

# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2017

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 297 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. In 2017, 806 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 (98%). Buy a day pass to visit a state park (76%). Buy an annual pass to state parks (55%).

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

83% 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:

"Thank you for this wonderful backpack of information and goodies. My husband and I loved learning and experiencing our closest state park. Now we will buy a pass and travel to other state parks. This pack is a fabulous tool to get people out in our beautiful natural surroundings!"

"I would definitely use a parks pass often, but \$70/year is outside of my budget. I'm thankful the library has things like this and the adventure pass to help me enjoy CO anyway. I tell people about these programs all the time!"

"We had forgotten [what] a lovely park Lathrop is, and had not bothered to take the 12 mile car trip there to hike. We will be buying an annual pass and visiting a lot this year. Thank you, Colorado Parks & La Veta Library."

"My son loves to explore. I am trying to foster that with both him and my daughter. We used the

guides for trees and shrubs and for animals to identify many things we saw. It was fun to watch the wonder in their eyes."

"I really appreciated having the pass from the library...We shared the fact that we checked out the pass & other items in the backpack with a couple we met on the gondola. They were astonished this was available & eager to ask Denver libraries about the backpack"

"Thank you for this great opportunity! We feel that this is a wonderful program to acquaint people with [what] state parks and libraries have to offer. We found the booklets extremely helpful and our grandchildren especially loved identifying species of birds, wildlife and plants with the binoculars. We would really like to explore parks further from our home. We are saving to purchase an annual pass."

There were approximately 6,980 backpack checkouts in one year. That's 134 checkouts per week!

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