

Mueller State Park Programs



Always hike with a map, water, and weather protection

March Park Updates: There is still a lot of snow at Mueller. The maintenance team, our backcountry resource tech., rangers, and VC staff and volunteers have been working hard to make the park a great place to be this time of year. So if you see a staff member, say thank you! Continue to come prepared with crampons, layers of clothes, water, and snacks. Check in at the visitor center for updates on trail and ski track conditions.

March into Spring Challenge!

We know this time of year can sometimes lead to the winter blues, which means it is even more important to get outside and stay active! For the entire month of March, Mueller is hosting the March Into Spring Challenge! For this challenge, participants will track their hours spent and miles hiked, snowshoed, or skied at the park. Starting March 1, come to the Visitor Center and ask the front desk for a challenge form for you to take home and track your hours and miles. COTREX is a great, free app you can use to track mileage. Note: Fat bike users can participate, but only their hours, not miles will be counted. Bring your completed form back to the Visitor Center by Wednesday, April 3. The participants who spent the most time at the park or hiked the most miles will win a prize! Two winners will be announced on Friday, April 5. So get on the trails and march into Spring at Mueller!

Saturday, March 2: Dr. Seuss Day

Visitor Center 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Bring the kiddos to the Visitor Center auditorium to celebrate a day of reading! There will be a variety of children's books on topics related to animals, nature, and spending time outdoors. Kids can read with family members, to each other, or to stuffed animals. At 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. there will be a group story time with a reading of a Dr. Seuss book.

Monday, March 25: Skins & Skulls

Visitor Center 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Come learn about Colorado native species by getting to touch and feel their pelts and skulls. Why would moose hair feel different from deer? Touch both and find out! Also discover how to tell if an animal is a predator, omnivore, or herbivore by looking at their skulls.

Tuesday, March 26: Nature Bingo

Visitor Center 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Test your luck at classic BINGO, but instead of hoping to have a certain number called, you will be hoping for certain animals! Take a hike in the morning, enjoy lunch, then end a great day at the park with a fun game of Nature Bingo!

Wednesday, March 27: All About Owls

Visitor Center 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Have you ever heard the flap of an owl wing, felt the sharp prick of their talons, or dissected an owl pellet to see what they ate for dinner? If not, this is your chance! Only 10 spots available. Please call the Visitor Center to register at 719-687-2366.

Friday, March 29: Mueller Scavenger Hunt

Start at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring your family to Mueller to participate in the Mueller Scavenger Hunt! There will be handouts at the Visitor Center with things to find. Work together or split into teams to search for animal tracks, signs of Spring, critters, and other elements of nature. This is a self paced scavenger hunt. Bring your completed handout back to the Visitor Center by 2 p.m. for a sweet surPRIZE!

Saturday, March 30: Hug A Tree

Visitor Center 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Learn the basics of surviving outside in this active program! All participants will go home with a feeling of accomplishment and their own survival items. Best for ages 3+.

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School Programs!

There is a new education coordinator at

Mueller. Hi all! My name is Anna Miller and I have accepted the position of Education and Volunteer Coordinator at Mueller after my predecessor, Linda Groat, retired. Linda worked hard to build relationships with the schools and create programs applicable to the state standards that are engaging and fun for kids! I hope to continue on this path and welcome any ideas or feedback you may have on how Mueller can be a beneficial school partner. The programs below are only some of the programs we can offer in schools or at the park. If these programs don't quite seem like the right fit, give me a call! I'm happy to work with you to create a specific program to fit your needs.

Mueller State Park's environmental education programs are an exciting and fun way to engage your students in the world around them! Through science-based exploration and hands-on activities, the students will gain understanding of the natural world. Mueller makes a great outdoor classroom with a healthy montane ecosystem and abundant wildlife. These programs address Colorado Academic Standards.

The following is a list of popular programs. Custom designed programs are also available upon request. Some programs are best on a field trip to the park; others may be available to come to your school or classroom. Some programs are also only available at certain times of the year. If you would like to plan a field trip or in class program, but don't know where to start, please call! We can brainstorm ideas together based on your curriculum and available resources.

There is no fee for any program. The only associated cost is that a park pass is required per vehicle that enters the park.

Grant funds – A high priority for the Friends of Mueller State Park is to bring students to Mueller State Park. Each year, there is a limited amount of funding for buses to bring your kids here. Please ask!

Nature Hike

K-12th (1-2 hours)

On this guided walk, through one or more of Mueller's ecosystems, students will observe and discuss adaptations of the plants and animals they encounter along the trail. May include a focus on ecosystems, life zones, animals getting ready for winter or topic by request.

Colorado Mammals

K-12th (45 min -1 hour)

Students will learn to identify wildlife species from their furs and be able to distinguish omnivores, carnivores and herbivores by studying skulls and dental traits. Students will also be able to interpret an animal's abilities from its skull features.

Pond Safari

K-12th (1-1 1/2 hours)

Students will explore pond water to learn about food webs and aquatic ecosystems. Using magnifiers and visual aids, students will identify *common macro-invertebrates* and observe their behaviors. Older grades can take a look at water chemistry.

Wild Turkeys – (almost our National Emblem!)

K-8th (45 minutes or more hours, indoors)

Learn about toms, hens, waddles and beards! Choose show and tell all about turkeys, a survival game for K-2, or a timeline building activity for middle school on the history of turkeys, illustrating the effect on wildlife with westward expansion in the U.S. and need for conservation leading to today. Fun and educational way to celebrate Thanksgiving!

Owl Pellets

3rd-8th (1+ hour)

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Learn adaptations of owls as successful predators. Dissect owl pellets to discover what they ate! Compare rodent bones found in the pellets to our bones in our bodies!

Quick Frozen Critters

K-8th (45 minutes-1 hour)

Very active predator/prey game to illustrate animal adaptations and food chains. Kids love it!

Basic GPS & Geocaching

4th-8th (1-2 hours)

Students will learn about latitude and longitude and how a GPS unit works. Students will use a GPS unit to locate waypoints. May include identifying plants of the montane life zone or evidence of wildlife.

Where In The World Are We?

5th-8th (~3 hours)

Through three activities, students will discover this amazing landscape called Colorado and our place on this continent! Will include a hike focused on life zones and the plants and animals of the three local zones. Learn about latitude, longitude and satellites along with how to use a GPS. Discover the "Shape of Colorado" in a mountain-building geography activity to learn about the Continental Divide, major cities and rivers, elevations throughout North America and watersheds born in Colorado.

Archery

5th-12th (1-2 hours)

Learn the basics of archery and get to practice with one-on-one instruction and supervision.

Fly Fishing

5th-12th (2 hour min)

Learn the art of fly-fishing and try it out on our pond.

Bears!

K-8th (30 minutes-1 hour)

Learn about Black Bears in Colorado. See skins, skull, track and other items. Learn what to do if you see a bear. Can include a game called "How Many Bears Can Live in the Forest?"

Birds!

K-12th (45 minutes or more)

Choose from a number of activities all about birds and migration!

"Mueller Bird Box" Learn about birds with our collection of feathers, eggs, nests, etc.

"5th Grade Bird Kit" Learn about local birds through activities using reading comprehension, math, measuring and more!

"The Great Migration Challenge" is an active game where students work their way through stations to learn about the successes and hazards of migration.

Winter Ecology Activities

4th-12th (1 or more hours)

From a complex predator/prey game that includes energy and survival factors, to measuring the insulative properties of snow, to learning about snow crystals, there are several activities to choose from here.

Tree Detectives

3rd-8th (1-1 1/2 hours)

Students will compare and contrast characteristics of different trees and identify the most common ones in Mueller's montane ecosystem. Focus on observation, classifying and plant adaptations. May include the life cycle of trees, plants, or study of tree rings.

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