshmallows at the campfire will follow the presentation.◆

Iron Thumb - June 14
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Jan Manning (Iron Thumb)
Iron Thumb is a fictitious character representation of a 19th century fur trapper of the West. Participants will hear tales of hunting beaver, view the historical clothing of the times, and see the tools that trappers used to get their jobs done.

Miner Bill & the Blue Mist:
An Estes Park Legend - June 21
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurt Kelly (Miner Bill)
Thousands of visitors have been intrigued and entertained by the Blue Mist legend since it was first told in the 1940s at places like the Fall River Lodge, Stead’s Ranch and the livery of the YMCA of the Rockies. A fictional tale about a real-life figure from this area’s past, the story holds references to local history as well as allusions to the natural — yet strangely sudden — weather phenomena that occur near mountain valleys and ridges.

NEW! Abner Sprague - July 5
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurt Kelly (Abner Sprague)
Abner Sprague lived with an unstoppable spirit, and he typified the pioneer resourcefulness of those who settled on lands that would someday become Rocky Mountain National Park. Experience an exciting living history reenactment of the life of Abner Sprague — appropriate and meaningful for all ages. Amid a campfire setting, listen to the thrilling tales of Sprague’s life, and explore how this pioneer’s story has affected our understanding of Rocky and the dawn of tourism in the Estes valley.

Rocky Mountain Tales of Survival - July 12
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurt Kelly (various characters)
Hear thrilling tales of adventure from pioneers facing perilous encounters and daring escapes. Abner Sprague recounts the 1896 camping trip that left his party lost in a blizzard above timberline. The Earl of Dunraven comes face-to-face with a mountain lion. Joe Mills describes a midnight rescue on wind-whipped Longs Peak, and a snow-blinded Enos Mills makes a dangerous descent from the Continental Divide.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Avalanche Awareness & Outdoor Safety in Winter
Dates: January 12; February 9
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Russell Hunter
Discover and explore how, when, where and why avalanches are likely to occur in Rocky Mountain National Park. Following a class-room overview of avalanche phenomena, participants will travel to Hidden Valley for a two-hour hike to study the snowpack and terrain aspects of avalanches and review the basics of avalanche rescue techniques. ✰✰

NEW!
Leave No Trace: Awareness & Principles
Date: May 5
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jason Grubb
Using the “Train-the-Trainer” format, learn about Leave No Trace techniques, ethics and how to effectively disseminate Leave No Trace information to users. Interactive activities and demonstrations will facilitate the learning process and allow everyone to be active in the training. Participants will be provided with information on how to easily and effectively integrate Leave No Trace into their daily lives, programs, outreach and businesses. ✰✰

Orienteering for Beginners: Map & Compass Basics in RMNP
Date: May 19
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Peggy Ellis
This course is intended for the recreational hiker who has little or no experience reading a topographic map or working with a compass. Learn about map sources, map vintage, next-generation U.S. topo maps by U.S.G.S. and map symbology. Learn to read contour lines, recognize landforms, calculate percent and angle of slope and become familiar with compass components, compass bearings and correcting for magnetic declination. More topics include overland navigation via map and compass and triangulation. The class will combine indoor instruction with outdoor practice at a nearby location. All materials provided, with compasses available for loan ✰✰

Life Signs: Tracking the Invisible
Date: May 25
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook
A swelling on a twig or a hole in a stem, a stray feather or a piece of eggshell, an abandoned nest or a mound of soil: so many different things tell the comings and goings of secretive creatures that otherwise remain invisible. Discover the process of acquiring, then developing, the observational skills necessary to read wild life signs as if they were a newspaper. ✰✰✰

NEW!
Data Discoveries: How to Become a Citizen Scientist in RMNP
Date: September 8
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Charlotte Mason
Learn what’s involved in becoming a citizen scientist, and discover a way to spend more time in the park while assisting on a management level. Explore how the Estes Park Environmental Center (EPEC) plans their water, air, flora and fauna monitoring studies, and get first-hand experience collecting reliable data. Spend time in the beautiful Fall River biological corridor from Horseshoe Park all the way up to the alpine tundra. Get your feet wet, take in the views, and utilize special equipment in stunning areas of the park while collecting data that will help the park and EPEC collect meaningful data relevant to management issues today. ✰✰

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Granite Falls
A Grand Lake-area Class
Date: July 28
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA

Enjoy an all-day hike on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park, through wildflower meadows and subalpine forests to spectacular Granite Falls. Explore the wild life of this area and learn about the role that the Green Mountain fire has played in shaping a portion of this landscape. ◆◆◆◆

Find Your Way There — & Back!
GPS Basics
Date: August 11
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Peter Price

Recreational travelers with little or no experience using a GPS and/or GPS owners who would like to gain a greater understanding of their receiver can learn to navigate the backcountry with greater confidence. With emphasis on using a hand-held GPS unit, topics of discussion will include: the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), GPS functions and limitations, GPSs in your hand and in your car, collecting and managing waypoints and tracks, creating routes, using GPSs with U.S.G.S. and other topographic maps, and computer applications for GPS data management and display. An understanding of topographic maps is helpful but not required. All materials provided with a few GPS receivers available for loan ◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Black Lake
Date: August 11
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA

Enjoy a breathtaking hike with views of the Continental Divide on the way to a stunning mountain lake that snuggles against the backside of Longs Peak. Learn about the natural history and geology of this unique area of Rocky Mountain National Park, and enjoy the chance to view wildlife along the way. Other highlights of the hike will include Alberta Falls, Mills Lake, Jewel Lake and Ribbon Falls. ◆◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Twin Sisters Mountain
Date: August 25
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA

Prepare yourself for a relatively steep mountain hike to a summit with 360-degree views. A rich subalpine forest precedes the pinnacle which provides the perfect environment to learn about mountain ecology and view wildlife. Pine squirrels, grouse and the elusive marten inhabit this life zone. For those who summit, breathtaking views and rocky outcappings offer a chance to sit and ponder the vastness of the land below. ◆◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Chasm Lake
Date: September 8
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA

Climb to a stunning cirque lake nestled at the foot of the iconic Diamond of Longs Peak. Following an invigorating hike through a dense subalpine forest, hikers are rewarded with miles of open tundra and sensational views of Longs Peak, Mt. Meeker, and the towns along the front range (weather permitting, of course!). Marmots, pikas, and krummholz trees inhabit this region amid spectacular geologic formations, such as small tarns and boulder fields. Autumn colors and seasonal changes in alpine plants and wildlife will be discussed during this breathtaking (literally!) hike. ◆◆◆◆

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Photographing Winter Landscapes
Dates: March 9-11
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Eli Vega
Photography should be fun, not just scientific! In this interactive, inspirational and fun course, learn both the technical and the fun sides of photography – with an emphasis on fun. On the technical side, learn about depth-of-field techniques, focusing, exposure range challenges and filtration. On the fun side, learn about composition, creative in-camera techniques, use of lenses, and discover the unique beauty found in winter scenes. In-the-field photography will include Sprague Lake, Bear Lake, Nymph Lake and, depending on conditions, Dream Lake. This workshop is suitable for beginning, intermediate and advanced photographers who want to explore the nonlinear side of photography. ◆◆◆

Beginning Watercolor for the Nature Enthusiast
Date: April 28
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Karen Ramsay
Start your watercolor journey with learning the fundamentals of the watercolor medium and an exciting method of applying paint in a fresh and vibrant way. The day will be spent learning varied techniques, setting up a palette of colors, and studying the importance of shapes and values. This information will be the jump-start you need to become a watercolor artist in nature, both indoors and out. ◆

Sketchbook Journaling: Wilderness, Wildlife & Wonder in Watercolor
Dates: June 7-8
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Karen Ramsay
Toss your sketchbook and some simple tools into your daypack, and explore Rocky Mountain National Park! Through guided exercises and free exploration, create a record of personal, authentic interaction. Learn (or sharpen) some basic sketching and observational skills; then go to various locations in the park to put these skills to work. Approaches will include simple sketching with pencil, ink, and colored pencil or watercolor. Guided activities for observing, sketching, and some (brief) writing will help participants discover the many ways they interact with their environments. Beginners are welcome and encouraged. ◆◆

NEW!
Photojournaling: The Story Behind the Photos
Dates: June 22-24
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dawn Wilson
Photos are worth a thousand words, so the saying goes. But consider the impact of a photo when it is accompanied with a written story. Photographers of all levels will enjoy this introduction to the world of photojournaling. Learn the basics of photographing wildlife, landscapes and wildflowers in the park as part of a story. Then, go into the field to capture a story along Trail Ridge Road and in the Kawuneeche Valley. A workshop of editing and printing the photos that will be enhanced by words will follow. Leave with a bound copy of a photo story of your own. ◆◆

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Painting the Kawuneeche: A Beginner’s Watercolor Class
A Grand Lake-area Class
Dates: June 23-24
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Donna Lyons
This two-day class is for beginner painters and those who have little experience with painting in watercolor. The beauty of the Kawuneeche Valley with its meadows and wildflowers, streams, river and wildlife will be our inspiration. Learn how to handle brushes and how to make strokes that express your ideas; learn to mix color and use the color wheel; learn how to incorporate very basic composition, design, value patterns and structure into your work. ☑️

Watercolor Brushstrokes: Painting the Landscapes of RMNP
Dates: June 28-29
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Karen Ramsay
Learn the techniques to capture the park’s landscapes in watercolor. Open your eyes to the surrounding beauty, and learn ways to paint skies, mountains, water, trees and much more. Basic drawing skills and familiarity with watercolor skills are required. This class will consist of part classroom and part field location. ☑️

Painting the Kawuneeche: An Intermediate Watercolor Class
A Grand Lake-area Class
Dates: July 21-22
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Donna Lyons
This class will move beyond the basics to a deeper understanding of aerial and linear perspectives, simplifying shapes, linking values and more exciting compositional choices to challenge and take paintings to the next level. The Never Summer Mountains will be the backdrop to developing the art of seeing abstractly for more dynamic and stronger compositions. Work with analogous, complementary and discordant colors as a way of thinking about value and intensity and as a step toward more expressive use of color. ☑️

NEW!
Macro Photography: Bringing the Small World to Life
Dates: July 27-29
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Bob Dean
Experience a unique spin on landscape photography that brings out your inner artist to see with your imagination, not your eyes. Explore several in-camera techniques such as composition, scanning and extracting, how to handle difficult light metering, and the advantage of “un-labeling” in photography. Learn how to photograph the grand vistas of Rocky — and much more. ☑️

NEW!
Landscape Photography: Creating an Artistic Eye
Dates: August 2-4
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Eli Vega
Discover the hidden world of nature, and learn to use the creative controls on a camera to capture beautiful images of flowers, insects, bark patterns, the textures of lichens, water and much more. Delve into the software tools of focus stacking, allowing for nearly unlimited depth of field. Part of getting great images is using the best natural light, so participants will be out in the field at the beginning and end of the day, saving classroom work for evenings and mid-day. ☑️

Participants should have a digital SLR or mirrorless camera with interchangeable lenses that allows manual adjustments to the settings.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!

Creating a Travel Sketchbook
Dates: August 11-12
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Suzie Garner

Documenting the experiences in our nation’s national parks is a great way to preserve memories in a personal and unique way. In this class, beginner and moderately experienced sketchers can find new directions, mediums and ideas for capturing these memorable moments during travel. Experiment with quick sketches, notes, stamps, maps, ephemera, color and drawing techniques. Discussions regarding materials, approaches, drawing techniques, and sketching outdoors will be included. ◆◆

Night Sky Landscape Photography
Dates: September 7-9
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Stan Honda

Don’t put your camera away after the sun sets! There’s a whole different park to photograph when the stars come out, and you don’t need a telescope. Learn various techniques and camera settings useful to photograph the Milky Way, the moon, the stars and other objects in the night sky using digital cameras and standard lenses. We’ll discuss how to plan shots using star charts, software, and apps to determine what will be seen in the night sky. This course is best for photographers of intermediate level and above. ◆◆ Participants should have a digital SLR or mirrorless camera with interchangeable lenses that allows manual adjustments to the settings.

Photographing Wildlife: When, Where & How
Dates: September 14-16
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Lee Kline

Great wildlife images don’t just happen. Creating a wildlife photograph requires a unique combination of skills, including knowledge of wildlife behavior and habits, understanding photographic equipment and techniques, and a large portion of patience, practice and perseverance. Discover acceptable methods for approaching wild subjects and the photographic equipment and techniques necessary for creating great wildlife images. ◆◆

Photographing the Wildlife of Kawuneeche
A Grand Lake-area Class
Dates: September 20-22
$600 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Lee Kline

Seeing wildlife in Rocky Mountain National Park is not at all unusual. However, making great photographs of what you see can be challenging and many times results in disappointing images. This field adventure welcomes photographers of all experience levels to learn successful and acceptable methods of wildlife photography, including approaching wildlife subjects and the best photographic methods, equipment and techniques to further an understanding, development and enjoyment of making great wildlife images. ◆◆

Fee includes meals and shared overnight accommodations at Shadowcliff Lodge.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Coyotes: Song Dogs of the West
Date: March 24
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jared Gricoskie

Coyotes are among this country’s most successful and resourceful predators. Often misunderstood and maligned, the coyote has a profound impact on our everyday life. Explore the natural history of North America’s second-largest canine, Native American stories, coyote discovery by Lewis and Clark, and the animal’s expansion to the East. Examine the coyote’s anatomy and biology; then, head into Rocky Mountain National Park to explore coyote habitat, social structure and interactions. Learn how the coyote interacts with the ecosystem, its prey and humankind, and how wolves could impact coyotes in the future. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Fire in Ecosystems: Friend or Foe?
Date: April 14
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. Scott Franklin

Coming off one of the worst fire seasons in the known history of the West, both managers and citizens are grappling with the complexity of how climate change may alter fire disturbance regimes. Is fire still a natural disturbance in these mountain forests? What relationship does fire have with other disturbances such as drought and bark beetle outbreaks? Explore the role of fire in mountain forest ecosystems, typical fire regimes, synergistic disturbances, and predicted changes with climate warming. Discuss the history of fire policy ranging from the “10 A.M. policy” to the “let burn policy,” including the caveat of the wildland-urban interface. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

North With the Spring: Bird Migration
Date: April 28
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans

April in the high country is when we welcome back birds that have wintered in warmer climates. Ducks, shorebirds, warblers, swallows, flycatchers, sparrows, sapsuckers, bluebirds and many others return for the nesting season or stop to refuel before heading farther north. Explore several locations in and around Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park to identify as many species as possible by sight and sound while learning about each bird’s unique natural history. ◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

There’s More to This Place Than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP
Date: May 4
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. Ellen Wohl

This course provides an overview of the history of environmental change in the park with an emphasis on human-caused change. Investigate the history of mining, water engineering, recreational development and tourism, atmospheric inputs of dust and nitrates, wildlife management, and climate change in the context of protecting and restoring natural environments within the park. Understand how past human activities influence contemporary ecosystems and options for management of natural resources within the park. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)
NEW! Hawks in Flight: Birds of Prey
Date: May 12
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans
The diversity of birds of prey in Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park during spring is impressive. In a few hours of field time, it’s possible to locate turkey vultures, ospreys, golden eagles, bald eagles, Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, northern goshawks, red-tailed hawks, prairie falcons, peregrine falcons and more. Our focus will be on this group of diurnal hunters, but we’ll not ignore the opportunity to observe other spring migrants and year-round resident species as well. Join the discussion about the birds’ natural history as we watch and enjoy these magnificent predators.

NEW! Life as an Owl
Date: May 18
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook
With 14 species, Colorado ranks among the top states for owl diversity. Five owl species live in Rocky Mountain National Park, and another five species wander into Rocky. Focusing on the objective of helping participants acquire the knowledge and skills to find owls deliberately, this class will cover material such as explaining what attributes make a bird an owl, how to listen and look for owls, resolving differences between cultural folklore and biological reality regarding owls, and exploring different plant communities that support each owl species. The class will conclude with time afield at twilight and into nighttime to find an owl or two.

NEW! Birds at Twilight
Date: May 24
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans
Twilight marks the transition time when nocturnal birds become active. While many daytime species still can be located, Wilson’s snipes, owls, common nighthawks and common poorwills start their night-shifting hunting at dusk. Explore the haunts of these elusive birds, and discuss their natural history and ecology as we visit, search and listen.

NEW! Life Signs: Tracking the Invisible
Date: May 25
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook
A swelling on a twig or a hole in a stem, a stray feather or a piece of eggshell, an abandoned nest or a mound of soil: so many different things tell the comings and goings of secretive creatures that otherwise remain invisible. Discover the process of acquiring, then developing, the observational skills necessary to read wild life signs as if they were a newspaper.

NEW! Falcons: Streamlined for Speed
Date: June 2
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: W. Perry Conway
No other animal flies as fast as the falcon, which can hit speeds in excess of 200 mph. At one point in our recent history, falcon populations were hammered hard by pesticides (DDT), causing two of North America’s six species to become endangered, including the world famous peregrine. Rocky Mountain National Park played an important role in recovering the peregrine to the extent that they are no longer considered endangered. Learn about the history of falcons in Rocky and the evolution and natural history of all six North American species. At least three live falcons will be on-site to enhance the class’s educational impact. We will visit historic peregrine release areas as well as current nesting and hunting habitats.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
**NEW!**

**Birding with a Naturalist: Summer & Fall**

Dates: June 7, 21; August 30; September 6
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans

Spend the morning discussing the migration, nesting (summer), habitats, conservation, natural history and ecology of mountain birds. Have fun in the field while learning to identify, enjoy and appreciate these feathered beings. Learn to identify as many species as possible by sight and songs/calls to develop a good sense of which birds are nearby.  

Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies: Plants for Hunger & Health

Dates: June 8; July 6
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Abby Schreiber

Explore the flora of the park with a former RMNP interpretive ranger and master herbalist. Focus on plants that have been used historically as food and medicine and those in current use by Native American tribes. Herbal remedies based on popular traditions, herbal lore and cultural customs will be complemented with knowledge of therapeutic value discovered by scientists for a holistic portrayal of medicinal plants found in the Rocky Mountains. Discover the edible plants, their pharmacology, identification, conservation and ethics surrounding their harvest and use.  

Unlimited Beauty: Orchids of RMNP

Date: June 9
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook

The orchids comprise the world’s second-most diverse family of wildflowers; yet, perceived as plants of tropical rain forests, they can seem out of place in the Rocky Mountains. Learning that perhaps as many as 30 orchid species grow wild in Colorado seems remarkable enough, but finding orchids growing wild in RMNP makes the place seem all the more magical. In some places, certain orchids may be among the park’s most abundant wildflowers. Learn what botanical traits make a wildflower an orchid; then, take that information afield to find them. Once we find them, we’ll discuss their connectedness to other wild life.  

Predator/Prey: A Dynamic Relationship in the Web of Life

Date: June 15
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Connor

Animals are always around us but often go unnoticed since much of their activity occurs off trails, at night, or early or late in the day. Do you know how to read the signs they leave behind? Study predator/prey dynamics, and learn to read signs left behind by predators and prey. Get a better understanding of community ecology and wildlife dynamics in Rocky Mountain National Park. Participate as a citizen scientist in Rocky, and collect information that will be added to a park dataset gathered by other citizen scientists.  

Birds of the Kawuneeche Valley

**A Grand Lake-area Class**

Date: June 16
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans

This all-day birding excursion will begin with a brief indoor session followed by a day spent in the field within Rocky Mountain National Park. We will identify birds by sight and voice and learn about their natural history. This is prime time to find birds nesting, and we expect to locate woodpeckers, bluebirds, swallows and wrens at their cavity nests. We will break for lunch at a restaurant in Grand Lake and then resume our field explorations in the Kawuneeche Valley.  

(Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.

(CSM credit available)
Secret Places in Rocky Mountain National Park

New Locations!

One Grand Lake-area Class

Dates: June 22 (Grand Lake); July 13; August 10
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook

A prudent sense of safety keeps us looking at the ground as we walk, and trails trick us into looking straight ahead to see what’s coming. The consequence of these habits is that we miss what’s around. Marvelous old trees, spectacular wildflower assemblages, hard-to-find animals, and other wildlife surprises can remain hidden in secret places near the trails that allow us to pass through unaware. Explore just off familiar beaten paths with a mind for discovering the natural richness that bestows character on place. ◆◆

RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide

A Grand Lake-area Class

Date: June 22
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructors: Dr. Paul Opler & Evi Buckner-Opler

Butterflies are easily observed in every life zone of Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn basic butterfly biology, behavior and identification. In the field, visit several different habitats on the east slope of the park to search for summer species, such as pale swallowtail, blues, several fritillaries, hoary comma and Weidemeyer’s admiral. Learn to identify these species, and also discuss their life histories and ecology, host-plant associations and conservation concerns. Observation will rely on binoculars and digital photography; however, the instructor will have a net and release permit to allow participants a close-up look at a variety of species. ◆◆

(CSM credit available)

Geology of the Western Slope

A Grand Lake-area Class

Date: June 30
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Keith Graham

The western part of Rocky offers a grand opportunity to see some of the oldest rocks in Colorado and some beautiful examples of very recent (geologically speaking) glacial features. Learn how geologists interpret the nature and history of the rocks and the processes that created and formed them. Look far back in time and deep into the Earth to understand how metamorphism changed sediments into the 1.75-billion-year-old schists and gneisses that dominate western RMNP’s bedrock. Examine the effects of tectonic forces that began more than 60 million years ago and caused these rocks to be heaved more than two miles above sea level. ◆◆

(CSM credit available)

Wildflowers of RMNP

Dates: June 30 - July 1
$160 per adult age 16 and up both days or $90 for each single day
Instructor: Leanne Benton

Explore the wonder and diversity of the park’s wildflowers with a former Rocky Mountain National Park interpretive naturalist. The park’s vertical topography allows for a variety of habitats. This class will search out lush wildflower displays from montane meadows to high alpine ridges. Get up close with the mountain flora to discover their adaptations for survival and interesting stories behind their beautiful faces. Hone identification techniques, and gain confidence using a flower key. Day 1: montane and subalpine wildflowers; Day 2: alpine wildflowers. ◆◆

(CSM credit available)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
**Birding the Life Zones**
Dates: June 30 - July 1
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans

Rocky Mountain National Park is a birder’s paradise during the nesting season. This two-day class will explore the various ecosystems (life zones) of the park to find 50-70 bird species. We will identify hawks, falcons, eagles, ducks, white-tailed ptarmigans, brown-capped rosy-finches, swifts, broad-tailed hummingbirds, swallows, tanagers, sparrows, warblers, American dippers, wrens, woodpeckers, owls, nuthatches, chickadees, kinglets, jays, common ravens and other corvids, and a number of other members of the area’s avifauna. We will discuss the natural history of both the birds and the montane, subalpine, alpine, and riparian environments they inhabit. ◆◆◆

*(CSM credit available)*

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**In Pursuit of Rocky’s Ten Most Interesting Insects**
Date: July 7
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook

Butterflies enthuse people, mosquitoes exasperate people, several thousand insects go unnoticed, and a few nifty insects catch our attention by serendipity. The amazing pine sawyer that lands on your shirt sleeve, the beautiful blue pleasing fungus beetle that crawls across the log where you sit, the sweat-bee that pollinates orchids, the robber-fly that prevents pollination, and ants that squeak – such insects tell the stories of life and living in Rocky Mountain National Park. This field class will concentrate on finding, identifying and understanding a select few insects with interesting ecological connections. ◆◆

*(CSM credit available)*

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**North American Bears: Ecology, Behavior & Evolution**
Date: July 14
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: W. Perry Conway

Bears are a symbol of the American wilderness, and North America has three of the world’s eight species. Historically, the park had two of the three – now only one. Learn the natural history of all three North American species – their evolution, behavior and habitat needs. Through illustrated classroom sessions and field trips, learn which areas of the park provide proper black bear habitat, what they eat, their population status and where to view and safely photograph North American bears. ◆◆

*(CSM credit available)*

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**NEW! Boreal Toad Research: An Effort in Endangered Species Conservation**
**Grand Lake-area Class**
Date: July 14
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Tim Korpita

This class will give participants an overview of the current attempts at saving the boreal toad in Colorado, with an emphasis on anti-Bd probiotic treatments. Participants will visit a declining boreal toad habitat on the west side of the park, collect soil samples, then practice the microbiological methods used to isolate our target probiotic organism, J liv. ◆◆◆

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**Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.**
Alpine Superheroes: Survival in a Land of Extremes
Date: July 14
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Leanne Benton
“The combination of heavy snowfall, bitter wind, low temperatures, and mountainous topography in alpine areas creates the most severe climate in the world,” writes alpine researcher Joyce Gellhorn in her book *Song of the Alpine*. In the extreme environment of the alpine tundra where humans are only seasonal visitors, a diversity of plants and animals survive and thrive. In this class, explore the physical factors of climate and topography that challenge life and the survival strategies of alpine plants and animals. ✬✬

(HSM credit available)

Hummingbirds: Field Research
East of the Divide
Date: July 16
$60 per adult age 16 and up
Instructors: Tena & Fred Engelman
Marking individual hummingbirds remains essential to assess population size, migration corridors and survival. Genetic and statistical analyses are complementing and expanding understanding of these important migratory pollinators. Learn about Rocky’s hummingbird populations and their habitats while observing field ornithologists as they safely capture and band these remarkable birds. Visit typical habitats, observe and identify types of food sources, and learn about factors influencing hummingbird survival. ✬✬

(HSM credit available)

NEW!
How to Identify Plants & Their Families
Dates: July 19-20
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Linda Beidleman
Discover the true identity of plants and examine a variety of them on an up-close and personal level. Using hand lenses and identification keys, come out in the field to become familiar with the particulars of some common plant families and species. This fascinating way of observing plants will be a useful tool for identifying and observing plants on your own. ✬✬

(BSM credit available)

Hummingbirds: Field Research
West of the Divide
A Grand Lake-area Class
Date: July 19
$60 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Linda Beidleman
Marking individual hummingbirds remains essential to assess population size, migration corridors and survival. Genetic and statistical analyses are complementing and expanding understanding of these important migratory pollinators. Learn about Rocky’s hummingbird populations and their habitats while observing ornithologists in the field as they safely capture and band these remarkable birds. Visit typical habitat, observe and identify types of food sources, and learn about factors influencing hummingbird survival, the geographical distribution of species, and results of analysis techniques. ✬✬

(BSM credit available)

Bighorn Sheep: Ecology & Management
Date: July 20
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Connor
The bighorn sheep is the symbol of Rocky Mountain National Park and the state of Colorado. It represents the majestic rugged mountains of the park. Discover the ecology of bighorn sheep, how to distinguish a ram from a ewe, a yearling from a lamb, what they eat and how to age sheep by the rings on their horns. Learn to distinguish the scat of sheep from that of elk, deer and moose, and discuss how sheep can live in such mountainous terrain. Visit two mineral licks to explore their importance to the sheep’s survival, and discuss important park management issues related to bighorn sheep. ✬✬✬

(BSM credit available)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Bats of Colorado & RMNP
Date: July 27
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeremy Siemers
Colorado is home to 19 bat species, with 8 found in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain National Park. Explore the evolution, ecology, behavior, anatomy, threats to and population status of Colorado's bats through the discussion of survey equipment, video, and acoustic materials. At dusk, participants will travel to some nearby foraging habitats to observe and listen to bat activity. Come prepared for short hikes. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Engaging Nature Through All the Senses
Date: July 28
$40 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook
Wind makes aspen leaves and conifer needles whisper, but they do so in different voices. In flight, some birds' wings whistle, some trill, some buzz, and some are silent. Subalpine fir and balsam poplar both enrich the air after a summer rain. Wood nymph and pipsissewa contend for the most beautiful fragrance of all our wildflowers. A fresh gumweed defines what sticky is, and an old mushroom defines what slimy is. Being truly outdoors involves more than what the eyes can see. Explore how using all our senses can enrich our time engaging nature. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Wild Mushroom Expedition
Date: August 3
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jennifer Frazer
Thousands of species of mushrooms lurk in the woods and grasses of Colorado. Learn the basics of mushroom biology, common Colorado mushrooms, how mushrooms make their living, poisonous mushrooms, and how to recognize major mushroom families. Create beautiful spore prints that can be vital to identification. In the field, get hands-on experience collecting and identifying mushrooms, learn how not to get lost while on forays, and be trained in the art of the mushroom hoot. ◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Residents of the High Country
Date: August 13
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jared Gricoskie
In the summer months, the tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park is not just a crown jewel for wildflowers, but also for wildlife. High-country dwellers like pikas and marmots offer hours of viewing entertainment. Pleasant surprises can reveal elk, ravens, coyotes, long-tailed weasels, and many more amazing animals behind any rock or beyond any turn in the trail. All of these furry or feathery friends have great stories to tell about their behaviors, evolution and survival strategies. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Geology in the Park:
Reading the Rocks to Discover the Past
Date: July 20
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. David Lindsey
Discoveries made during the 18th century still inform how geologists read rocks. They are 1) the present is the key to the past, 2) the Earth is much older than people thought, and 3) rocks can form from cooling magma. Examine common rocks and minerals to see how they form deep in the Earth's crust, discuss the tectonic forces that brought them to the surface, and observe the weathering processes that recycle them back into the Earth. Learn about mountain formation, and explore and discuss geologic time, radiometric dating, plate tectonics, and Earth history. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
**NEW!**

**Moraine Magic: Explore with a Naturalist**

Date: August 18
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Kevin J. Cook

A moraine offers a unique perspective to hikers journeying through lush ferns and ancient spruce trees from Hidden Valley to Horseshoe Park. Study wildflowers, and look for bear signs and three-toed woodpeckers in the progress from subalpine to aspen-lined montane ecosystems. Discover the magic a moraine holds for those who dare to explore. ☻☻☻

*(CSM credit available)*

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**RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide**

*A Grand Lake-area Class*

Date: August 17
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructors: Dr. Paul Opler & Evi Buckner-Opler

Learn basic butterfly biology, behavior and identification. Visit several different habitats on the west slope of the park to search for late-summer species, such as Rocky Mountain parnassian, Scudder’s sulphur, silver-bordered fritillary, mourning cloak and dark wood-nymph. Discuss life histories and ecology, host-plant associations, and conservation concerns, including the impact of loss of lodgepole pine stands to bark beetles. Observation will rely on binoculars; however, the instructor will have a net-and-release permit to allow participants a close-up look at a variety of species. ☻☻

*(CSM credit available)*

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**RMNP’s Top Predator**

**Mountain Lion:**

*Dates: August 18-19*
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructors: Caroline Krumm & Dr. Don Hunter

Explore mountain lion ecology, ongoing research, human-mountain lion interaction, and community stewardship of wildlife resources during morning lectures followed by hands-on instruction in the field. Demonstrations of research methods, tools and data collection will be included with practical instruction on how to “read” the signs left by mountain lions. Mountain lion safety, current research techniques, key management issues, and how communities across the West are becoming involved will also be discussed. ☻☻☻

*(CSM credit available)*

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**The Persevering Pika:**

*Secrets of Alpine Survival*

*Date: September 1*
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Chris Ray

Watch the American pika demonstrate its alpine survival strategy. Pikas and their hibernating neighbors — yellow-bellied marmots, chipmunks and squirrels — are easy to watch in the summer and fall as they forage among the alpine wildflowers. Learn to spot different animal behaviors that provide clues to surviving the long, cold winter. Pikas don’t hibernate, so you’re sure to learn a few survival tips from these resourceful little beasts. ☻☻

*(CSM credit available)*

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**Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.**
Cultural History Classes

There’s More to This Place Than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP
Date: May 4
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. Ellen Wohl

This course provides an overview of the history of environmental change in the park with an emphasis on human-caused change. Investigate the history of mining, water engineering, recreational development and tourism, atmospheric inputs of dust and nitrates, wildlife management, and climate change in the context of protecting and restoring natural environments within the park. Understand how past human activities influence contemporary ecosystems and options for management of natural resources within the park.

Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies: Plants for Hunger & Health
Dates: June 8; July 6
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Abby Schreiber

Explore the flora of the park with a former RMNP interpretive ranger and master herbalist. Focus on plants that have been used historically as food and medicine and those in current use by Native American tribes. Herbal remedies based on popular traditions, herbal lore and cultural customs will be complemented with knowledge of therapeutic value discovered by scientists for a holistic portrayal of medicinal plants found in the Rocky Mountains. Discover the edible plants, their pharmacology, identification, conservation and ethics surrounding their harvest and use.

(CSM credit available)

There’s More to This Place Than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP

There’s More to This Place Than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP

There’s More to This Place Than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP

Campfire Ghost Stories: Living History Tales of the West

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$15 per adult
Children 12 and under FREE

See descriptions under Youth & Family Classes, p. 10.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!
Phantoms: The Primordial, Prehistoric & Hidden History of RMNP

Dates: June 23-24
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Mary Taylor Young

Roam the park with an award-winning writer to discover traces of park history that lie hidden beneath the surface and off the beaten path. See billion-year-old rocks, and examine a game drive wall used by prehistoric hunters. Tour the Apache Fort site of an early Indian battle, and visit the 1915 RMNP dedication ceremony site. Discover the “phantom” Big Thompson River park entrance and old entrance road, and explore early ranches, the last remnant of a guest lodge and the site of the park’s ski area. Witness the changes floods in two different centuries have left on the park, and wander inside an elk exclosure to see 21st century wildlife management in action. ♦♦♦

Historic People & Places: Estes Park, the Estes Valley & RMNP

Date: July 7
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. James Pickering

Study the history of the Town of Estes Park, the Estes Valley, and Rocky Mountain National Park, all of which share an interrelated history. Travel to downtown Estes Park to learn about the platting and early development of “The Village.” Visit multiple sites in the valley, including the site of the Joel Estes-Griff Evans ranch, the Earl of Dunraven’s Estes Park Hotel and the Highlands Hotel. Visit other sites, including that of the 1915 dedication, the Fall River Lodge, and the cabins where convicts spent the winter of 1913 while beginning construction of Old Fall River Road. Additional park sites at lower elevations will conclude the day. ♦♦♦

The Ghost of Old Fall River Road

Date: August 12
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Mary Taylor Young

Did you know the west side of the old route of Fall River Road still lies like a phantom between Trail Ridge and Grand Lake? Old Fall River Road opened in 1920, Rocky’s first through-highway across the Continental Divide. Eclipsed by Trail Ridge Road, it was closed and partly obliterated in the 1930s. After 50 years, Old Fall River Road was reopened to traffic, but only on the east side. Learn the secret history of Old Fall River Road, and discover its ghosts. Retrace the road, from Horseshoe Park to Milner Pass. Learn about the convict cabins, compare historical photos with the landscape today, and discover what happened to this landmark road on the west side. ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ (CSM credit available)

Become a Conservancy Member & Save on Classes!

Your membership with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy keeps you connected to Rocky Mountain National Park. With your help, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy works with the park to build and repair trails, protect land for the park, educate the next generation of public lands stewards and so much more.

Conservancy members receive product discounts, park information and the Quarterly newsletter to keep the connection with Rocky.

Become a member today!

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Instructor Profiles

Dr. Tom Adams — Tom has prowled RMNP since 1959, exploring backcountry lakes and streams in all seasons of the year. Formerly an elementary school teacher, he now spends his days hiking the trails and fly fishing. Tom guides fly-fishers for Scott’s Sporting Goods in Estes Park (20-plus years), writes an outdoors column for The Greeley Tribune, and serves as one of 25 years of training teachers through the BUENO Center at Colorado University-Boulder.

Rachel Balduzzi — Rachel is the Field Institute education director for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. She holds a master’s degree in education and worked as an RMNP interpretation ranger as well as the lead education technician for the park’s environmental education program. Rachel also has taught elementary school in Estes Park.

Linda Beideman — Linda has taught plant identification classes in both Colorado and California since 1995. Along with Richard Beideman and Beatrice Willard, she is the author of Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park and Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region. She has studied and photographed the wildflowers of the Colorado Rockies for more than 30 years.

Jeff Conner — Jeff is a retired natural resources specialist who worked for 35 years in the federal government. In retirement, Jeff has traveled the world as a national resources specialist in Rocky Mountain National Park where he was involved with bighorn sheep management. In 2012, he and other park staff started a Citizen Science program that has an ecological relationship with the Estes Park and St. Vrain Valley High School’s Wild Eco-School in Monteverde, Costa Rica, which is part of the Agua y Paz Biosphere Reserve.

W. Perry Conway — Perry has been a professional nature photographer for more than 30 years. His work has been published in numerous major wildlife and nature magazines produced in North America. He is a former biology teacher with an M.S. in Outdoor Education. Perry spends most of his free time in outdoor education.

Kevin J. Cook — Since 1974, Kevin has explored Colorado to experience its wild life firsthand. He writes nature history columns for newspapers and magazines, edits technical articles for scientific publications, leads wildlife observation tours, teaches various wild life classes, and presents monthly lectures at several Colorado venues.

Dr. Wayne Dean — While working in the fast-paced high-tech world, Bob found relaxation in nature and wildlife photography. Since his retirement from the corporate world, he has traveled widely in the United States and abroad to pursue his individual wildlife and travel photography. Bob teaches and lectures at many Colorado venues including the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and has written three eBooks: Macro Photography - Bringing the Small World to Life, Travel Photography for Fun and Profit(?), and Digital Nature Photography – Nature and Wildlife for the Experienced Photographer. He was an assistant editor and featured writer/photographer for the Rocky Mountain Newsletter for Nature Photographers.

Margaret (Peggy) Ellis — Peggy spent 25 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. During past years, she assisted with and taught map-and-compass and GPS classes. She now teaches classes at the Bass Pro Shop in Denver and in several parks around Denver.

Tena and Fred Engelman — Tena and Fred are volunteer field researchers and recent immigrants to the United States. They study hummingbird species and habitat, giving new insight into hummingbird survivorship, demography, and the role of fidelity, migration routes and timing, and populations. Their work provides useful reference for ornithologists, resource managers and park interpretive personnel.

Dr. Scott Franklin — With a Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona, Scott studies disturbance and vegetation dynamics. He has published more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, several book chapters, and coauthored one book on forest dendrology. He serves as chair of ESA's Vegetation Classification Panel and as an associate editor of Vegetable Ecology for The American Midland Naturalist journal. His research currently examines long-term changes in Front Range forests, classification of the Pawnee National Grassland vegetation communities, response of aspen to disturbance, and plant competitive interactions.

Jennifer Frazer — Jennifer is an award-winning scientist and writer in the American, and is a trained mycologist. She is a member of the Colorado Mycological Society. She has been a guest on Radiolab, and has participated as a guest speaker on two scientific surveys of the fungi of Rocky Mountain National Park. She is passionate about biology and natural history and making them fun and entertaining for others.

Suzie Garner — Suzie teaches graphic design and drawing at Colorado Mesa University where she is the head of the art department. She also is a designer, oil painter, and watercolorist. She has conducted workshops in many national parks and monuments in the West and has exhibited nationally and internationally.

Keith Graham — With B.A. and M.A.T. degrees in geology, Keith has taught geology and other earth sciences for more than 35 years. He volunteers on the west side of the park as a former ranger. He joined the Rocky RMNP tundra geology hike during the summer months, conducts geology field trips and has coauthored several papers pertaining to the park.

Jared Gricroskie — Jared owns Yellow Wood Guiding in Estes Park, specializing in nature tours and photo safaris in RMNP. With a degree in environmental interpretation, he has worked as a naturalist from Colorado to New York and Michigan to Texas. Since 2008, Jared has explored and researched the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains.

Jason Grubb — Jason’s passion for the outdoors and resource conservation started in scouting where he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. As a recreation administration student at the University of Colorado, Jason played for playing outsidebod into a career, and he’s now at the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. In his role as outreach manager, Jason oversees several national initiatives working with land managers, volunteers, and other stakeholders to coalesce support and mobilize communities around areas suffering significant visitor impact. He also facilitates workshops aimed at equipping individuals with the tools they need to effectively maintain change in the places about which they care.

Stan Honga — Stan has 34 years of photojournalism experience in New York City and southern California. He has been a National Park Service artist-in-residence in Yellowstone and Great Basin National Parks, and has presented talks and workshops at Rocky’s Night Sky Festival. Stan’s night sky landscapes have appeared in National Geographic Picture of the Day, CBS Morning News, Sky and Telescope magazine and Yahoo News.

Dr. Don Hunter — Don has led a dedicated and run the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservation and Research Center in Estes Park for more than 30 years. He is scientist emeritus at the U.S.G.S. in Lakewood, Colorado, and has written three geology pamphlets published by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Suzie Garner — Suzie teaches graphic design and drawing at Colorado Mesa University where she is the head of the art department. She also is a designer, oil painter, and watercolorist. She has conducted workshops in many national parks and monuments in the West and has exhibited nationally and internationally.

Russell Hunter — Russell has been teaching avalanche education since 1996. His experiences have included leading two-week winter expeditions for NOLS and guiding hikers on the Longs Peak Climb. He has “focused” on the owner of the Colorado Mountain School, the country’s largest provider of the AIARE avalanche education curriculum.

Kurts Kelly — A well-known performer, Kurts portrays Abner Sprague and gives living history reenactments of local figures like F.O. Stanley and Lord Dunraven. He has led ghost story tours of the Stanley Hotel, appeared on National Public Radio and performed in many theatrical productions.

Lee Kline — A native Coloradan, outdoorsman and amateur naturalist, Lee is an accomplished photographer and writer. His articles and images have appeared in magazines, books, calendars, interpretive displays, advertising and other media. His photography is recognized internationally, and he is author of Colorado Wildlife Portfolio and the DVD Through My Lens – A North American Wildlife Adventure.

Timothy Korpita — After receiving a bachelor’s degree in biology from Tufts University, Tim spent four years as a high school science teacher in Brooklyn, New York, teaching classes in AP biology and urban ecology. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. degree in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado-Boulder. His research on probiotic bacteria in Rocky Mountain National Park’s wetlands was supported by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy’s Bailey Research Fellowship in 2013.

Caroline Krumm — Caroline helped establish and operate the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservation (RMCC), a nonprofit, nongovernment organization dedicated to wildlife conservation and community stewardship. She currently is the director of RMCC and recently completed a master’s degree studying the issue of the mountain lion “prey preference” for chronic wasting-disease infected mule deer.

Dr. David Lindsey — With a Ph.D. degree in geography from Johns Hopkins University, David served as research geologist/administrator at the U.S. Geological Survey for more than 30 years. He is scientist emeritus at the U.S.G.S. in Lakewood, Colorado, and has written three geology pamphlets published by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Donna Lyons — Donna is a practicing watercolor painter with degrees in painting and art education. A retired elementary art and kindergarten teacher, she now teaches and works through her business, Donna Lyons Art, located near the West. Donna is the author of the book My Kawuneeche – An Artist’s Journey in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Jan Manning — With a degree in wildlife biology, Jan has been teaching at the Estes Park Environmental Center. She has spent many seasons teaching environmental education and leading naturalist tours in various environments, including Utah, Hawaii and the Front Range. She has a bachelor of science in environmental science degree from Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and has studied invasive plant species in Indiana and Germany. Charlotte has also studied environmental impact assessment in Kenya.

Jeff Maugans — Jeff worked as a naturalist for the National Park Service for 32 years with a special interest in birds. With his degree in outdoor education and natural science, Jeff has worked in the National Park Service, Cave National Park, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Edwin National Historic Site, Gateway National Park, Redwood National Park and Curryahoga Valley National Park.

Dr. Paul Opler and Evie Buckner-Opler — Paul and Evie have been teaching butterfly natural history classes since 1992 for the RM Conservancy, Teton Science School and San Francisco State University. Paul is a professor at Colorado State University and has written the eastern and western Peterson Butterfly Field Guides. He is an advocate of butterfly conservation, butterfly ecology and classification. Evie is a retired school teacher, nature photographer and artist.

Dr. James Pickering — Jim is historian laureate for the Estes Park Museum and a professor of English at the University of Houston where he also served as dean, provost and president. He has written or edited 30 books on the RMNP-Estes Park region, Colorado and the West, including Joe Mills of Estes Park: A Colorado Life (2013) and his most recent book Rocky Mountain National Park Reader (2015). Jim serves on the Rocky Mountain Conservancy board of directors.
Deborah Price – Deborah is an environmental educator serving as education liaison for Boulder County Parks and Open Space. For more than a decade, she has taught people of all ages about basic astronomy and helped them gain a better understanding of our solar system and the universe. She has a bachelor of science degree from Colorado State University, with a major in natural resource recreation and tourism.

Paul Price – Paul is an avid amateur astronomer who loves to help people discover the universe with the aid of telescopes. By day, he is a database administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture; by night, he looks up to the skies. He is also an award-winning woodcarver and teaches woodcarving classes.

Peter Price – Peter has 45 years of experience in the resource industries and education and has used GPS since the launch of the system. He has taught GPS and GIS since the 1990s and is currently GIS faculty at Front Range Community College-Boulder County campus. He continues to consult as a geologist and certified GIS professional.

Karen Ramsay – A graduate of Colorado Institute of Art in Denver, Karen has studied under talented artists including Charles Reid, Burton Silverman, Frank Webb and Eric Weingardt. She was recognized in Big Sky Journal as an Artist of the West in 2001.

Chris Ray – Chris is a research associate with the University of Colorado’s Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research and has been the outreach coordinator for the Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research program. She has studied the American pika throughout the western U.S. and has coauthored many publications about this species. Her background is in theoretical/mathematical ecology.

Abby Schreiber – Abby holds a master’s degree and has been an environmental educator, a national park ranger, a Native Plant Master Trainer for Colorado State University and a clinical herbalist. She attended the Southwest School for Botanical Medicine and then opened a holistic healthcare private practice. Ethnobotany and ecopsychology are her current passions. She is affiliated faculty at Metro State University in Denver.

Jeremy Siemers – Jeremy has worked with bats for nearly 20 years and is the lead zoologist for the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, a research program at Colorado State University. He has conducted surveys and bat monitoring throughout Colorado in habitats ranging from caves and mines to stock ponds and cattle troughs. He also is involved in the North American Bat Monitoring Program, a continent-wide effort to monitor bats.

Eli Vega – Eli is an award-winning published photo artist with more than 20 years of experience. He is a presenter and art competition judge for many Front Range camera clubs. In addition to freelancing, he is the author of Right Brain Photography (Be an artist first). He also teaches photography for the City of Longmont, the Louisville Art Association, and Arapahoe Community College.

Dawn Wilson – Dawn is an award-winning nature photographer specializing in photographing the wildlife of high latitudes and high altitudes of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. Her work has been published in numerous regional and national publications, and she published her first book in 2011 — Colorado: Flora, Fauna and Landscapes from the Perspective of Women — and recently published an e-book titled Preparing for the Next Shoot: Ten Tips to Get You to the Right Place at the Right Time.

Dr. Ellen Wohl – Ellen is a professor of geology at Colorado State University, holding a Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on river form and function, particularly in mountain streams. She has conducted field research on every continent except Antarctica and published nearly 200 scientific papers, two textbooks, and eight nonfictional books about rivers. She has been conducting research in Rocky Mountain National Park for more than ten years.

Mary Taylor Young – A degree in zoology and a life devoted to nature, wildlife and the environment led Mary to become an award-winning nature writer. She is the author of 13 books, including Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years, The Guide to Colorado Reptiles and Amphibians and The Guide to Colorado Mammals. She has published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles. Her “Words on Birds” column ran in the Rocky Mountain News for 16 years.

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| May 18 | How to Identify Plants & Their Families | July 19-20 |
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| June 9 | Engaging Nature Through All the Senses | July 28 |
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| June 16 | The Ghost of Fall River Road | August 12 |
| June 22 | Residents of the High Country | August 13 |
| June 23-24 | RMNP Park Butterflies: West of the Divide | August 17 |
| June 30 | Moraine Magic | August 18 |
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  - July 13
- **Who Pooped in the Woods?**
  - July 6
- **Lions, Coyotes & Bears! Oh, My!**
  - June 30
- **Geology of the Western Slope**
  - June 24
- **A Beginner’s Watercolor Class**
  - June 22 and 23
- **What’s Hiding Underwater?**
  - July 22
- **An Intermediate Watercolor Class**
  - July 22
- **Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky**
  - July 19
- **Hummingbirds: Research West of the Divide**
  - July 19
- **Photographing the Wildlife of Kawuneeche**
  - August 17
- **RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide**
  - August 10
- **Birds of the Kawuneeche**
  - August 22
- **Boreal Toad Research: An Effort in Endangered Species Conservation**
  - July 13
- **Who Pooped in the Woods?**
  - July 6
- **Lions, Coyotes & Bears! Oh, My!**
  - June 30
- **Geology of the Western Slope**
  - June 24
- **A Beginner’s Watercolor Class**
  - June 22 and 23
- **What’s Hiding Underwater?**
  - July 22
- **An Intermediate Watercolor Class**
  - July 22
- **Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky**
  - July 19
- **Hummingbirds: Research West of the Divide**
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