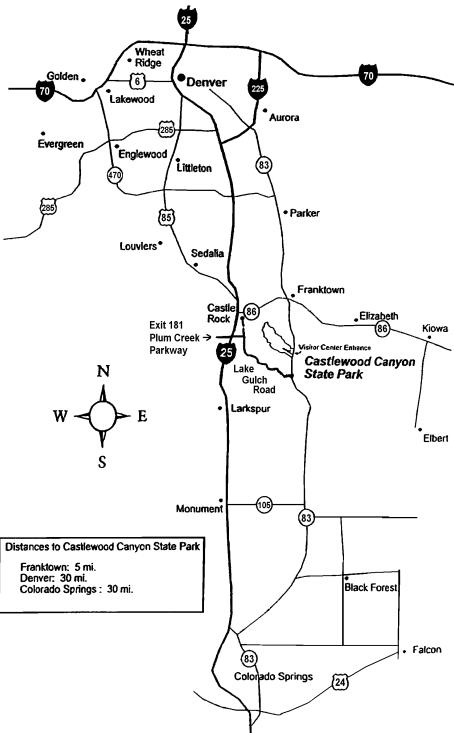


Field Trip Check-List

To help ensure an enjoyable trip to the park, please remember the following:

- Money for entrance fee (please remember to inform parents coming in their own vehicles that they too are subject to the entrance fee.)
- At least one adult chaperone for every ten students.
- Name tags.
- Closed-toed hiking shoes—no sandals!
- Water for every student—no exceptions! You will be hiking two miles!
- Hats and/or sunscreen.
- Jeans or long pants to protect against thorny plants, poison ivy, and ticks.
- Raincoats/jackets are encouraged in case weather is uncooperative.



CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

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CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

Environmental Education Programs



Photo by Laree Weaver

"That which can best be learned inside the classroom should be learned there; and that which can best be learned through direct experience outside the classroom, in contact with native materials and life situations, should be learned there."

-L.B. Sharp, 1947

Here's the Scoop!

When can I schedule my field trip?

Reservations must be made at least one month in advance. Due to the increased demand for our programs, it is better to schedule spring field trips the previous fall, and fall field trips the previous spring.

How many students can I bring?

Programs can be done for as few as six or as many as 60. We ask that you provide one adult chaperone for every five students. If you have more than 60 students, you will need to schedule your group on multiple days.

Is there a fee for programs?

The only fee associated with bringing groups for a program is the State Parks' entrance fee. For personal vehicles, schools,



School group enjoying a day on the trail.

and non-profit organizations, the fee is \$7.00 per vehicle. For vans/buses operated by commercial businesses, the fee is based on number of passengers (1-15: \$10.00, 16-30: \$40.00, 31+: \$50.00).

Is the park ADA accessible?

The Visitor Center, picnic shelters, and restrooms are accessible. The Canyon View Nature Trail is a mile-long trail that is fully accessible. Notify staff when making a reservation if you have students with special needs.

What if the weather is bad?

All of our programs are designed to be outdoors. Generally, we will let the school make the decision to cancel. The park will make the decision when

there is a safety issue, such as lightening, or students that are dressed inappropriately for the weather.

Can we eat lunch in the park?

There are two options on lunch facilities in the park. You can rent a group picnic shelter. The fee for this varies from \$75 to \$150. Please request additional information on renting these facilities. Individual picnic tables are available on a first-come-first-served basis for no additional fee. Please leave any areas that you use cleaner than you found them.

Menu of Naturalist Guided Programs

Cycles Go Round

Recommended for: PreK – 3rd grades

Length: 2 ½ hours

Nature is constantly recycling and reusing. Students will discover how water, minerals and nutrients travel through the many circles (or cycles) found in nature. Close observation will reveal what is living and what is not. We'll get down with the Water Cycle Boogie and sprout branches as we act out the Tree Life Cycle.

Home Sweet Habitat

Recommended for: 3rd – 6th grades

Length: 2 ½ hours

Who calls Castlewood Canyon home?

Students will explore the different types of wildlife habitat found in the park. They will also learn the basic components of habitat as they "bid" for habitat real estate plots for specific animals.

Rock -n- Roll

Recommended for: 3rd – 8th grades

Length: 2 ½ hours

Become a rock detective and search for the three types of rocks and most common minerals at Castlewood. Uncover clues that tell us how the canyon formed. Examine the geologic forces that are still at work shaping the canyon today.

Cherokee Trail

Recommended for: 3rd – 6th grades

Length: 2 ½ hours

Join a wagon train traversing the Cherokee Trail in hopes of staking your own homestead claim on the western frontier. Discover the daily calamities that befell pioneers as you struggle to beat the odds. We will also explore local history first-hand as we hike to the ruins of the dam along the shores of what was once the Castlewood Reservoir.

Webs of Life

Recommended for: 3rd – 6th grades

Length: 2 ½ hours

Discover the four different ecosystems of Castlewood. We will exercise our powers of observation while we examine the building blocks of each of the ecosystems and learn how they are interdependent.

Skins & Skulls

Recommended for: All ages

Length: 45 minutes

Meet the wild animals of Castlewood Canyon, up-close and personal! Discover how they are each uniquely adapted to fulfill their job (or niche) in the ecosystem. This program does not include a hike will be presented at the Group Picnic Areas or Visitor Center depending on the group size.

Self-Guided Groups

Groups who plan to visit the park are required to make reservations at least one month in advance, whether or not you enlist the aid of our naturalists.

Why? We want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable and educational. Priority is given to groups that have reservations. If you arrive without reservations, there may not be enough facilities to accommodate everyone. The visitor center or slide show may not be available. With crowding on the trails, teachers have to compete with other groups for their student's attention. Reservations also allow us to minimize human impacts on our natural resources. If the park has reached capacity, your group may be denied entry.