

Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



Normal programming will not be offered August 24 & 25, see the Bioblitz Newspaper for programs that Friday and Saturday.



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Note: Programs may be cancelled at anytime due to high winds or lightning

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 & snacks. Starts 7/2		4 hour hike	Milner Pass parking lot		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. Ends 8/8		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 8/12		1.5-2 hour hike	Alpine Visitor Center	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.	
High Country Tails - Come learn about amazing alpine animals and what they can tell us about living life on the mountaintops.		30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center			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 8/10		1.5 hour hike	Lily Lake parking lot		2 p.m.				2 p.m.	2 p.m.	
Children's Programs											
Junior Ranger Program - Earn your Junior Ranger badge! Join a ranger for a variety of programs and activities at the Junior Ranger Headquarters. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ends 8/12		30 minute program	Junior Ranger Headquarters at Hidden Valley	10:00 11:30 1:00 2:30							
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 8/17		20-30 minute puppet program	Fall River Visitor Center	10 a.m.						10 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 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ends 8/14		Drop-in program	Fall River Visitor Center			9 a.m. to 1 p.m.					
Wildlife											
Bighorn Basics - Sheep Lakes in Horseshoe Park is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/19		30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Information Station	10:30 a.m. 2 p.m.							
Amazing Beavers - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so.		30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	
All About Elk - Learn about this magnificent animal and its current status in the park. Ends 8/19		1-1.5 hour walk	West Alluvial Fan parking lot	2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Ghost Cats - Seeing a mountain lion is rare. Come learn about the secretive life of lions and other wild cats found in the park. Ends 8/15		30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center			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.		30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center		10:30 a.m.					2:30 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs are simultaneously held at both locations. Starts 9/1		30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes parking lot	6 p.m.							
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	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road	7 a.m.							

Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.-5 p.m., and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during normal business hours. Available in Español (translation headsets available upon request) and English at Beaver Meadows. English only

at Kawuneeche. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history. Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Captioned and Audio Description versions available at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

Walks, Talks, and Hikes			All children must be accompanied by an adult							
		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ranger Rendezvous at Bear Lake - Drop in anytime to talk with the Ranger and learn about the area's wildlife. Ends 8/19		Drop in program	Bear Lake	10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.						9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lumpy Ridge Hike - Explore the history, dramatic views, and diverse ecosystems found in this unique corner of the park on a moderate 2 mile hike.		2-2.5 hour hike	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead			9 a.m.	9 a.m.	9 a.m.		
Life on the Edge - From elk to pikas, forest trees to tiny alpine flowers, park life comes in all shapes and sizes. Discover how this diversity of life is changing. Ends 8/25		30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center				2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.
Navigating Rocky with GPS & 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!		2 hour activity	West Horseshoe Park parking lot			1:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.		
Lily Lake Stroll -Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely lake beneath Longs Peak while exploring the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.		1- 1.5 hour walk	Lily Lake parking lot	10 a.m.	10 a.m.			10 a.m.		10 a.m.
Here Come the Beetles! - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park.		20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.				
Discovering Horseshoe Park - Enjoy a 3/4 mile walk through the Horseshoe Park landscape. Encounter the dynamic forces that created this valley and discover what lives here today.		1 hour walk	West Horseshoe Park parking lot		2:30 p.m.	10 a.m.				
Hot Topics in the Park - Want to hear the very latest news about bear and beetle or other management challenges in the park? Join us for two short movies and a Ranger to answer questions.		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.
Burns, Beetles, & Blooms - As the forest canopy opens big changes occur on the forest floor. Discover the colorful results of changes past and present on this easy hike. Ends 8/9		1 -1.5 hour walk	Wild Basin Trailhead				9 a.m.	9 a.m.		
Critter Clues - Put your detective skills to the test, uncover clues, and learn about the animals that call Upper Beaver Meadows home. Ends 8/18		1 -1.5 hour	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road			3 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.
Evening Programs										
Aspenglen Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.		45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground Amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/26	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/27	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/28	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/29	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/30	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/31	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-9/1
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Through Artist Eyes: Program given by the park's Artist-In-Residence every Wednesday. This programs ends August 22 Science Behind the Scenery: Program given by a different park researcher each Tuesday. This program ends August 21		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.
Moraine Park Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.		45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground Amphitheater	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/27	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/28	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/29	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/30	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/31	7:30 p.m.
Night Sky Programs										
Astronomy in the Park - Join a park ranger and local astronomers to discover the magic of the night sky. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.		1/2 hour program followed by viewing	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road	8:30 p.m. June 29 8:15 p.m. July 13 & 27 8 p.m. August 10 & 24 All Astronomy in the Park Programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.						
Stories Behind the Moon & Stars - The night sky comes alive through storytelling and fun activities. Celebrate darkness at the Estes Park Memorial Observatory. The observatory is located at 1600 Manford Avenue near the Estes Park High School and Stanley Park Fairgrounds. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.		1-1.5 hour activity	Estes Park Memorial Observatory	8:30 p.m. June 22 8:15 p.m. July 6 & 20 8 p.m. August 3 All Stories Behind the Moon & Stars Programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.						



Essentials to Wear and Carry

- Lots of water
- High-energy food
- Layers of clothing (jackets & pants), including insulating, windproof clothing like synthetic or wool
- Sturdy footwear & extra socks
- Storm gear
- Hat and gloves
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Topographic map & compass/GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waterproof matches
- Pocket knife
- Whistle
- Common sense!

Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side



Normal programming will not be offered August 24 & 25, see the Bioblitz Newspaper for programs that Friday and Saturday.



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Note: Programs may be cancelled at anytime due to high winds or lightning

Walks and Hikes	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Beyond The Falls - Join a ranger for a stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. One-mile round trip.	1.5 hour program	East Inlet Trailhead			6:30 p.m. 7/2 -8/6				10 a.m. 8/18 -9/1	
Wilderness Connections - Take a moderate hike with a ranger on a brand new section of the Continental Divide Trail featuring a lovely meadow along the Onahu River.	1.5 to 2 hours 2 miles	Onahu Trailhead						9:30 a.m.		
Hike Through History - Hike along the Colorado 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.			
Mountain Wildflowers - Lovely montane flowers have amazing adaptations. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends 8/10	2 hour walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole			2 p.m. Starts 7/3			2 p.m. Starts 6/22		
Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Sundays only after 8/14	1 hour walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead	10 a.m.		7 p.m. 7/3-8/14					
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about Native Americans, 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				2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.	
A Glimpse of Paradise - This easy 3-mile round trip hike passes Adams Falls and leads to spectacular views of mountains surrounding the meadows of the East Inlet. 7/1 to 8/12	2.5 hour walk	East Inlet Trailhead	9:30 a.m.							
The Long and the Short - Visit a research enclosure to learn about elk, moose, and beaver. Starts 6/24	1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead	2:30 p.m.							
Children's Programs										
A Walk Backwards - Step back in time and experience life on a 1920s dude ranch...chores, games, period costumes. For children 6-12. Registration required at Kawuneeche Visitor Center or (970)627-3471. Ends 8/10	2 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						9:45 a.m.		
Come Bug a Ranger - Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. Ends 8/8	1 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10:30 a.m.				
Web Walkers - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. Ends 8/21	1 hour activity	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10 a.m.				10 a.m.	
Junior Ranger Program - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. 6/20 to 8/17	1 hour program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	
Talks & Activities										
Ranger's Flyfishing School - Learn about the park's fish management program, stream ecology, and flycasting. Bring your flyfishing gear or borrow the ranger's. Ends 8/13	3 hour activity	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater		8:30 a.m.					8:30 a.m.	
Holzwarth Historic Site - 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							
Skins and Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.	40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	
Exploring with a Camera - Join a ranger for a photography walk. Focus on composition, light, and basic tips to improve your pictures. Ends 8/2	1-1.5 hour activity	Timber Lake Trailhead					3 p.m.			
The Colorado: Secrets At The Source - This film tells the magnificent story of the Colorado River which flows through some of America's most dramatic high country and canyon country.	50 minutes	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.	
Behind the Scenes - 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			10:30 a.m. starts 7/3	10:30 a.m. starts 6/27	10:30 a.m. starts 6/21	10:30 a.m. starts 6/22		
Sisters of Courage - 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 activity	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		1 p.m.						

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Evening Programs



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Old Ranch Campfire Stories - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Dress warmly. Ends 8/10



2 hours, 1 mile walk

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

7 p.m.

Saturday Night in the Park - 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.

Walk Into Twilight - Enjoy a leisurely stroll as darkness, night sounds and wildlife fill the valley. Bring warm clothes, good hiking shoes, and a flashlight. 6/24 to 8/8

2 hour walk

Onahu Creek Trailhead

8 p.m. Ends 7/29

8 p.m.
6/27 - 7/25
7:30 p.m.
8/1 - 8/8

Timber Creek Evening Program - 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.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

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8/12 - 9/3

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

Celestial Wilderness - 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 8/16

1-1.5 hour activity

Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center

9:15 p.m.
June
9:00 p.m.
July
8:45 p.m.
August

Junior Ranger

Hey, Kids! Come To The Junior Ranger Headquarters!

This summer, there is a place just for you – the Junior Ranger Headquarters located at Hidden Valley along Trail Ridge Road. Join a program and get started or complete your Junior Ranger Book. The Rocky Junior Ranger programs are offered for kids ages 6 to 12, from June 17 – August 12, several times a day, 7 days a week! The activities are created and presented with a young person's level of learning and interest in mind. The programs are free. Parents and adults, please remember - you must be present for your children to participate.



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

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!



Headquarters is open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily.

Jr. Ranger Programs are at 10, 11:30, 1:00 & 2:30 daily.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help us make it even better!

Become a Member or donate today! www.rmna.org

If you've walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center, or introduced a child to nature through the park's Junior Ranger Program, you know our work.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association Supporting the park since 1931.

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.

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LEARN AND EXPLORE!

An Experience Like None Other...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



www.rmna.org

Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure (all ages)

Every Wednesday and Thursday June 13 - September 6, 2012

Lily Lake Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure (kids 9-13)

June 26; July 10, 24; August 7

Secret Places in RMNP (adults) June 29; July 20; August 17

Night Creatures & Evening Adaptation (adults) August 2

Finding Fine Art in Nature Photography (adults) August 9-11

When Ice Ruled the Park (adults) August 25

Sketchbook Journaling (adults) August 13-14



Ask at any park visitor center for more information. Or, call 970-586-3262

Park Bookstores

At RMNA Bookstores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference

A premier selection of Rocky Mountain National Park books, maps and other interesting items can be found right here at one of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) bookstores located in park visitor centers. When you make a purchase from our non-profit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational, interpretive and research programs.

Drop by today.

Visit the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstores at:

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center • Alpine Visitor Center
Moraine Park Visitor Center • Fall River Visitor Center
Kawuneeche Visitor Center