

# Free Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

## Alpine



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**Alpine Aspects** - Discover the survival strategies tundra plants and animals use to live in gale-force winds, driving snow and a severely short summer. Ends 10/11



30 minute talk Alpine Visitor Center 2 p.m. 2 p.m.

## Daytime Programs - East

**Autumn Bird Walk** - Join a ranger in search of fall migrants in an excellent birding area. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Ends 10/11

1.5 hour walk Upper Beaver Meadows 8 a.m. 8 a.m. 8 a.m.

**Tyndall Gorge Walk** - Explore the breathtaking glacial landscape and lush subalpine forests above Bear Lake on this moderate hike. Ends 9/25

1.5 hour walk Bear Lake parking lot 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

**Moraine Park Nature Walk** - Discover what lives and grows around Moraine Park Visitor Center. Ends 10/11

1 hour walk Moraine Park Visitor Center 10 a.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m.

**Portraits of the Past** - Moraine Park was once a thriving community of early-day ranchers, inn-keepers and influential residents. Join a park ranger on this walk for a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us. Meet at the Moraine Park Visitor Center. Ends 10/11

45-60 minute walk Moraine Park Visitor Center 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.

**Bear Necessities** - The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain...to see this terrific program. Join a ranger to learn all about black bears. Ends 10/11



20-30 minute talk Fall River Visitor Center 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 11 a.m.

**Bear Lake Stroll** - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. Ends 10/11

1 hour stroll Bear Lake parking lot 1:30 p.m. 10 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.

**Amazing Beavers** - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so. See their work first hand. Ends 10/11



1 hour talk Sprague Lake Picnic Area 2 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m.

**All About Autumn** - Find out what the wildlife and plants are up to during this changing time of year. Ends 10/11



1-1.5 hour walk Lily Lake 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 9:30 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. Ends 10/11



20-30 minute talk Moraine Park Visitor Center 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.

**Skins and Skulls** - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Great program for children.



20-30 minute talk Beaver Meadows Visitor Center 3 p.m. 3 p.m.

**Elk Echoes** - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs held simultaneously at both locations. Ends 10/11



Sheep Lakes Only

30 minute talk Sheep Lakes Parking Lot & Moraine Park VC Amphitheater 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 6 p.m.

## Evening Programs - East

**Beaver Meadows Evening Program** Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs.

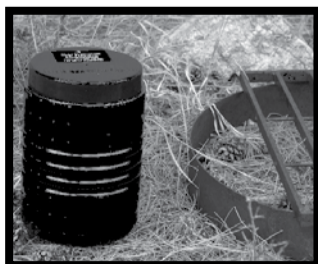


45 minute talk Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium 7 p.m. 9/8 ONLY Artist Night 7 p.m.

## Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. The administrative permit fee is \$20 per trip from May 1 to October 31. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242.

For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out food storage canisters are required of backcountry campers in the park. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.



**Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite.** Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



## Junior Rangers



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](mailto: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!

# Free Ranger Programs - West Side



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## Walks and Hikes

		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>HEADWATER HABITATS</b> - Discover plants and animals that live just downstream from the start of the Colorado River. Ends 9/30		1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead		2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.		
<b>Coyote Valley River Walk</b> - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Sundays only in October. Ends 10/10		1 hour walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead	2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.			
<b>Skins and Things</b> - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Weekends only in October. Ends 10/10		40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<b>YOUNG AGAIN!</b> The trees are dying and the forest is becoming young again. Come see! Saturdays only in October. Ends 10/9		1.25 hour program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center			2:30 p.m. Sept.				2:30 p.m.
<b>BEYOND THE FALLS</b> - Join a ranger for a stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. One mile round trip. Ends 9/24		1.5 hour program	East Inlet Trailhead						2:30 p.m.	
<b>Evening Programs - West</b>										
<b>Timber Creek Campground Evening Program</b> - Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. Ends 9/30		1 hour presentation	Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
<b>Saturday Night in the Park</b> - 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. 9/11 & 10/9

## Special Programs

**Elk Day, Holzwarth Historic Site Picnic Area**  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 18 only



Learn all about these bugling beauties in a special day of elk activities. Rangers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holzwarth Historic Site picnic area with fun family activities to share. Please drop in! Program will move to the Kawuneeche Visitor Center if inclement weather occurs.

## “Not Much of a Fence”

“Won’t keep much in with that.” The park visitor from the Midwest was studying the fenced area by the Alluvial Fan. And he was right. It won’t keep much in. Or out. And that’s the intent – for these fences, surrounding areas each about 30 acres in size, are more like sieves than fences – designed to let most animals, including us, freely move in and out. The exceptions? Mostly elk, and the occasional moose, are excluded from these habitat restoration areas along the park’s streams in Horseshoe Park, Upper Beaver Meadows, and Moraine Park.

These temporarily fenced areas were established to allow the recovery of riparian (streamside) vegetation such as willows, and to restore the habitat value for riparian-dependant wildlife species. Areas inside the woven-wire “sieves” have been altered to unnatural conditions through years and years of over-browsing and trampling by our unnaturally dense elk population, making them unsuitable for riparian-dependent species such as beaver, Wilson’s warbler, Lincoln’s sparrow, and altering the streams to be less than ideal habitat for trout. As the habitat values inside the fences are restored, the design allows their easy removal, perhaps to be moved to another area needing restoration. Visitors are encouraged to look at the differences in vegetation inside and outside these areas to judge for themselves how well it’s working.



Elk enclosure fence



## Family-Friendly Trails

Tight on time? Try one of these short walks in Rocky Mountain National Park. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. All have educational brochures or signs. Pets are not permitted on any park trails.

### On the West Side

- Coyote Valley Trail
- Lulu City/Colorado River Trail
- Holzwarth Historic Site

### On the East Side

- Sprague Lake
- Moraine Park Museum Nature Trail
- Lily Lake
- Bear Lake Nature Trail (partially accessible)
- Alluvial Fan
- Forest Canyon Overlook Trail
- Tundra Communities Trail at Rock Cut