

# **NORTH AMERICAN BEARS: ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOR, & EVOLUTION**

**JULY 11, 2020**

**COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3083  
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER**



**Rocky  
Mountain  
Conservancy**  

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**FIELD INSTITUTE**

**INSTRUCTOR: W. PERRY CONWAY**

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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute & Conference Center  
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

**TIME: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Bears are the iconic symbol of the American wilderness. 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. With a morning illustrated classroom session and afternoon field trip, you will learn which areas of the park provide proper black bear habitat, what they eat, and their population status. In addition, instruction as to where to view and safely photograph North American bears will be provided.

**COURSE LEVEL: II**

Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain (Possible sites include Moraine and Horseshoe Parks).

**BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org)):** Perry has been a full-time nature photographer, naturalist, and bear guide for more than 30 years. He has studied and photographed bears in both North and South America, as well as the High Arctic. His images have been used in a wide variety of textbooks, natural history publications, multi-media shows, and as wall décor.

**INSTRUCTOR'S WEBSITE:** [www.perryconway.com](http://www.perryconway.com)

**EXPECTATIONS:** Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

**CAR-POOLING:** Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>8:30 AM – Noon</b>	Illustrated classroom session followed by a short hike looking at bear needs
<b>Noon – 1:30 PM</b>	Lunch
<b>1:30 PM – 4:30 PM</b>	Field trip into park's bear habitat and final course summary

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, and **WATER**

**REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:**

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, and water

*Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.*

**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 kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee.

Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

**TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:**

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 unit) or \$25 per series of threaded classes (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org). Participants must enroll in all classes of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.