Rocky Mountain

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado

Educational Programs - Secondary

National Parks preserve our treasured natural places and provide some of the most amazing outdoor classrooms in the world. Set against the backdrop of 72 peaks that tower over 12,000 feet, Rocky Mountain is home to four distinct ecosystems, 12,000 years of human history, and over 1.7 billion years of geologic history. The environmental educational program at Rocky Mountain National Park provides hands-on field experiences that support and enhance your learning objectives. Our program offers three types of experiences: field trips, classroom presentations, and self-directed park visits. All ranger-led programs are aligned with Colorado State Academic Standards. Programs are free of charge. A park entrance fee waiver is provided once your trip is confirmed.

Reservations

Reservations are made on a first come, first served 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.**

Self-Guided Visits

Many teachers choose to bring their students to Rocky Mountain National Park to enhance their lessons with their own field experience. If you would like to visit the Moraine Park Discovery Center or Fall River Visitor Center during your visit to the park, please schedule your visit in advance through the education office. The facilities capacities are limited and your group will not be able to use them without a reservation. To request an educational entrance fee waiver and learn more about the educational resources available the park, please visit

https://www.nps.gov/romo/learn/education/selfguided.htm

Distance Learning Programs

Discover your National Park without leaving your classroom! The Education and Outreach program at Rocky Mountain National Park offers standards-based educational programs delivered in a virtual setting. All programs are hosted live, enabling students to interact with the ranger, as if the ranger were in the classroom. See program descriptions at:
https://ww.nps.gov/romo/learn/education/learning

Please contact the Education and Outreach Coordinator to request a program at (970) 586-1338. We recommend that you call to schedule a program at least two weeks in advance of your desired program date. Programs are scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Field Trip Programs

Field trip programs are offered for grades 6-12 from January to November. Most programs are limited to a maximum of 60 students per day. All programs are inquiry based and many incorporate the scientific method. Programs are offered seasonally due to weather conditions. 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.

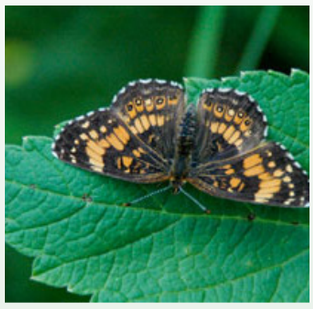
W - Winter **Sp - Spring** **Su - Summer** **EF - Early Fall** **F - Fall** **YR - Year Round**

Aquatic Ecology (Su, EF)

Students survey the riparian ecosystem and collect data on the water quality and invertebrate population to determine the health of the watershed in Rocky Mountain National Park. This program includes a discussion about the watershed and its challenges. Students analyze the health of the watershed in reference to its suitability as habitat for trout.

Alpine Tundra Ecology (Su, EF)

Students explore the alpine tundra ecosystem. They conduct hoop plots to collect data about the identity and density of current tundra plants and animals. After, they consider how scientists are using this information to help plan for the current and future management of this ecosystem in a changing climate.



Elk Ecology and Management (F, Sp, Su)

Students investigate the effects of elk in Rocky Mountain National Park. Students use transect lines to collect data on elk densities and impacts on vegetation in the park, participate in a town hall meeting to debate how the elk should be managed, and learn how the park is currently managing the problem.

Fire Ecology (F, Sp, Su)

Students use the scientific method to investigate how a forest recovers after a fire. To investigate the issue, students look for clues, collect data, and evidence along a transect line, and draw conclusions about the role of fire in the montane ecosystem. They then use their new knowledge to determine how the forest is regenerating.

Snow Science (W)

Students explore the science of snow in this hands-on snowshoe hike. Students learn about the characteristics of snow, dig a snow pit to look at layers, investigate and draw conclusions about the role of snow in Colorado's watersheds and in the subalpine ecosystem. Students learn how this resource may be affected by climate change.

Winter Ecology (W)

Students snowshoe from Bear Lake to investigate how plants and animals survive the winter conditions that exist in the Rocky Mountains. Students look for evidence of life, discuss the survival strategies of animals and plants, and explore how a changing climate might affect animals designed for eight months

Winter Mountain Safety and Survival (W)

Students learn what materials to bring and what skills to know in order to survive a winter worst-case-scenario. They assess avalanche danger, use transceivers to locate a buried "person" and build a snow shelter.

Walk of a Naturalist (YR)

Students meet some of the authors and naturalists that were inspired by and shaped the destiny of Rocky Mountain National Park and other special places. Students read and reflect on writings by the authors, and create their own poem or story using the mountains as their inspiration.

Ecosystem Transects (F, Sp, Su)

Students use transect lines to compare and contrast two of the ecosystems found within the park and identify the characteristics that differentiate one ecosystem from the other.