2019 Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Field Institute

Educational Adventures
in Rocky Mountain National Park

RMConservancy.org
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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 57th 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
CSM = Colorado School of Mines

*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. To receive this discount immediately, join the Conservancy when you register. Registered participants will receive a syllabus for each class.

Programs may be cancelled one week before the scheduled meeting date if minimum enrollment has not been met. Please register early! We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards.

Register Online: RMConservancy.org
Register by Phone: 970-586-3262

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.

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. Rain wear, 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.

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. ◆◆◆◆

Earn Credit with Field Institute Programs!

Teachers can receive teacher recertification units for full-day and multi-day classes, as 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.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy gives special thanks to the following photographers for contributing their images for this catalog: Rachel Balduzzi, Marlene Borneman, Kent & Carolyn Carlson, Chatworthy Collection, Natalie Dowty, Phyllis Holst, Terrence Huge, jeremiahrs.com, Lee Kline, Jennifer Klink, John Marino, Dean Martinson, Joan Nesselroad, Dick Orleans, Putney Nature Images, Omer B. Raup, Laura Scott, Forrest Shafer, USGS, Jim Ward, and Madeline Wilson.

Cover photo: Geoff Elliot
Back cover photo: Natalie Dowty

Thank you!

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, stream-side 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

$300 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.

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

With advance notice, most of the regularly scheduled bus tours and classes can be customized for a group.
Journey to the Top!
A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
Dates: June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; July 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31; August 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29; September 4, 5, 11, 12
$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 7, 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
$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 discuss geology, flora, fauna and the cultural history of Rocky at a number of pullouts. At Rock Cut, 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.

Grand Lake Safari:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27
$95 per adult; $55 per child age 12 and under

Rocky Mountain National Park contains breathtaking scenery, abundant wildlife viewing, and opportunities to connect with the past along Trail Ridge Road, the awe-inspiring byway across the Continental Divide. Participants will 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. Stops include Rainbow Curve, the Alpine Visitor Center, Milner Pass, Holzwarth Historic Site, and the historic town of Grand Lake. ◆

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

NEW!
Wildlife of Rocky:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
$50 per adult; $25 per child age 12 and under

Rocky Mountain National Park is a beautiful place teeming with wildlife, but it’s easy to forget about the inhabitants that make this area so unique. Join our naturalist-guide on a 14-passenger mini-bus or 12-passenger van as we seek out the critters of RMNP. Spend an evening in the park’s breathtaking locations – Horse-shoe Park, Alluvial Fan, Moraine Park, and more – learning about the wildlife that make this region so fascinating. ◆

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

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
East Across the Divide:
A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
* A Grand Lake Class

Dates: June 15;
July 13;
August 17
$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 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. Take pictures at 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 5, 12, 19, 26;
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;
September 6, 13
$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. 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 handiwork 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. ◆

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

Elk Expeditions

Dates: September 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30;
October 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12
$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 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28;
October 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12
$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 and settlers of the park. Learn how Rocky’s inhabitants are shaped by the 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.
Youth & Family Classes

Winter Ecology:
A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids & Families
Dates: January 26; February 9, 23; March 9, 30
$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 (Grand Lake); July 12; August 2
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. ◆◆

Hidden Valley Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure
Dates: June 18; July 2, 16, 30
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 19; July 3, 17, 31
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. ◆◆

Rocky Mountain Survivor:
Kids’ Survival Basics!
Dates: June 19; July 17; August 7
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. ◆◆

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Who Pooped in the Woods? A Mammal Mystery
Dates: June 4, 12 (Grand Lake), 18
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 28;
July 26 (Grand Lake);
August 9
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 21;
July 5, 19
$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.

Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
Dates: June 25;
July 9, 23;
August 6
FREE for children ages 8-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: Bailey/Olson Fellow

This class will show kids 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 and develop the ability to plan a route and orienteer with or without a compass. ◆◆

What’s Hiding Underwater?
Dates: June 26;
July 10, 24, 26 (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. Along the riverbank, fish biology will be studied, as well as evidence of larger animals and the roles different organisms play in the food chain. ◆◆

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
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 13
$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 20
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurtis 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! Innkeepers of RMNP History - June 27
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurtis Kelly (various characters)
One hundred years ago, ranchers and homesteaders built lodges and cabins for visitors who were flocking to Rocky’s scenic beauty. From Abner Sprague to Enos Mills, each of these innkeepers and their families created lifelong memories for families and famous visitors. Meet these characters through first-person living history performances by storyteller Kurtis Kelly as Joe Mills of the Crags Hotel, Charles Edwin Hewes of the Hewes-Kirkwood Inn, and the famous F.O. Stanley.

Rocky Mountain Tales of Survival - July 11
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurtis 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.
Avalanche Awareness & Outdoor Safety in Winter
Date: January 11
$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 classroom 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. ◆◆

Orienteering for Beginners: Map & Compass Basics in RMNP
Date: May 18
$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 USGS 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.
All materials will be provided, with compasses available for loan. ◆◆

Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids’ Survival Basics!
Dates: June 19; July 17; August 7
Free for children ages 7-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Who Pooped in the Woods? A Mammal Mystery
Dates: June 20;
July 4, 12 (Grand Lake), 18
Free for children ages 7-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Kids’ Fly-fishing & Stream Ecology
Dates: June 21; July 5, 19
$25 per child ages 7-15
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
Dates: June 25; July 9, 23; August 6
Free for children ages 8-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

NEW!
Birding RMNP by Ear
Date: June 21
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Nathan Pieplow
Birds are far more often heard than seen, but learning to identify them by ear can be a challenge. Discover the most common bird sounds of Rocky Mountain National Park, beginning with a field trip in the morning to several different habitats to practice identifying as many birds as possible. A classroom session will follow to reinforce the learning from the morning. Both indoors and out, participants will learn a standard vocabulary for describing sounds and visualizing sound using spectrograms, so that our eyes can help train our ears. ◆◆

( CS M credit available)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW! Hike with a Naturalist: Lulu City
A Grand Lake Class
Date: July 27
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Hike along a pleasant trail through open meadows and mixed pine forests to visit a former mining town within Rocky Mountain National Park along a pleasant trail through open meadows and mixed pine forests. View the headwaters area of the Colorado River along with several historical sites, including Shipler Cabin, Shipler Mine and the site of Lulu City. Both cultural and natural history will be explored on this moderate all-day hike. ◆◆◆◆

NEW! Hike with a Naturalist: Ypsilon Lake
Date: August 10
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Travel through dense pine forests and wildflower meadows along the Roaring River on this all-day hike. Breathtaking views of the Mummy Range and ample opportunities to view wildlife are to be found in this life-filled corridor. The trail passes Chipmunk Lake on the way to Ypsilon Lake, which is known for excellent cutthroat trout fishing. ◆◆◆◆

NEW! Hike with a Naturalist: Estes Cone
Date: August 24
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Experience the rich subalpine forests along this trail to the summit of Estes Cone. Enjoy stunning views of Estes Park and the surrounding plains and majestic views of Longs Peak and Mount Meeker below. The hike will include discussion about mountain ecology, and hikers may see wildlife, such as pine squirrels, martens and grouse. Breathtaking views await those who summit, and many rocky outcroppings along the way provide a welcome place to sit and ponder the vastness of the land below. ◆◆◆◆

NEW! Hike with a Naturalist: Loomis Lake
Date: September 7
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Enjoy a subalpine ecosystem of Rocky Mountain National Park as you hike through spruce/fir forests on a less-traveled trail to Loomis Lake, a tucked-away mountain gem with beautiful views of the Continental Divide. Fall colors, mushrooms and a variety of berries decorate the trail, and you will have opportunities to view elk, beaver and moose. Beauty and solitude await those seeking adventure on the trail to this hidden jewel in Rocky Mountain National Park. ◆◆◆◆

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
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 filters. 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. ◆◆◆

NEW!

Beginning Digital Photography: Learning the Basics
Date: May 30-31
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Eli Vega

In this highly interactive course, learn the basics (and beyond) of digital photography. Explore the dials and buttons on your camera, those mysterious menu items, f/stops, shutter speeds, exposure and how they all work together. Learn about ISO and white balance, different types of lenses, and composition. Find the #1 solution to the #1 problem in photography, and much more! Plan to spend one day inside and the second day out in the field in Rocky Mountain National Park. ◆◆◆

Sketchbook Journaling: Wilderness, Wildlife & Wonder in Watercolor
Date: June 6-7
$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. ◆◆◆

Watercolor Brushstrokes: Painting the Landscapes of RMNP
Date: June 27-28
$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. ◆◆◆

Beginning Watercolor for the Nature Enthusiast
Date: April 27
$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. ◆

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Colors of the Kawuneeche: Painting for All Levels
A Grand Lake Class
Date: June 29
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Donna Lyons
It has been said that color is the “heart and soul” of a painting. Discover how the color of place is much more than we can see. Examine colors and the roles that color dominance, color change, painting warm-to-cool, intensity of color, and the use of a limited palette affect the power of a painting. Learn how color can transport the viewer on a journey through a painting; how color can convey a connection to a forgotten memory or emotional reaction to a treasured place; how illusions of space can be achieved through an understanding of value, hue and intensity. Through demonstrations and practice sessions, explore the ways the use of glorious color can bring power to our paintings. ◆◆

Painting the Kawuneeche: An Intermediate Watercolor Class
A Grand Lake Class
Dates: July 20-21
$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 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. ◆◆

Landscape Photography: Creating an Artistic Eye
A Grand Lake Class
Dates: August 1-3
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Eli Vega
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!
Write Your RMNP National Park Story
Date: August 10
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Mary Taylor Young
Do you have special memories of Rocky Mountain National Park that you’d love to write about? Maybe you’ve imagined a fictional mystery, history, romance or sci-fi adventure set in the park. Or perhaps Rocky inspires you to write poetry? Spend the day outdoors, and have fun writing whatever you want! A story, a memoir, a poem, a kid’s book, even “My Day at Rocky.” We’ll have writing prompts, sample writings, idea think tanks and writing craft tips. You can even bring photos you’ve taken in the park to use as the basis for your writing. ◆◆

NEW!
Sketching With Colored Pencil
Dates: August 10-11
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Suzie Garner
Get out in the field to sketch with colored pencils. Learn the different types of colored pencils and how to use them. Discussions will include techniques for the application of color by layering and mixing color, laying down washes of color, mark-making/strokes, using toned and white paper. Tips for drawing and sketching outdoors will be included, and participants will leave with a better understanding of using colored pencils to their fullest potential. ◆◆

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Photography, Art & Writing Classes

Night Sky Landscape Photography
Dates: August 23-25
$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 the Wildlife of Kawuneeche
A Grand Lake Class
Dates: September 19-21
$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.

NEW!
Fall Color Photography: Harvesting Colorado Gold
Dates: September 20-21
$250 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Bob Dean
Colorado’s fall color is a sight to behold and a photographer’s dream come true. In the field and in the classroom, learn how to capture magnificent scenes with your camera, from majestic panoramas to intimate landscapes and close-ups. Explore your camera’s creative controls and the art of composition and light; then, put your knowledge to work in the field. Participate in critiques; then head back into Rocky Mountain National Park to polish new skills and understanding.

Photojournaling: The Story Behind the Photos
Dates: October 4-6
$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 by 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.
Coyotes: 
Song Dogs of the West
Date: March 23
$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)

North With the Spring: 
Bird Migration
Date: May 3
$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 3
$80 per adult
Instructor: Dr. DeAnna Laurel
This course provides an overview of the history of environmental change in the park with an emphasis on human-caused change. Discuss 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)

Fire in Ecosystems: 
Friend or Foe?
Date: May 4
$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)

NEW!
Tracking Wildlife in Rocky
Signs of Creatures Big & Small
Date: May 10
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Connor
A story exists all around us as we walk through the woods and participants will be surprised by the abundance of sign left behind by our furred and feathered friends. Learn how to read the signs they leave behind as we walk through the woods, along streams and in meadows in Rocky, looking for animal signs, visiting bird nests and den sites of bobcats, foxes, coyotes, and possibly the denning habitat favored by black bears. Explore the concept of community ecology and the dynamics of hierarchical structure and trophic cascades. ◆◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)
NEW! The Surprising World of Lichens

Date: May 11
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jennifer Frazer

You cannot hike, bike, climb or ski in Colorado without encountering lichens, but few people take the time to notice or examine these ubiquitous organisms. Take your blinders off, and be blown away by the biology and beauty of these fascinating communities of organisms that live where other life forms cannot. Learn about the anatomy, growth forms and reproductive structures of lichens. Artists and photographers welcome!

Recommended: Invest in a 10X hand lens or loupe to maximize your enjoyment. ★★★★

(CSM credit available)

NEW! Hawks in Flight: Birds of Prey

Date: May 11
$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. Join the discussion about the birds’ natural history as we watch and enjoy these magnificent predators. ★★★★

NEW! Endangered Species of the Rockies: Evading Extinction

Date: May 17
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Gary C. Miller

How do species come to be at the brink of extinction, and how can they be recovered? The answers lie in the landmark Endangered Species Act of 1973, the emerging science of conservation biology, and the resulting actions taken by scientists and citizens. The case histories (including little-known “backstories”) of efforts to recover peregrine falcon, Canada lynx, North American wolverine, and greenback cutthroat trout each demonstrate different aspects of endangered species management. Visit a nesting area of the once-endangered/now-recovered peregrine falcon. ★★★★

(CSM credit available)

NEW! Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park

Date: May 17
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans

Explore Rocky Mountain National Park in search of three or four species of owls during the spring courtship and nesting season. Learn to discern the vocalizations of northern pygmy, northern saw-whet, flammulated and great horned owls. Head into the field before dark to optimize the chance of seeing pygmy owls, which are diurnal. After dark, we will listen for the other species and hope to locate a nesting pair or two while observing first-hand the habitats these species require. ★★★★

(CSM credit available)

Birds at Twilight

Date: May 23
$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-shift hunting at dusk. Explore the haunts of these elusive birds, and discuss their natural history and ecology as we visit, search and listen. ★★★★

(CSM credit available)
NEW!  
**Early Wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park**  
Date: June 1  
$80 per adult age 16 and up  
Instructor: Leanne Benton  

Some of the park’s early blooms are the loveliest, from tiny alpine forget-me-nots to colorful calypso orchids. From high alpine ridges to lower montane meadows, search out these beauties with a former Rocky Mountain National Park interpretive naturalist. Get up-close with the mountain flora to discover their amazing adaptations for survival and the interesting stories behind their beautiful faces. Identification techniques will be honed, and participants will gain confidence using a simple flower key.  

*(CSM credit available)*

NEW!  
**North American Eagles**  
Date: June 1  
$80 per adult  
Instructor: W. Perry Conway  

Colorado has both North American eagle species, as does Rocky Mountain National Park. Through a professional illustrated lecture, explore the evolution, ecology, behavior, anatomy and population status of both the bald and the golden eagles. A beautiful live female golden eagle, with a 7’ wing span, will be present to provide a rare look at this magnificent bird up-close. A short trip to nearby nests to see what kind of habitat is needed for reproduction will be included. Though we will drive as close as possible to nest sites, participants should come prepared for short hikes to the best viewing areas.  

*(CSM credit available)*

NEW!  
**Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies: Plants for Hunger & Health**  
Date: June 7; August 3  
$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)*

NEW!  
**RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide**  
Date: June 8  
$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 swallowtails, blues, several fritillaries, hoary commas and Weidemeyer’s admirals. Learn to identify these species, and 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)*

NEW!  
**Untangling the Mystery of RMNP Native Orchids**  
Date: June 8  
$80 per adult age 16 and up  
Instructor: Marlene Borneman  

What is an orchid? The orchid family (*Orchidaceae*) is the largest family of flowering plants, including about 35,000 species. Surprisingly, there are about 26 species native to Colorado, with many growing in the montane and subalpine zones of RMNP. Learn the characteristics of the orchid family, orchid terminology, their symbiotic relationship to other plants, history of uses, and specific orchid species found in RMNP. See how many species we can find and identify in the field while enjoying these elusive and mysterious plants.  

*(CSM credit available)*

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!
Birding RMNP by Ear
Date: June 21
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Nathan Pieplow

Birds are far more often heard than seen, but learning to identify them by ear can be a challenge. Discover the most common bird sounds of Rocky Mountain National Park, beginning with a field trip in the morning to several different habitats to practice identifying as many birds as possible. A classroom session will follow to reinforce the learning from the morning. Both indoors and out, participants will learn a standard vocabulary for describing sounds and visualizing sound using spectrograms, so that our eyes can help train our ears. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
The Glacial & Geologic History of Rocky’s West Side
A Grand Lake Class
Date: June 22
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Keith Graham

Examine features of glacial and geological interest on the west side of the park to provide both a general knowledge of the geologic history of this region and the thought processes and geologic tools used by geologists to decipher this history. Discover how much remains to be learned about some of the geologic processes that shaped the geology and glacialogy of the western part of the park. ◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Wildflowers of RMNP
Dates: June 29-30
$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)

Birding the Life Zones
Dates: June 29-30
$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)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Longs Peak Up-close
Date: July 6
$80 per adult
Instructors: Walter & Marlene Borneman
Who explored and studied this unique and iconic feature? Examine the character of Longs Peak itself after a day connecting with the mountain’s history, heritage, folklore, and geology, and meeting a cast of colorful characters. Bonus feature: Enjoy discussion about the various flora and fauna found along the way.
◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Birds of the Kawuneeche Valley
A Grand Lake Class
Date: July 6
$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.
◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Alpine Wildflowers:
The Beauty & Resourcefulness of Life in Miniature
Date: July 13
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Abby Schreiber
Spend a day in the rugged environment of the alpine tundra to explore how life survives and thrives in this rarified place. Plants have adapted to the harsh conditions, allowing for a lushness that begs to be seen and experienced up-close. We will explore the ecosystem—specifically, how alpine plants adapt to extreme forces. The class is scheduled to make the most of the seasonal wildflower display. Come play up top in the crystalline air with spectacular views!
◆◆
(CSM credit available)

North American Bears: Ecology, Behavior & Evolution
Date: July 13
$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 bears eat, their population status and where to view and safely photograph North American bears.
◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Hummingbirds: Field Research
East of the Divide

Date: July 15
$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, the geographical distribution of species, and results of analysis techniques.

Hummingbirds: Field Research
West of the Divide

A Grand Lake Class

Date: July 19
$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 ornithologists in the field 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, the geographical distribution of species, and results of analysis techniques.

**NEW!**
Glaciers in Rocky

Date: July 20
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. David Lindsey

During the ice ages, glaciers moved down the valleys of the Fall River and the Big Thompson. The ebb and flow of glacial advance is controlled by astronomical phenomena: the eccentricity of the earth’s orbit, the tilt of the earth’s axis of rotation, and the precession of the equinoxes. These move in cycles to produce glacial maxima about every 100,000 years. The last glacial maximum was about 21,000 years ago. Since that time, the earth has warmed in fits and starts that reflect other complex but poorly understood processes. Today all of these natural processes are further affected by human activities. Examine classical glacial features in the Fall River and Big Thompson valleys, and discuss the processes that formed them.

(BSM credit available)

Bats of Colorado & RMNP

Date: July 26
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeremy Siemers

Colorado is home to 19 bat species, with eight 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! Antibiotic-resistant Bacteria: Resistance in Rocky
Date: July 27
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Laura Scott
Antibiotic-resistant infections are an imminent threat to human health. Could these bacteria be lurking in environments as pristine as Rocky Mountain National Park? What factors might cause them to be there? Delve into these questions and the implications of this research.
Study basic microbiological field and laboratory techniques, and collect and analyze soil and water samples for antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
This class will involve handling potential BSL-2 pathogens. Proper safety techniques will be demonstrated and maintained, but all students must abide by protocol to protect themselves and others.

NEW! Wild Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP
A Grand Lake Class
Date: August 10
$80 per adult
Instructor: Jon Sommer
Often thought of as something to be avoided, fungi represent a vast and diverse group of organisms that play a critical role in virtually every terrestrial environment on the planet. Exemplified by prevalent and often colorful mushrooms, Rocky Mountain National Park has a bountiful and diverse fungal flora. Learn the basics of mushroom identification, their important role in the ecosystem and a brief overview of the fungal kingdom. Spend most of the day in the field, identifying mushrooms and other fungi and gaining a first-hand appreciation of these interesting and important organisms.

NEW! Aquatic Mammals of Rocky: Beaver, Muskrat & Moose
Date: August 16
$60 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jared Gricoskie
Explore lakes and riparian habitats on the eastern side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn how beavers have shaped Rocky and why they have declined. We will keep our eyes peeled for muskrats, who are the largest voles in the world, and discuss how they cohabitate with beavers in our lakes. This is also a great time to try to find moose that are visiting our beautiful lakes for the tasty aquatic vegetation.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Mountain Lion: RMNP’s Top Predator

Dates: August 17-18
$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)

The Persevering Pika: Secrets of Alpine Survival

Date: August 31
$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)

Bright Lights & Dark Skies: Family Astronomy

Date: August 24
$25 for adults ages 16 and older
FREE for children 15 and under
Instructors: Deborah & Paul Price

Dark skies at a national park offer the chance to see points of light like planets, stars, and meteors. Fall is a great time to see meteors! In addition, many species of wildlife depend on the ability to see the sky to navigate and migrate. Artificial light disturbs these abilities as well as the opportunity for us to feel connected with the entire universe. Discover some of the interesting ways wildlife use the night sky (with some hands-on demonstrations), find out where meteors come from, and explore ways you can help protect the night for wildlife and people. The program will end with telescope viewing inside the park, weather permitting.
This class is designed for families with children ages 6 and up. ◆

NEW!

The History of Moose in RMNP

A Grand Lake Class

Date: August 17
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Connor

The story of present-day moose in Rocky Mountain National Park began in 1978 (although there is some debate about this). Examine this controversy while learning about the natural history of moose: what they eat, their seasonal behavior, radio collars, and their impact on the delicate willow communities of Kawuneeche Valley. As we look for signs of moose, we’ll explore their relationship to other wildlife in the park and the present and future park management of this charismatic megafauna species. ◆◆◆
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(CSM credit available)
There's More to This Place than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP

Date: May 3
$80 per adult
Instructor: Dr. DeAnna Laurel

This course provides an overview of the history of environmental change in the park with an emphasis on human-caused change. Discuss 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. ◆◆

(Young credit available)

NEW!
Estes Valley: History & Historic Sites

Dates: May 18, 31
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Curt Buchholtz

Enjoy an overview of the region’s past through a mix of brief lectures and discussions with visits to historical sites of significance. Sites will range from an ancient Indian battlefield to early homesteads, and from stately resorts to deserted cabins. Examine numerous historical sites in the Estes Valley to discover the outlines of settlement and change. More than just an historical tour, this experience will bring a greater depth of understanding for this area. ◆◆

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

Dates: June 7; August 3
$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)

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!
“Uppity” Women of the Rockies

Date: June 15
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Janet Robertson

The area in and around what is now Rocky Mountain National Park has had a long history of “uppity women” who had the spunk and initiative to connect with the mountains on their own as botanists, homesteaders, mountain climbers, etc. Join us to learn more about these unique individuals, and visit the sites and homes where they made their marks. ◆◆

NEW!
Phantoms: The Primordial, Prehistoric & Hidden History of RMNP

Dates: June 22-23
$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. ◆◆

(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Longs Peak Up-close

Date: July 6
$80 per adult
Instructors: Walter & Marlene Borneman

Who explored and studied this unique and iconic feature? Examine the character of Longs Peak itself after a day connecting with the mountain’s history, heritage, folklore, and geology, and meeting a cast of colorful characters. Bonus feature: Enjoy discussion about the various flora and fauna found along the way. ◆◆◆

(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 year-round.

Become a member today!

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Jennifer Frazer – Jennifer is an award-winning science writer, blogger for Scientific American, and is a trained mycologist. She is a member of the Colorado Mycological Society, has been a guest on Radiolab, and has participated in the study of thirty species of the fungi of Rocky Mountain National Park. She is passionate about biology and natural history and making science available to a general audience.

Kurtis Kelly – Kurtis is a well-known performer, actor, and storyteller in Estes Park. He has portrayed Abner Sprague and has led history reenactments of local figures like Fred Corlado, Colorado’s first mayor. He has led hundreds of people on ghost story tours of the Stanley Hotel, and he has appeared on National Public Radio and PBS television for his efforts to bring history to life.

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 award-winning photography is recognized internationally, and he is the author of Colorado Wildlife Portfolio and the DVD Through My Lens – A North American Wildlife Picture Show.

Caroline Krumm – Caroline helped establish and operate the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Conservancy [RMOC], a nonprofit, nongovernment organization dedicated to wildcat conservation, research and community stewardship. She is the assistant director of RMCC and recently completed a master’s degree studying the issue of mountain lion “prey preference” for chronicles in The Citizen Science Program.

Dr. DeAnna Laurel – DeAnna is a professor of environmental science at Aims Community College. She spent several years working for the U.S. Geological Survey on paleoclimate research before receiving her masters and Ph.D. degrees. Her graduate research focused on geomorphic controls on stream temperature and the effect between stream temperature and vegetation and organic carbon in Colorado mountain stream meadows. She has conducted research in Rocky Mountain National Park for more than 10 years during the eastern and western seasons.

Dr. David Lindsey – With a Ph.D. degree in geology from Johns Hopkins University, David served as research geologist/administrator at the U.S. Geological Survey for more than 30 years. He is the author of Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds. He is an internationally recognized expert on butterfly conservation, ecology and classification. Evi is a retired school teacher, nature photographer and artist.

Dr. Nathan Pieplow – Nathan has spent more than 30 years conducting research in the western United States and has authored numerous book chapters and technical reports. He is the author of The Peterson Field Guide to Western Mammals and is a contributing editor of the journal Rocky Mountain Wild.

Dr. Paul Opler and Evi Buckner-Opler – Paul and Evi have been teaching butterfly natural history classes since 1992 for the RM Conservancy, Teton Science School and Rocky Mountain National Park. Paul is a professor at Colorado State University and has written the eastern and western Peterson Butterfly Field Guides. He is an internationally recognized expert on butterfly conservation, ecology and classification. Evi is a retired school teacher, nature photographer and artist.

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Plan Your Next Meeting at the Field Institute!

This beautiful facility was purchased for our Field Institute program in 2001 through donations and grant funds. Located along the Fall River corridor in Estes Park, it’s just two miles east of Rocky Mountain National Park. We have three meeting rooms with seating for 8-25 people, a bookstore, plenty of restrooms, a kitchen facility, free parking for 24 vehicles, and a very pleasant mountain atmosphere.

Conference Room Rates:

- $65 for single room, half day (up to 4 hours)
- $95 for single room, full day (more than 4 hours)
- $65 per additional room
- $65 for catering facilities including kitchen (catering not included)
- $30 per day for hot beverages

Audio-visual equipment available:

- TV/DVD player
- LCD projector
- Overhead projector
- 35mm slide projector

Please inquire for equipment rates.

2019 Colorado School of Mines Accredited Classes (each day worth .5 credit hour)

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<td>Endangered Species of the Rockies</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>Early Wildflowers of RMNP</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>North American Eagles</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>Edible &amp; Medicinal Plants of the Rockies</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Untangling the Mystery of RMNP Orchids</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Birding RMNP by Ear</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
<td>Glacial &amp; Geologic History of Rocky’s West Side Phantoms: Hidden History of RMNP</td>
<td>Glacial &amp; Geologic History of Rocky’s West Side Phantoms: Hidden History of RMNP</td>
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