


# Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. The administrative permit fee is \$20 per trip from May 1 to October 31. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242.

**Effective May 1, 2009, for your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out food storage canisters are required of backcountry campers in park.** Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.



 **Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite.** Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



Join a Park Ranger and expert volunteer astronomers on Friday nights (June 12, 26, July 10, 24, August 14, 28) to observe the night sky on the east side of the park. In many places, the night sky is not as dark as it once was due to light pollution. National parks in more remote areas help preserve this special resource.

Look for posters at east side visitor centers, campgrounds and entrance stations for times and locations.

## Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

### Alpine



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**Tundra to Trees** - Hike an ancient Ute trail that leads from alpine heights down through old growth forest. Plan to carpool for this moderate 4 mile hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, water, and snacks. Starts 6/28

4 hour hike

Milner Pass parking area

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

**High Country Geology** - The park's spectacular scenery represents a chapter in a long history of geologic events. Join us on this hike over the tundra and experience the effects of these processes. Starts 7/1 ends 8/12

3 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center flagpole

9 a.m.

**Tundra Nature Walk** - Exhilarate your senses with alpine views and miniature wildflower gardens. Dress warmly, plan to caravan to the location. Ends 8/15

1.5-2 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

**All About Lightning** - Learn why lightning can be a hair-raising experience and find out how to minimize your risk of being struck by lightning.



30 minute talk

Alpine Visitor Center

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

### Plants

**Lily Lake Wildflower Walk** - Take time to stop and smell the roses, and enjoy learning about the variety of flowers blooming this season. Easy walk. Ends 8/15



1.5 hour hike

Lily Lake parking lot

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

### Children's Programs

**Junior Ranger Program** - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. Ends 8/15



30-40 minute program

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

**Dead Trees are Full of Life** - Who hangs out in dead trees and calls them home? Find out during this 20 minute puppet program. Ends 8/15



20-30 minute talk

Fall River Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

**Kid's Adventure** - Join us for a nature adventure! Kids 6-10 (and their parents) should join in for this fun program. Ends 8/16



1-1.5 hour program

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

**Discovery Day** - Discover the amazing world of Rocky Mountain National Park with your family through hands-on activities, crafts, and stories. Each week there is something new to discover. Drop-in program; come anytime 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Drop-in Program

Moraine Park Visitor Center

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Wildlife

**Birds of Upper Beaver Meadows** - Join a ranger to seek bluebirds, woodpeckers, wrens, and flycatchers in a rich mixture of aspen and pine woodlands. Bring binoculars and a field guide.

1.5 hour hike

West end of the Upper Beaver Meadows Rd

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

**Bighorn Basics** - Sheep Lakes is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. In Horseshoe Park, learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/15



30 minute talk

Sheep Lakes Information Station

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Skins and Skulls** - Want to pet an elk? Cuddle up to a bear? Are you crazy? That's not safe! Learn to safely feel skins and skulls while hearing about park wildlife.



30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

**Amazing Beavers** - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so. See their work first hand.



1 hour talk

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

3 p.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

Wildlife			Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
All About Elk - Learn about this magnificent animal and its current status in the park. Ends 8/15			1-1.5 hour walk	West Alluvial Fan parking lot	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		
Lions and Bears, Oh My! - Worried about meeting a bear or mountain lion in the park? Find out what to do and what these animals are up to.			30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.		
Little Critters of Rocky - Squirrels, rabbits and bats; find out about the lives of Rocky's smaller animals and the critical roles they play. Ends 8/15			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center				2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.		
Cunning Coyotes - Coyotes are intriguing animals and play an important role in the the circle of life. Ends 8/15			20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.		
<b>Walks, Talks, and Hikes</b>												
Dream Lake Hike - Explore the breathtaking glacial landscape and changes brought on by bark beetles on this moderate 2 mile hike.			2-2.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot	9 a.m.		9 a.m.		9 a.m.	9 a.m.	9 a.m.	
Bear Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.			1-1.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot		9:30 a.m.	2 p.m.	9:30 a.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.	
Navigating Rocky with GPS and Maps - Discover how to use a GPS, map, and compass to safely journey into the park. We provide a map/compass/GPS (or bring your own). Family fun! Ends 8/15			2 hour activity	Hollowell Park Shuttle Stop		9 a.m.	9 a.m.				1:30 p.m.	
Native Lifestyles - Explore what drew prehistoric peoples, and later Ute and Arapaho, to the high country.			30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			2:30 p.m.				2:30 p.m.	
Moraine Park Nature Walk - Enjoy an easy 3/4 mile stroll through the Moraine Park landscape. Encounter the dynamic forces that created this valley and discover what lives here today.			1 hour walk	Moraine Park Visitor Center	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	
Here Comes the Beetle! - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park. Ends 8/23			20-30 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater	2 p.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.		2 p.m.		
Geology Rocks! - Love the scenic views in the park? Come take a closer look at what is rocking at Rocky and the geologic forces behind the landscape.			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.				2:30 p.m.	
Walk Into Twilight - Sense the wilderness coming alive as twilight settles over the park. Bring warm clothes and flashlight. Ends 8/23			1.5 hour walk	Sprague Lake Picnic Area			7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.			
Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs are simultaneously held at both locations. Starts 8/29			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center amphitheater and Sheep Lakes parking lot	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	
Hot Topics in the Park - Want to hear the very latest news about research and management challenges in the park? Join us for a movie overview of these topics, with a Ranger to fill you in on the current details.			30- 45 minute discussion	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	
<b>Evening Programs June 14 - August 22</b>												
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. <b>Artist-in-the-Park Wednesday:</b> The park, through the eyes of a different creative artist. <b>Science Thursday:</b> A different talk by a park researcher each Thursday.			45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Glacier Basin Evening Program -Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater	7:30 p.m.					9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.	
Aspenglen Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.	
Moraine Park Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	
<b>Evening Programs August 23 - 29</b>												
Beaver Meadows Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium	7:30 p.m.			7:30 p.m. Artist Night		7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
Moraine Park Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater	8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.	
Aspenglen Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground amphitheater		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		
<b>Evening Programs August 30 - Sept. 7</b>												
Beaver Meadows Evening Program August 30 - September 7			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium				7:30 p.m. Artist Night			7:30 p.m.	

# Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

Walks and Hikes		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>High Country Birding</b> - Enjoy a 1 mile bird walk across meadow and woodland habitats. Bring a bird guide and binoculars. Ends 8/1		1-1.5 hour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area			7:30 a.m.				7:30 a.m.
<b>Hike through History</b> - Hike along the river to discover what led people to try mining, homesteading, and early dude ranching.		3 hours - 3 miles	Colorado River Trailhead			9:30 a.m.				
<b>Mountain Wildflowers</b> - Lovely montane flowers have unusual modes of adaptation. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends 8/1		2 hour walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole					2 p.m.		10 a.m.
<b>Coyote Valley River Walk</b> - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Evening walk ends 8/12.		1 hour walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10 a.m.	7 p.m. Ends 8/12		2 p.m.	
<b>Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk</b> - Learn about prehistoric Indian people, miners and valley settlers while revisiting the Old West at an historic guest ranch.		1 hour plus time to explore 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area	2 p.m.			2 p.m.			
<b>Life at the Source</b> - Just downstream from the source of the Colorado River, habitats provide homes for hardy plants and animals.		1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead						10 a.m.	
<b>Sisters of Courage</b> - Learn about the pioneer experience through the story of the remarkable Harbison sisters and their family. Includes a 1/2 mile walk to the homestead site.		2.5 hour walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		9:30 a.m.					
<b>A Glimpse of Paradise</b> - This easy 3 mile hike passes Adams Falls and leads to spectacular views of mountains surrounding the meadows of the East Inlet. Evening walk ends 8/10.		2.5 hour walk	East Inlet Trailhead		6 p.m. Ends 8/10					10 a.m.
<b>Seeing Red -- and Beyond!</b> - A tiny beetle means big changes for our forest. What lies ahead?		1 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead		2 p.m.					
<b>Children's Programs</b>										
<b>A Walk Backwards</b> - Step back in time and experience life on a 1920s dude ranch--chores, games, period costumes. For children 6-12. Registration required at Kawuneeche V.C. Ends 8/14		2 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						9:45 a.m.	
<b>Come Bug a Ranger</b> - Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. Ends 8/12		1 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10 a.m.			
<b>Web Walkers</b> - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. Ends 8/13		1 hour activity	Coyote Valley Trailhead		10 a.m.			10 a.m.		
<b>Junior Ranger Program</b> - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. Note ending dates.		1 hour 15 minute program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/6		2 p.m. Ends 8/11		2 p.m. Ends 8/13		2 p.m. Ends 9/5
<b>Talks &amp; Activities</b>										
<b>Ranger's Flyfishing School</b> - Learn about the park's fish management program, stream ecology, and flycasting. Bring your flyfishing gear or borrow the ranger's. Ends 8/10		3 hour activity	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater		8:30 a.m.					
<b>Holzwarth Historic Site</b> - Buildings are open 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. Discuss early settlement with staff. This is a great family activity!		Drop-in tour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area	.....	... 10:30 a.m.	to 4:30 p.m.	Daily	... ..		
<b>Never Summer, Ever Summer</b> - View the sun through a telescope and learn of potential effects of climate change on this park. Ends 8/9		50 minutes	Coyote Valley Picnic Area	10 a.m.						
<b>Skins and Things</b> - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.		40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.
<b>Exploring with a Camera</b> - Join a ranger for a photography walk. Focus on composition, light, and basic tips to improve your pictures. Ends 8/3		1-1.5 hour activity	Timber Lake Trailhead		3 p.m.					
<b>Behind The Scenes</b> - Join a ranger to view and discuss a series of short videos documenting how specialists at the park address challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and air quality.		1 hour discussion	Kawuneeche Visitor Center			7 p.m. Ends 8/11	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/2	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/3	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/4	
<b>Evening Programs</b>										
<b>Old Ranch Campfire Stories</b> - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Ends 8/14		2 hours, 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						7 p.m.	

## This Park Paper

The park newspaper is produced by Rocky Mountain National Park in cooperation with -- and funding provided by -- the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Printed on recycled paper.

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Evening Programs	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Saturday Night in the Park</b> - Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche visitor Center.	1 hour presentation	Kawuneeche Visitor Center auditorium							7 p.m.
<b>Walk Into Twilight</b> - Enjoy a leisurely stroll as darkness, night sounds and wildlife fill the valley. Bring warm clothes, good hiking shoes, and a flashlight. Ends 8/9	2 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead	8 p.m. thru 7/26 7:30 p.m. thru 7/27 - 8/9						
<b>Timber Creek Evening Program</b> - Presentation nightly at Timber Creek. Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics.	1 hour presentation	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6
<b>Celestial Wilderness</b> - Explore the universe and the astronomy of Rocky's night sky. Meet at Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center for indoor presentation. Ends 8/13	1-1.5 hour activity	Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center					9:15 p.m. in June 9 p.m. in July 8:45 p.m. in August		
<b>Feature Film</b>									
<b>The Colorado: Secrets at the Source</b> - This film tells the magnificent story of the Colorado River, which flows through some of America's most dramatic high country and canyon lands.	50 minute film	Daily at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.

## Got Podcasts?



RMNP Podcasts

Rocky Mountain National Park does! The park has a New Technology Committee. The group's primary goal is to utilize new technology to provide interpretive, informational and educational content to the public. As ways to access and experience new information becomes available, Rocky Mountain National Park is committed to bringing it to you. The future is now!

- **The Ten Essentials**
- **Lightning Safety**
- **Wilderness Celebration**
- **The Mountain Pine Beetle**
- **Bighorn Sheep**

Check out [nps.gov/romo](http://nps.gov/romo) and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

## Junior Rangers



Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge!

You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at: [romo\\_junior\\_ranger@nps.gov](mailto:romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov)

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!

## Fees Enhance Visitors' Experiences

When you pay your park fees, you get so much more than just entrance into the park or a night of camping. You are helping improve your experience to Rocky Mountain National Park. In 2004, Congress extended the 1996 Fee Demonstration program with passage of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). That act allows National Parks to retain 80 percent of collected fees for deferred maintenance and other projects to benefit visitors.



Updated exhibits at Kawuneeche Visitor Center

The remaining 20 percent is distributed across National Park Service areas that do not charge fees to address those same goals.

Since the legislation was enacted, Rocky Mountain National Park has completed many projects that have enhanced our visitors' experiences such as: new restrooms, improved picnic areas, educational displays, bus shelters, refurbished campsites, rebuilt trails, and many other improvements.

You can feel proud knowing your fees are helping improve the park for all to enjoy.