2020 Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Field Institute

Educational Adventures
in Rocky Mountain National Park

RMConservancy.org
**2020 Field Institute Programs Calendar**

**January**

**February**
- February 8, 22 Winter Ecology: A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids & Families

**March**
- March 7, 28 Winter Ecology: A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids & Families
- March 21 Coyotes: Song Dogs of the West

**April**
- April 25 Beginning Watercolor for the Nature Enthusiast

**May**
- May 1 North with the Spring: Bird Migration
- May 2 Hawks in Flight: Birds of Prey
- May 8 Tracking Wildlife in Rocky: Signs of Creatures Big & Small
- May 9 Fire in Ecosystems: Friend or Foe
- May 12 Endangered Species of the Rockies: Evading Extinction
- May 16 Orienteering for Beginners: Map & Compass Basics in RMNP
- May 20 Birds at Twilight
- May 21 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP
- May 22 Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park
- May 24 Estes Valley: History & Historic Sites
- May 25 The Surprising World of Lichens
- May 31 Birding RMNP by Ear

**June**
- June 5 Juneauites in Flight: Birds of Prey
- June 6 Early Wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park
- June 7 RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide
- June 8 Spring Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP
- June 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- June 9, 16, 23, 30 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- June 11-12 Photographing Spring Wildlife in RMNP (Grand Lake)
- June 12, 19, 26 Sunset Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- June 13 Estes Valley: History & Historic Sites
- June 14, 21, 28 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- June 15 Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids' Survival Basics!
- June 16, 30 Hidden Valley Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure
- June 17 Kids’ Art in the Park
- June 18 Who Pooped in the Woods? A Mammal Mystery
- June 19 Camphire Ghost Stories: Living History Tales of the West
- June 20 Boundary, Borders, & Terrains: An Indigenous Telling of the Rockies
- June 21 Hummingbirds: Field Research East of the Divide
- June 22 Tribes & Traditions: Native Americans in RMNP
- June 23 Wolves, Beetles & Butterflies: Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky
- June 24 Bats of Colorado & RMNP
- June 25 Bighorn Sheep: Ecology & Management
- June 26 Bugs, Beetles & Butterflies: Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky

**July**
- July 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- July 1, 15, 29 Kids’ Art in the Park
- July 2, 9 Camphire Ghost Stories: Living History Tales of the West
- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wildlife of Rocky: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- July 2, 16, 24 Who Pooped in the Woods? A Mammal Mystery (July 24 in Grand Lake)
- July 3 Diversity in Nature: Shapes & Sizes
- July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Sunset Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- July 7, 14, 21, 28 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- July 7, 21 Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
- July 8, 22 What’s Hiding Underwater?
- July 9, 30 Geology Rocks!
- July 10 Land of Extremes: The Amazing Alpine Tundra
- July 10, 17, 24, 31 Old Fall River Road Trip: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- July 10, 31 Lions, Coyotes, & Bears! Oh, My!
- July 10, 31 Kids’ Flying & Stream Ecology
- July 11 Rocky Mountain Riparian Plant Ecology, Identification, & Physiology
- July 14, 28, 31 Hidden Valley Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure
- July 15 Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids’ Survival Basics!
- July 16-17 Discovering “NOTAN” in the Landscape: A Graphite & Pen Field-Sketching Class
- July 17 Sensory Discovery of Nature
- July 17 Hummingbirds: Field Research West of the Divide (Grand Lake)
- July 18 Glaciers in Rocky
- July 18 Drawing for Painters (Grand Lake)
- July 19 Hummingbirds: Field Research East of the Divide
- July 20 Tribes & Traditions: Native Americans in RMNP
- July 24 Bugs, Beetles & Butterflies: Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky
- July 24 Bats of Colorado & RMNP
- July 25-26 Grasses of RMNP

**August**
- August 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- August 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- August 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- August 4 Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
- August 4, 11, 18, 25 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- August 5 Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids’ Survival Basics!
- August 6 Tribes & Traditions: Native Americans in RMNP
- August 6-7 Watercolor Brushstrokes: Painting the Landscapes of RMNP
- August 6, 13, 20, 27 Wildlife of Rocky: An Educational Adventure by Bus
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- August 7, 14, 21, 28 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- August 7, 14, 21, 28 Old Fall River Road Trip: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- August 7-9 Wildflower Photography: Panorama to Close-up
- August 8 Wild Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP (Grand Lake)
- August 8-9 Phantoms: The Hidden History of RMNP
- August 10 Aquatic Mammals of Rocky: Beaver, Muskrat, & Moose
- August 11 The History of Moose in RMNP (Grand Lake)
- August 12 Hike with a Naturalist: Ute Trail
- August 12 Edible & Medicinal Plants of RMNP
- August 14 Anna Wolfrom Dove & the Wigwam Tea Room
- August 15 Night Sky Landscape Photography
- August 16 Anna Wolfrom Dove & the Wigwam Tea Room
- August 21-23 Sky & Night Photography
- August 22-23 Mountain Lion: RMNP’s Top Predator
- August 23-30 Shooting & Creating Beautiful Landscape Images
- August 26-30 Shooting & Creating Beautiful Landscape Images
- August 29-30 Shooting & Creating Beautiful Landscape Images

**September**
- September 1 Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- September 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
- September 3 Wildlife of Rocky: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- September 4 RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide (Grand Lake)
- September 4 Sunset Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- September 4, 11 Old Fall River Road Trip: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 30-31 From Elk to Aspen: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29-30 Elk Expeditions
- September 12 Hike with a Naturalist: Ouzel Lake
- September 12-13 Sketching with Colored Pencil & Watercolor
- September 15-20 The Art & Science of Wildlife Photography

**October**
- October 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 From Elk to Aspen: An Educational Adventure by Bus
- October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 Elk Expeditions
Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute Adventures

Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute adventures! It’s our 58th 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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- Colorado School of Mines Accredited Classes

Key:
- RMNP = Rocky Mountain National Park
- CSM = Colorado School of Mines

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

Partners in Education

Rocky Mountain National Park was established as a national park more than 100 years ago, with a mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources, and for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Rocky Mountain Conservancy, established just 16 years later, provides an extension of in-depth visitor experiences that together with the park, create unparalleled opportunities for transformational experiences through educational programs and research projects.

We are happy that you are considering the great programs that the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Field Institute offers. Their impressive diversity of programs can enhance your visits to the park, and simultaneously help to steward these incredible lands and resources for future generations.

Thank you for your interest and support of the park!

Darla Sidles
Superintendent
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
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 canceled 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.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy gives special thanks to the following photographers for contributing their images for this catalog: Rachel Balduzzi, Miles Barger, Regina Bock, Marlene Borneman, Dick Coe, John Conroy, Dennis Caldwell, Natalie Dowty, Ann Duncan, Phyllis Holst, Lee Kline, Max Liddle, Mike Luckens, Joan Nesseolroad, George Nigro, PutneyNatureImages.com, Bill Robertson, Nan Ryan, Forrest Shafer, Jim Ward and Madeline Wilson

Cover photo: Megan Maitland
Back cover photo: Dean Martinson

Thank you!

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.

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

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)
Various instructors
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
$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.

East Across the Divide: A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
A Grand Lake – area Tour
$400 for up to 4 people; $75 per each additional adult; $45 per each additional child ages 12 and under
Various Instructors
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.

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.
Educational Adventures by Bus

Journey to the Top!
A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure
Dates: June 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29; July 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30; August 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31; September 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10
$75 per adult; $45 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 most breathtaking locations – Horseshoe Park, Alluvial Fan, Moraine Park, and more – learning about the wildlife that make this region so fascinating.

Grand Lake Safari:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4, 11, 18, 25; September 1
$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 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.

Sunset Safari:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; August 7, 14, 21, 28; September 4
$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.

Wildlife of Rocky:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: June 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13, 20, 27; September 3
$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 most breathtaking locations – Horseshoe Park, Alluvial Fan, Moraine Park, and more – learning about the wildlife that make this region so fascinating.

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Old Fall River Road Trip:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31;
August 7, 14, 21, 28;
September 4, 11
$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.

Elk Expeditions
Dates: September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28;
October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11
$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 furs will be available for participants to see and touch. ◆

Entrance into Rocky Mountain National Park is included in the registration fee.

From Elk to Aspen:
An Educational Adventure by Bus
Dates: September 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26;
October 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
$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.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
**Youth & Family Classes**

**Winter Ecology: A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids & Families**

Dates: January 25; February 8, 22; March 7, 28
$10 per adult; FREE for children age 13 and under (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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! 

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**Lions, Coyotes & Bears! Oh, My!**

Dates: June 12 (Grand Lake);
July 10, 31
FREE for children ages 3-6 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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, crafting a handmade predator, and other fun activities, kids will learn all about the sneakest animals in Rocky Mountain National Park and what it is like to walk in their paws. 

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**Hidden Valley Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure**

Dates: June 16, 30;
July 14, 28
FREE for children ages 9-13 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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 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.

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**Kids’ Art in the Park**

Dates: June 17;
July 1, 15, 29
FREE for children ages 6-9 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI Fellow

In this series, students can unleash their creative potentials through various art forms including 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.

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**Rocky Mountain Survivor: Kids’ Survival Basics!**

Dates: June 17;
July 15;
August 5
FREE for children ages 9-12 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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.

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**Who Pooped in the Woods? A Mammal Mystery**

Dates: June 18;
July 2, 16, 24 (Grand Lake)
FREE for children ages 6-9 (Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Kids’ Fly-fishing & Stream Ecology
Dates: June 19; July 10, 31
$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.

NEW! Sensory Discovery of Nature
Dates: June 19; July 17
FREE for children ages 0-3
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI Fellow
This young family-friendly program will introduce infants and toddlers to the wonderful world of nature found in Rocky Mountain National Park. Parents and guardians will join their infants and toddlers on fun and educational explorations of Hidden Valley where nature will be discovered through touch, smell, sight and sound. Parents, guardians, and children alike will learn and grow all while exploring nature with these senses.

Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
Dates: June 23; July 7, 21; August 4
FREE for children ages 9-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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 24; July 8, 22
FREE for children ages 9-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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.

Bugs, Beetles & Butterflies:
Tiny but Amazing Creatures of Rocky
Dates: June 26; July 24; August 7
FREE for children ages 3-6
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI 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!

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
**Youth & Family Classes**

**Geology Rocks!**
Dates: June 25; July 9, 30;
FREE for children ages 9-12
(Advance registration is required.)
Instructor: FI Fellow

Discover what makes 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. ◆◆◆

**NEW!**
**Diversity in Nature:**
**Shapes and Sizes**
Dates: July 3; August 7
FREE for children 0-3
Instructor: FI Fellow

This young family-friendly program will introduce infants and toddlers to the natural diversity found in Rocky Mountain National Park. Parents and guardians join their infants and toddlers as they discover the different shapes and sizes of park plants and animals. Plants and animals are unique! What better way to explore their uniqueness than to look at their different shapes and sizes? ◆

**Tribes & Traditions:**
**Native Americans in RMNP**
Dates: July 23;
August 6
FREE for children ages 8-12
Instructor: FI Fellow

Long before most of us, Native Americans called this place home. Experience a fun exploration through time to learn what life was like for the Native children that lived in this area long ago. Learn how the people started their day, what they ate and about some of their daily chores. A few of the games that some of the earliest settlers loved will also be enjoyed. Participants will learn which native people once lived in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park and what life was like for these people long ago, as well as today. ◆◆◆

**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 18**
$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.

**Innkeepers of RMNP History - June 25**
$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 2**
$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.

**NEW! "Squeaky Bob" Wheeler - July 9**
$15 per adult, children 12 and under FREE
Instructor: Kurtis Kelly ("Squeaky Bob")
Theodore Roosevelt was just one of many guests treated to the savory cooking, homespun hospitality and enchanting tales of “Squeaky” Bob Wheeler (1865-1945), who operated a popular tent camp for travelers, hunters and fishermen journeying through the region that became Rocky Mountain National Park. Bob’s high-pitched, funny-sounding voice earned him his nickname, and visitors relished in hearing him remember his adventures working in the mining camp of Lulu City, while enjoying the scenic surroundings of his “Hotel de Hardscrabble”.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Hiking & Outdoor Skills

Tracking Wildlife in Rocky
Signs of Creatures Big & Small
Date: May 8
$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)

Orienteering for Beginners:
Map & Compass Basics in RMNP
Date: May 16
$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. ◆◆

Birding RMNP by Ear
Date: May 31
$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)

Winter Ecology:
A Snowshoeing Trek for Kids and Families
Dates: January 25; February 8, 22; March 7, 28
$10 per adult;
free for children 13 and under
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Rocky Mountain Survivor:
Kids’ Survival Basics!
Dates: June 17; July 15; August 5
Free for children ages 9-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Who Pooped in the Woods?
A Mammal Mystery
Dates: June 18; July 2, 16, 24 (Grand Lake)
Free for children ages 9-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Kids’ Fly-fishing & Stream Ecology
Dates: June 19; July 10, 31
$25 per child ages 7-15
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Kids’ Map & Compass Exploration
Dates: June 23; July 7, 21; August 4
Free for children ages 9-12
(See description under Youth & Family Classes.)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Ute Trail
Date: August 15
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Experience each life zone within Rocky Mountain National Park as the trail descends from the tundra along the historic Ute Trail, through pine forests into lush montane meadows. Zoom in on the cultural and natural history of the area, and explore the history of the Ute people who once called Rocky Mountain National Park home. Each life zone also will bring opportunities for observation and discussion about the plants and animals that inhabit these various areas. ◆◆◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Lawn Lake
Date: August 22
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Follow the Roaring River up to Lawn Lake, site of the 1982 Lawn Lake Flood, to view the lake in its now-natural state. Flanked by Mummy, Hagues and Fairchild mountains, participants can experience breathtaking views of 13,000-foot peaks while being surrounded by subalpine and alpine meadows. Along the way, explore the fascinating history of the flood while being immersed in the rich pine forests and stream ecosystems of the park, — and with a reasonable chance of spotting bighorn sheep and other wildlife along this life-filled corridor. ◆◆◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Mount Ida
Date: August 29
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
This hike on the western slope of Rocky Mountain National Park affords panoramic views of the Never Summer Mountains, Gorge Lakes, and both sides of the Continental Divide as participants traverse subalpine and tundra terrain to the top of Mount Ida. Possible sightings of bighorn sheep and elk can be enjoyed from the many lookout points along the way. ◆◆◆◆◆

NEW!
Hike with a Naturalist:
Ouzel Lake
Date: September 12
$50 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: TBA
Enjoy a leisurely hike through Wild Basin to Ouzel Lake. Walk along the beautiful North St. Vrain Creek; learn about the many plants that grow along the water’s edge, and visit the lovely Calypso Cascades and the stunning Ouzel Falls. Observe and learn how the land recovers from fire as the trail climbs through the 1978 burn; then, savor the splendor and wildness of Ouzel Lake. ◆◆◆◆◆

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

NEW! Photographing Spring Wildlife in RMNP
Date: June 11-12
$250 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dawn Wilson
Spring is a wonderful time of year in Rocky Mountain National Park! The wildflowers fill the meadows, the peaks are still capped with snow, and the park is teeming with new life. Head out each morning to a beautiful location in the park to find wildlife in the golden light of early morning. Then spend the day photographing a variety of animals in Estes Park, and on both the east and west sides of the park. While in the field, explore techniques for producing dynamic photos of wildlife, tips for safely being around wild animals, and ethics for photographing wildlife. All levels of photographers welcome. ◆◆

NEW! Colors & Their Values: Painting for All Levels
A Grand Lake Class
Date: June 20
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Donna Lyons
Value is the lightness and darkness of color and is the most important consideration in a composition. Traditional painting methods stress the application of tones and establishing value patterns on the canvas before applying color. Perhaps a more exciting way to start is to compose in color from the beginning. A brief review of the color wheel and color relationships will be discussed, as well as the four properties of color: hue, intensity, temperature, value, and how both color and value work together to construct a painting. Through demonstrations the use of “color-finders” and “value-finders,” learn to interpret the landscape through the lightness and darkness of the colors to construct a good composition. ◆◆

NEW! Smartphone Photography: Learning the Basics
Date: June 20
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Field Peterson
Do you love to travel, but aren’t sure how to capture the beauty with your smartphone or digital camera? Learn how to work both your phone and your digital camera to elevate your photographic game. Master the equipment, exposure, and composition, and get creative, share ideas, and work together to explore the wonderful realm of photography. ◆◆◆

NEW! Sketchbook Journaling: Wilderness, Wildlife & Wonder in Watercolor
Dates: June 25-26
$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. ◆◆◆

Beginning Watercolor for the Nature Enthusiast
Date: April 25
$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!
Discovering “NOTAN” in the Landscape: A Graphite & Pen Field-Sketching Class
Dates: July 16-17
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Marjorie Leggitt
Landscapes can be overwhelming — trees, shrubs, buildings, clouds — there is so much out there! Take a deep breath, it’s not as hard as you think. NOTAN is the Japanese word meaning “dark/light”. In this class, discover how to approach the scene as a harmony and arrangement of light and dark shapes. Using simple tools and with some expert guidance, go beyond direct imitation of what is seen by simplifying “things” into tonal relationships. With basic tools — pencil and ball point pen — learn new sketching techniques and gain new artistic confidence as you fill your sketchbooks with enticing black and white scenes.

NEW!
Drawing for Painters A Grand Lake Class
Date: July 18-19
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Donna Lyons
A strong drawing is the backbone of a good painting. Explore the relationships of shapes, values and perspective in painting, which determine the strength or weakness of the composition in a work. Experiment with edges, shapes, values, composition and design using a variety of formats and sizes of paper while working under the inspiration of the Kawuneeche Valley. Concerns about color are eliminated, as all the work will be done with pencil, charcoal, ink-pen, markers, Lamp Black watercolor, and a brush. Practice your skills and try something new!

NEW!
Watercolor Brushstrokes: Painting the Landscapes of RMNP
Dates: August 6-7
$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.

NEW!
Wildflower Photography: Panorama to Close-Up
Dates: August 7-9
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Bob Dean
Learn to use the creative controls on a camera to capture beautiful images of flowers, from panoramic views to close-up details. Delve into the software tools for focus stacking, which enables nearly unlimited depth-of-field, and discover the amazing world of wildflower waiting for you. Exploring the benefits of natural light, participants will be in the field at the beginning and end of the day, saving the classroom work for evennings and mid-day. An option for studio work will be offered to accommodate Colorado’s frequent rainy afternoons in the summer.

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
Night Sky Landscape Photography
Dates: August 21-23
$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.

NEW!
Shooting & Creating Beautiful Landscape Images
Dates: August 28-30
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Michael Allen
This introductory workshop will explore how to identify and use some of the key elements needed to create a dynamic photograph. Take your photographs to the next level with an understanding of composition and camera position, as well as post-processing workflows to optimize color, details and mood. Learn about gear, camera settings, color and many of the technical aspects that you will need. Examine the pros and cons of filters, and explore modern approaches to traditional landscape photography. Plan to foray into Rocky for field sessions, with indoor classroom time to study and discuss concepts. This course is open to photographers of all experience levels. ♦ ♦ ♦

NEW!
Sketching With Colored Pencil & Watercolor
Dates: September 12-13
$160 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Suzie Garner
Learn the basics of colored pencils and watercolor and how to use them together in a field sketchbook. Demonstrations will include techniques for the application of color with both mediums; layering and mark-making. 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. ♦ ♦

NEW!
The Art & Science of Photographing Wildlife
Dates: September 18-20
$300 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Steve Weaver
Making artful wildlife photographs in nature is a challenge that requires a combination of technical knowledge, good environmental conditions, knowledge of animal behavior, and the patience and skills to identify and capture a “decisive moment” of animals interacting in the environment. Learn these foundational concepts, and explore equipment use, as well as the creative aspects of composition and light that are essential. While traveling through various environments of Rocky, discuss and practice acceptable methods for approaching the wildlife subjects that are found. Further your knowledge, development and enjoyment of the art of creating excellent wildlife images. ♦ ♦

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Coyotes:
Song Dogs of the West
Date: March 21
$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 1
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jeff Maugans
May 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)

Hawks in Flight:
Birds of Prey
Date: May 2
$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. ◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Tracking Wildlife in Rocky:
Signs of Creatures Big & Small
Date: May 8
$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)

Fire in Ecosystems:
Friend or Foe?
Date: May 9
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. Scott Franklin
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 caveats of the wildland-urban interface. ◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
**Endangered Species of the Rockies: Evading Extinction**

Date: May 15  
$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)*

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**Birds at Twilight**

Date: May 21  
$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.  

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

Date: May 22  
$80 per adult age 16 and up  
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)*

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**Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park**

Date: May 22  
$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)*

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**The Surprising World of Lichens**

Date: May 30  
$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)*

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*(CSM credit available)*
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$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Nathan Pieplow

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(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Hunters of the Wind: Eagles, Hawks & Falcons
Date: June 5
$80 per adult
Instructor: W. Perry Conway

Eagles, hawks, and falcons are icons of power and speed that capture the human imagination. Rocky Mountain National Park has all three of these aerial athletes. With an illustrated lecture/discussion in the morning followed by an afternoon field trip, participants will learn how these beautiful birds are alike and different with respect to their diet and nesting requirements, behavior, evolution and population status. Nesting areas will also be viewed from a safe distance, and live birds will be presented as part of the lecture and discussion.◆◆

(CSM credit available)

Early Wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park
Date: June 6
$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)

RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide
Date: June 6
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Leanne Benton

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 instructors will have a net-and-release permit to allow participants a close-up look at a variety of species.◆◆

(CSM credit available)

NEW!
Spring Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP
Date: June 7
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Jon Sommer

Rocky Mountain National Park has some unique and pristine ecosystems to explore in search of mushrooms and fleshy fungi. Learn the basics for identifying both, the important role they play in the ecosystem, and a brief overview of the fungal kingdom. Plan to spend a good part of the day in the field identifying mushrooms and other fungi, and gaining a first-hand appreciation for these interesting and important organisms. There will be particular emphasis on the cup fungi (ascomycetes), including morels and their allies.◆◆

(CSM credit available)
Untangling the Mystery of RMNP Native Orchids

Date: June 13
$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)

Wildflowers of RMNP

Dates: June 27-28
$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 27-28
$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)

NEW!

Land of Extremes: The Amazing Alpine Tundra

Date: July 10
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Cynthia Langguth

“The combination of heavy snowfall, bitter wind, low temperatures, and mountainous topography in alpine areas creates the most severe climate in the world,” wrote alpine researcher Joyce Gellhorn in her book Song of the Alpine. Yet among these extremes, a surprising diversity of life has found ways to survive and thrive. This course will explore the climate and topography that combine to shape this incredible ecosystem, and the amazing strategies alpine plants and animals use to make this their home.

(CSM credit available)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
North American Bears: Ecology, Behavior & Evolution
Date: July 11
$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)

NEW!
Rocky Mountain Riparian Plant Ecology, Identification & Physiology
Date: July 11
$80 per adult
Instructor: Isabel Schroeter

Streamside ecosystems are hotspots for biodiversity and human recreational activities. They also provide a unique opportunity to understand the intersection of plant ecology, hydrology and ecological restoration, a dynamic that has become increasingly relevant to Rocky Mountain National Park with their interest in restoring willow-dominated plant communities that have been severely damaged by elk and moose browsing and beaver decline. Learn how to identify common riparian plants, and discuss the approaches used to assess plant responses to environmental factors. Explore multiple study sites of varying ecological condition in the park to observe firsthand the park’s riparian management and restoration efforts. ◆◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Hummingbirds: Field Research West of the Divide
A Grand Lake Class
Date: July 17
$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. ◆◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

Glaciers in Rocky
Date: July 18
$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. ◆◆◆◆
(CSM credit available)

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

Bats of Colorado & RMNP
Date: July 24
$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. 

(Home credit available)

Bighorn Sheep: Ecology & Management
Date: July 25
$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 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.

(Home credit available)

NEW!
Grasses of RMNP
Date: July 25-26
$160 per adult
Instructor: Denise Culver
Grass identification is difficult even for the professional botanist — so you might be asking: Why even bother? Consider this: the grass family is the third largest family in the world, with species occupying every continent. This makes grasses one of the most significant species in all of civilization! Learn the characteristics for each tribe (the grass family is so big it is divided into tribes) common in Rocky Mountain National Park. There will be a classroom component, but the majority of the class will be in the field.

(Home credit available)

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
NEW!
Wetland Plants of RMNP
Date: August 1
$80 per adult
Instructor: Denise Culver
If terms like catkins or perigynia intimidate yet intrigue you — come join us to explore the common wetland plants of Rocky Mountain National Park. The class will focus on the characteristics for common wetland plant families in Rocky Mountain National Park. There will be a classroom component, but majority of the class will be outside. 

(CSM credit available)

The Persevering Pika: Secrets of Alpine Survival
Date: August 1
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Dr. 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. 

(Wild Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP
A Grand Lake Class
Date: August 8
$80 per adult age 16 and up
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. 

(Aquatic Mammals of Rocky: Beaver, Muskrat & Moose
Date: August 14
$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.
**The History of Moose in RMNP**

*A Grand Lake Class*

**Date:** August 15  
**$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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**NEW!**

**Edible & Medicinal Plants of RMNP**

**Date:** August 15  
**$80 per adult age 16 and up**  
**Instructor:** Leanne Benton

Explore the flora of the park with a former RMNP interpretive ranger. Not only are the plants diverse and beautiful, many have served as the grocery store and pharmacy for earlier people, and are still used today. Focus on these edible and medicinal species and discuss various edible and medicinal components, including plant identification, current and historic usage as food and medicine, preparation techniques, using plants safely, and ethical harvesting and conservation, plus some toxic species to avoid.  

( CSB credit available)

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**Mountain Lion: RMNP’s Top Predator**

**Date:** August 22-23  
**$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.  

( CSB credit available)

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**RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide**

*A Grand Lake – area Class*

**Date:** September 4  
**$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 frilly, 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.  

( CSB credit available)

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

Estes Valley: History & Historic Sites
Dates: May 29; June 12
$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. ◆◆

There’s More to This Place than Meets the Eye: 100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP
Date: May 22
$80 per adult age 16 and up
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. ◆◆

(Paraphrased information from the original text)

NEW!
Boundaries, Borders & Terrains: An Indigenous Telling of the Rockies
Date: June 13
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Doreen Martinez

Utilizing collective principles, natural reason and historicizing practices, this course brings understandings of Indigenous knowledge, engagements and values of land, landscapes and histories into a Native American framework and ethic. ◆◆

(Paraphrased information from the original text)

Phantoms: The Hidden History of RMNP
Dates: August 8-9
$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. ◆◆

(Paraphrased information from the original text)

Visit RMConservancy.org for more information.
NEW!
Anna Wolfrom Dove & the Wigwam Tea Room

Date: August 16  
$80 per adult age 16 and up
Instructor: Nina Kunze

Anna Wolfrom Dove was a single woman homesteader who earned the claim to her land in 1914. Anna operated a successful tea room named the Wigwam on her homestead, and in its heyday, the tea room attracted up to 200 visitors a day. The buildings still stand in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn about Anna’s remarkable life, and visit the site of her tea room. Discuss the other single woman homesteaders in the Estes Park area, including Ida McCreery, Esther Burnell, Katherine Garetson, and Amanda Blocker Byrd and the experiences they had in this high country region.   (CSM credit available)

Campfire Ghost Stories: Living History Tales of the West
Iron Thumb June 18
Innkeepers of RMNP History June 25
Rocky Mountain Tales of Survival July 2

NEW! “Squeaky Bob” Wheeler July 9

$15 per adult  Children 12 and under FREE
See descriptions under Youth & Family Classes, p. 10.

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This beautiful facility was purchased for our Field Institute program in 2001 through donations and grant funds. 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.

Support the Field Institute program by considering this excellent facility for your next meeting or conference!
Contact us at 970-586-3262 for more information.

Call 970-586-3262, or visit RMConservancy.org to register.
Michael Allen – Michael is a landscape photographer based in Boulder, Colorado. He travels frequently to shoot natural and cultural landscapes around the world, including Iceland, Norway, Banff and Europe. Michael brings a modern approach to landscape photography, from capture to completion, using digital processing techniques to bring out a richness in images that preserves the mood and character of the location. In addition to his photography, Michael serves as the Director of Philanthropy for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

Rachel Balduzzi – Rachel is the Field Institute education director for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. She was an interpreter in RMNP for many years and the lead education technician for the park's environmental education department. After a gap in her education, she taught elementary school in Estes Park before returning to her true love of educating children and adults about the natural and cultural history of the Estes Valley and the Rocky Mountains.

Leanne Benton – Leanne is a former ranger-naturalist in Rocky Mountain National Park who has led wildflower and tundra ecology hikes and conducted research in the park for 25 years. She has studied and photographed the park’s wildflowers for more than 30 years.

Marlene Borneman – Marlene’s passion for Colorado flora began in 1974 and has only grown over the years. In 2013 she became a member of the Colorado Native Plant Society, in 2013 she won the photo award for Native Plant Landscapes. Currently she is seeking the Colorado Native Plant Master Flora Certificate. Marlene is the author of Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, 2Ed. and The Best Front Range Wildflower Hikes.

Curt Buchholz – Curt is the former executive director of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and author of Rocky Mountain National Park: A History. In addition to writing histories of Rocky Mountain, Glacier, and several other national parks, Curt has been a college history teacher and a park ranger. He served as an associate editor for Rocky Mountain Nature Association magazine and authored numerous articles about national parks, history, and the West.

Jeff Conner – Jeff is a retired natural resources specialist who worked for 35 years in the federal government and worked for 25 years in Rocky Mountain National Park where he was involved with wildlife and vegetation management. In 2012, Jeff and other park staff started a Citizen Science Program that has an ecological relationship with the Estes Park and St. Vrain school systems and a school in Monteverde, Costa Rica, which is part of the Agua y Paz Biobiosphere Reserve.

W. Perry Conway – Perry has been a professional nature photographer for more than 30 years. His work has been published in numerous books and magazines dedicated to wildlife photography. Perry is the author of the photography magazine produced in North America. He is a former biology teacher with a M.S. degree in outdoor education curriculum development.

Denise Culver – With a B.S. degree in Botany from the University of Wyoming and a M.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Montana State University, Denise has been an ecologist/botanist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program since 1995, and has worked in the ecology/botany field since 1987. She has designed and conducted numerous plant identification workshops for various government and public land agencies, as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado Native Plant Society. She is lead author for a number of publications about wetland ecosystems, as well as the Colorado Wetland Mobile App.

Bob Dean – Bob holds degrees in electrical engineering, while working in the fast-paced high tech world, he found relaxation in nature and wildlife photography. Bob now teaches at many Colorado universities including several library districts and numerous nature centers. He has written three e-books: Macro Photography – Bringing the Small World to Life, Travel Wildlife Photography – A Guide to making great nature images, Digital Nature Photography – Nature and Wildlife for the Experienced Photographer.

Geoff Elliot – Geoff is Editor of Conservation for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. He has a M.S. in Conservation Leadership from Colorado State University, and focuses his work on connecting folks with public lands and conservation through on-the-ground service.

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. After retirement, she started her own business teaching classes, teaching classes at the Bass Pro Shop in Denver for 8 years. She occasionally teaches classes in various parks around the west side of Denver.

Tena and Fred Engelman – Tena and Fred are a team of self-taught researchers and photographers. They concluded RMNP’s first-10 year survey of hummingbird species and habitat, giving new insight into hummingbird survival, behavior, courtship and nesting fidelity, migration and routes, and populations. Their work provides useful reference for ornithologists, resource managers and park interpretive personnel.

Dr. Scott Franklin – Scott studies disturbance and vegetation dynamics, having received both his B.S. and Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University. He has published more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, several book chapters, and co-authored one book on forest dendrology. He serves as chair of ESA’s Vegetation Classification Panel and as an associate editor of Vegetation Science, The American Midland Naturalist Journal.

Jennifer Frazer – Jennifer is an award-winning science writer, blogger for Scientific American, and is a trained mycologist. She is the former editor of the Colorado Mycological Society, has been a guest on Radio CIY, and has participated as a group leader in 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 Garnier – 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 avid sketchbook artist. She has conducted workshops in many national parks and the Southwest and has exhibited nationally and internationally.

Jared Gricosek – Jared owns Yellow Wood Guiding in Estes Park, specializing in natural history 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, and has had many years exploring and researching the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains.

Stan Honda – Stan has many years of photojournalism experience in New York City and southern California. He has been a National Park Service artist-in-residence in five national parks, including Rocky Mountain, and has presented talks and workshops at Rocky’s Night Sky Festival. Stan’s night sky landscapes have appeared on NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day, CBS News, National Geographic, Telescope magazine and Yahoo News.

Dr. Don Hunter – Don helped to establish and is the science director for the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy, a nonprofit, non-sporting cat organization dedicated to wild cat conservation, research, and community stewardship. He also directed a study of RMNP mountain lion ecology that was featured on the A/POTD. Don has been a college professor and researcher on snow leopards in central Asia.

Kurts Kelly – Kurts is a well-known performer, actor and storyteller in Estes Park. He has portrayed Abner Sprague and has led history reenactments of local fig- ures like F.O. Stanley and Lord Dunraven. He has led hundreds of people on ghost story tours of the Stanley Hotel, and he has appeared on National Public Radio and in many arts and culture documentaries.

Nina Kunze – Nina learned about Anna Wolfram Dove and the Wigwam Tea Room while doing volunteer work for Rocky Mountain Natural Park. After years of research, she wrote the story który stwierdzil one book on forest dendrology. He serves as chair of ESA’s Vegetation Classification Panel and as an associate editor of Vegetation Science, The American Midland Naturalist Journal.

Jennifer Frazier – Jennifer is an award-winning science writer, blogger for Scientific American, and is a trained mycologist. She is the former editor of the Colorado Mycological Society, has been a guest on Radio CIY, and has participated as a group leader in 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.

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

Cynthia Langthugh – Cynthia is a Park Ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park, and she manages the Alpine Visitor Center. She finds her happy place on the mountain, and she has spent the last ten years learning about all of the amazing nuances that make up this extraordinary community of life.

Dr. DeAnna Laure — DeAnna is a professor of environmental science at Colorado Mountain College. She has 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 of beavers has on fluxes of water, sediment, and organic carbon in Colorado mountain stream headwaters. She has conducted research in Rocky Mountain National Park for more than five years.

Marjorie Leggi – Marjorie started her career at Denver’s Field Museum of Natural History dissecting and illustrating Australian land snails. Running her own freelance illustration business, she illustrates text and trade books, professional journals, museum exhibits, murals and interpretive sign. Marjorie has taught botanical arts courses at Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Art and Illustration since 1990.

Donna Lyons – Donna is a practicing watercolor painter with degrees in painting and printmaking. She is a retired elementary art and kindergarten teacher, she now teaches painting workshops throughout the West. Donna is the author of the book My Kowneechee – An Artist’s Journal in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Jan Manning – A native Coloradan, Jan has a degree in wildlife biology. His passion for American history led him to begin researching and presenting living history presentations to audiences across the western United States. Among his patrons are Fort Collins Museum, Denver Art Museum, Museum of Western Art, University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, National Wildlife Federation and Los Angeles Museum of Natural History.

Doreen Martinez – Doreen is of Mes- calero, Apache and Pennsylvania Dutch lineage. She is a professor in Native American Studies at CSU and works with/ in several community projects. Her work focuses on Native American environmentalism and practiced in contemporary locations. Her work with community projects ranges from organizational restructuring for meaningful “inclusion and diversity” to community engagement with buffalo restoration on the Wind River Reservation. Dr. Martinez is a proponent for indigenous knowledge systems, development in Indigenous Country, research methods, Native American history, indigenous consciousness and gender.

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 at Mammoth Cave National Park, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Edison National Historic Site, Gateway National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Gary C. Miller – Gary retired from Rocky Mountain National Park in 2013 after working as both a naturalist/interpreter and as a biologist during the early years of the Elkhorn Chicken implementation. Prior to that, he held positions with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, including wildlife researcher, research lead, and as a section leader. He conducted or oversaw research and management of both game and nongame species, including their ecology, population dynamics, diseases, and restoration of native species.
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 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 internationally recognized expert on butterfly conservation, ecology and classification. Evi is a retired school teacher, nature photographer and artist.

Field Peterson—Field spends the majority of his time outside with a camera by his side, exploring some of the most picturesque locations in the United States. For the past several years, he has been working with Colorado State University’s Warner College of Natural Resources to photograph the world through the lens of conservation and stewardship.

Nathan Pieplo—Nathan has spent more than 100 days hiking, camping and birding inside Rocky Mountain National Park. He is the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds, the proprietor of the bird sound blog Earbirding.com, and the former editor of the journal Colorado Birds. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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. In 2001, she was recognized in Big Sky Journal as an Artist of the West. Favorite locations for painting are RMNP, Grand Teton National Park, and her own backyard.

Dr. 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.

Isabel Schroeter—Isabel grew up in Agoura Hills, California. She received her bachelor of science degree in Conservation and Resource Studies from the University of California Berkeley. She then worked as a research technician working on several projects aimed at assessing oak physiological responses to drought and modeling carbon sequestration in the context of land conservation. She continued to the University of Colorado Boulder, where she is now pursuing her PhD in Ecology. Her research on riparian plant communities in Rocky Mountain National Park was funded by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy’s Bailey Fellowship in the summer of 2019.

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.

Jon Sommer—Jon holds a bachelor’s degree in botany and master’s degrees in botany and plant pathology. He has led mushroom forays and nature walks and taught classes on mushroom identification across the U.S. for more than 40 years. He has been a member of the Colorado Mycological Society since 1993 and currently serves as its membership chair and secretary.

Stephen Weaver—Steve is an award-winning nature photographer with over 40 years of experience. Formally educated as a geologist, and he is a charter member of NANPA (The North American Nature Photography Association), and a member of the new conservation and ethics group Nature First Alliance for Responsible Nature Photography. His work has been published in textbooks, guidebooks and magazines, and his fine-art prints have been purchased by numerous collectors.

Dawn Wilson—Dawn is an award-winning nature photographer specializing in photographing the wildlife of high latitudes of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. Her work has been published in numerous regional and national publications, including Wyoming Wildlife, Outdoor Photographer and Nature’s Best Photography. She is a Master Naturalist for the City of Fort Collins, and authored Colorado: Flora, Fauna and Landscapes from the Perspective of Women, and published an e-book titled Preparing for the Next Shoot: Ten Tips to Get You to the Right Place at the Right Time.

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 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.

Coyotes: Song Dogs of the West
North with the Spring: Bird Migration
Tracking Wildlife in Rocky Fire in the Ecosystems: Friend or Foe?
Endangered Species of the Rockies
100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP
Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park
The Surprising World of Lichens
Birding RMNP by Ear
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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.

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2020 Colorado School of Mines Accredited Classes
(each day worth .5 credit hour)

Coyotes: Song Dogs of the West March 21
North with the Spring: Bird Migration May 1
Tracking Wildlife in Rocky May 8
Fire in the Ecosystems: Friend or Foe? May 9
Endangered Species of the Rockies May 15
100 Years of Environmental Change in RMNP May 22
Owls of Rocky Mountain National Park May 22
The Surprising World of Lichens May 30
Birding RMNP by Ear May 31
Hunters of the Wind: Eagles, Hawks & Falcons June 5
Early Wildflowers of RMNP June 6
RMNP Butterflies: East of the Divide June 6
Spring Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP June 7
Untangling the Mystery of RMNP Orchids June 13
Wildflowers of RMNP June 27-28
Birding the Life Zones June 27-28
The Amazing Alpine Tundra July 10
North American Bears July 11
Glaciers in Rocky July 18
Bats of Colorado & RMNP July 24
Bighorn Sheep: Ecology & Management July 25
Grasses of RMNP July 25-26
Wetland Plants of RMNP August 1
Presevering Pika: Secrets of Alpine Survival August 1
Wild Mushrooms & Fungi of RMNP August 8
Phantoms: The Hidden History of RMNP August 8-9
The History of Moose in RMNP August 15
Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies August 15
Mountain Lion: RMNP’s Top Predator August 16
RMNP Butterflies: West of the Divide September 4

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