

Rocky Mountain

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado



Discover an Amazing Outdoor Classroom in the Heart of the Rockies

The environmental education program at Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) has been educating and inspiring students for over 25 years. Set against the backdrop of 72 peaks that tower over 12,000 feet, RMNP is home to four distinct ecosystems, 12,000 years of human history, and over 1.7 billion years of geologic history.

Taking students into the field provides them with real world examples of what they learn in the classroom. The educational programs at Rocky Mountain National Park provide hands-on field experiences that can support and enhance your learning objectives. Each program is based on the real science, history, and/or geography of the area. The dedicated environmental education staff at Rocky Mountain National Park utilize the resources throughout the park to conduct standards-based education programs. These lessons and activities encourage students to engage, explore, and experience in the learning process.

Field Trip Programs

Field trip programs are offered for grades K-12 from January through November. Many programs are offered seasonally. Most programs are limited to a maximum of 60 students per day. The following list of programs is a general selection of what is offered in the field. Programs vary in length and seasonal availability. If you do not see what you are looking for, we can create a program to fit your curriculum. Teaching materials and resources are offered prior to your program to help you prepare students for your visit.

W - Winter	Sp - Spring	Su - Summer	EF - Early Fall	F - Fall	YR - Year Round
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Grades K-2

Adapted for the Weather (F, Su)

Students examine the role that weather plays in the lives of plants and animals in RMNP. Students learn about the different types of weather and discover how plants and animals survive in this dynamic climate.

At Home in the Rocks (F, Sp, Su)

Students inspect the rocky habitat that is home to many plants and animals in RMNP. The students will investigate rocks, animal homes, and plants that live among the rocks.

Community Components (F, Sp, Su)

Students explore an ecological community to discover the living and non-living members within it. The students collect and identify invertebrates, explore a forest, and determine the role that weather plays in the community.

Winter Detectives (W)

Students become winter detectives and search for clues to solve mysteries. Students look for tracks and other evidence of animals, explore which animals make their home in the snow, and discover the subnivean (beneath the snow) world.

Nature Explorers (F, Su, Sp)

Students use their senses to detect what lives in RMNP. The students will look for evidence of what lives in RMNP by the water, in the trees, and on/in the ground.



Grades 3-5

The Story of the Mountains (F, Sp, Su)

Students learn the stories that can be taught from the rocks and landforms found in RMNP. Content covers the rock cycle, mountain building, and glaciation.

The Montane Mission (F, Sp, Su)

The students become secret agents whose mission objective is to infiltrate the Montane network (ecosystem). They investigate what members make up the Montane ecosystem and how they support each other.

The Great Ecosystem Adventure (F, Sp, Su)

Students must navigate through an ecosystem by solving clues to unlock GPS coordinates. At each stop, students learn more about the ecosystem by gathering clues and completing an adventure log.

Nature Detectives (F, Sp, Su)

Students conduct a carnivore scene investigation (CSI), search for signs of life, and look for clues of the adaptive characteristics of plants and animals.

A Trip Back in Time (YR)

Students travel back in time to the 1700s, 1800s, and 1900s to meet some of the people that helped make Rocky Mountain the place it is today.

Mapping Our World (F, Sp, Su)

Students explore how maps can be used to record, collect, and share information about our world. This program incorporates the use of topographical maps, compasses, and GPS technology.

Winter Explorers (W)

Students become explorers and uncover the importance of snow in the subalpine environment. Students discover the challenges animals face, and their adaptations to survive the harsh winter by following animal tracks and searching under the snow.



Classroom Programs

Grades K-2

At Home in My Habitat

Students discover what makes a good home for an animal in RMNP. They find that though habitats can look very different, they all have what the plants and animals need for survival: food, water, shelter and space.

Investigating Invertebrates

Students uncover the tiny and amazing world of invertebrates. Students identify an insect, explore the environment around their school, and learn about the important roles of bugs in our world.

Getting Ready for Winter

Students explore the three strategies that animals have to survive the winter in Colorado: migrating, hibernating and tolerating.

What Rangers Do

Working together, the rangers of Rocky Mountain National Park help to keep the plants, animals, and visitors safe. Students get to dress up as different rangers and learn about each of their jobs.

Grades 3-5

Ecosystems of Rocky Mountain National Park

Students investigate three of the ecosystems found in RMNP. They use the scientific method to help them determine where and why animals live in the park.

Story of the Rocks

Students journey through the rock cycle and unearth how rocks reveal stories about how our earth has changed.

Our National Parks

Students will learn all about The National Park Service and its significance. They will discover the different types of rangers in the park and the tools that they use to protect and preserve resources.

Reservations

Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. We recommend that you call to schedule a program six months before the desired date of the program. Please contact the Education and Outreach office to request a program by calling (970) 586-1338.