

# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2016

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado State Library, provides 287 Colorado libraries with two park passes and adventure backpacks filled with information and educational activities. Patrons of participating public, military, and academic libraries can check out a backpack for a week at a time to visit state parks for free. Between June and November 2016, 720 patrons completed a survey about their experience with the program:

**Based on their experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, patrons are likely to:**

Recommend a visit to a state park (97%). Buy a day pass to visit a state park (77%). Buy an annual pass to state parks (54%).

**Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.**

85% of patrons agreed to the statement, "This park experience helped us learn more about nature."

94% of patrons agreed to the statement, "The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer."

**Stories from patrons and libraries:**

"The parks pass from my library encouraged me to visit a park that, although it is less than an hour from where I live, I had never been before. The park was absolutely gorgeous, the rangers knowledgeable and kind, and the all-around experience excellent. I cannot recommend this program enough!"

"The pass is wonderful and a great idea for any family unable to afford much of anything. We do plan on buying a pass as soon as it is in the budget."

"We made it our goal to visit as many new parks as we could with this pass. We learned [about] so many new parks as a result of this experience and we highly recommended Eldorado to friends...as well as the pass."

"We got to walk the trails and tried to identify as many wildlife as we could, also it was nice for a single mom to be able to enjoy outdoor fun with the kids."

"I didn't know anything about the kids programs some of the state parks offer. We are new to USA. I'm looking forward to the education programs about wild animals. My kids will love it, and so will I. So important to know these things."

"It was a family excursion to the great outdoors, yet still close to home. The information provided in the backpacks, along with the binoculars excited the younger children. They were able to pick out a bald eagle and zoom in on it, there were smiles all around."

There were approximately 3,960 backpack checkouts in the first 6 months. That's 165 checkouts per week!

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