

Young Naturalist Activities



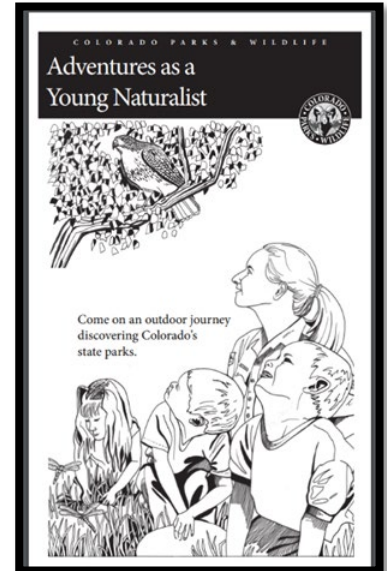
SELF-GUIDED IDEAS FOR OUTDOOR EXPLORATION

Utilize these fun and interactive activities on your own or with Colorado Parks and Wildlife's *Adventures as a Young Naturalist* activity book found at your Colorado State Parks or by calling 303.291.7355. *Be sure to send us photos of your outdoor explorations @COParksWildlife #lifelifeoutsideCO*

Before heading out on your naturalist adventure, be sure to bring:

- Sunscreen
- Water
- Hat & sunglasses
- Park map*
- Binoculars*
- ID guides*
- Snacks
- Comfortable, closed-toe shoes
- Raincoat/jacket
- Nature journal
- Magnifying lens*

**Items provided free for use in Colorado State Parks' Adventure Backpacks when available for checkout*



Colors of the Rainbow and Nature Shapes

Finding Art in Nature: Use your senses to discover nature's secrets.

Go on a nature scavenger hunt and record what you find in your nature journal.

- Look around you – in nature, you are surrounded by all kinds of shapes and colors! What colors do you see? What shapes?
- Listen to the music of nature's orchestra – who do you hear? How does it sound?
- What can you safely smell and touch? What do you smell? What did you touch and how did it feel?
- What wonderings/questions do you have about what you see/hear?

Mallard Duck

A Bird's Eye View: Explore high and low for the birds that call this area home. Birding is an easy and fun way to explore nature. Grab a bird ID book and binoculars (if you have them), and go for a bird walk.

- What birds do you see? What do they look and sound like?
- Where do you see them?
- What are they doing?

Record what you find and note any wonderings/questions you might have in your nature journal. Make sure to draw pictures of what you see!

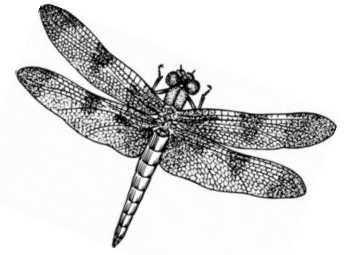


Trout

Water is Life: From puddles to wetlands, from rivers to lakes, all living things need water.

Find a source of water and explore:

- What animals do you see? Watch for fish – how many did you see? What are they doing?
- Did you see animal tracks? Try to identify them!
- If it's safe, lift up a few rocks in the water – do you see any small insects? They might be food for fish!



Record what you find and note any wonderings/questions you might have in your nature journal. Make sure to draw pictures of what you see, especially fish!

***If you cannot see any water, find a shady spot to write a story/poem or draw a picture of why water is important to plants, animals, and people.*

Mini-World at Your Feet

Small Wonders: All living things depend on the life under our feet.

Grab a magnifying lens and hit the ground to explore the world of mini-critters at your feet!

- Try looking at different areas and comparing what you see.
- Safely look under rocks and near dead logs – what do you notice?
- What plants are growing here? What bugs, spiders or other critters do you see?

Record what you find and note any wonderings/questions you might have in your nature journal. Make sure to draw your favorite mini-critter!

Wildlife at Home

Home is Where the Habitat is: All animals need food, water, shelter, and proper space to survive.

Go for a nature walk and see how many different animal homes you can find. Don't forget to look both up and down! Record what you find and note any wonderings you might have in your nature journal.

- What do you notice about the animal's home?
- Who might live there?
- Where is it located? Why do they live there?
- How is your home similar? How is it different?



Be sure to Leave No Trace when adventuring outdoors!

- * Be Prepared
- * Stay on Trail
- * Trash Your Trash
- * Leave What You Find
- * Be Careful with Fire
- * Keep Wildlife Wild
- * Be Kind to Others

