

# Check Out Colorado State Parks



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Check Out Colorado State Parks program is an innovative library loan program. It is an inter-agency partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Colorado Department of Education State Library and local libraries. Patrons can check out a backpack from the library and use it to explore Colorado's state parks. Over 300 libraries are participating in the program, including all of Colorado's public libraries, its three military base libraries and its publically funded academic libraries.



### The program goals are to:

- Provide engaging nature education and experiences;
- Increase awareness of Colorado's State Parks; and,
- Offer new library services.

Each library has a promotion display for the program and one or two adventure backpacks for check out. The libraries may also add additional items to their backpacks based on their specific locations and resources. Each backpack contains the following:



- State Park Pass for free park entry (hang tag)
  - *Your Guide to Colorado's State Parks*
  - *Leave No Trace™* - Outdoor Ethics card
  - *Colorado Trees and Wildflower Guide*
  - *Colorado Wildlife Guide*
  - *Colorado Bird Guide*
  - *Night Sky Guide*
  - Set of binoculars
  - Activity ideas list
  - Fishing Basics instruction sheet
  - Program evaluation form
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- Library patrons may check out the free pass and backpack for up to 7 days and visit any state park of their choice.
  - Patrons can also visit more than one state park while they have the pass and backpack.
  - The library may check out the backpack and pass based on their own library policies (i.e. patrons may reserve the backpack and pass or libraries may have it available first come, first served).
  - The pass permits one vehicle and it's passengers into the state park. However, it does not provide discounts for camping, programs or other licenses needed while at the park.
  - The patron may be charged a late fee for late returns or a replacement fee if lost or damaged.
  - The library staff and park managers may also collaborate on additional educational programs.

Patrons are encouraged to share their experience and post their park photos to social media sites, tagged:

**#CheckOutColorado**