

Check Out Colorado State Parks 2020

Check Out Colorado State Parks (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 2020, state parks were closed from March 26 until May 12, when a gradual reopening of campgrounds began. However, people were still urged to avoid unnecessary travel for much of the year. Due to the extreme nature of the 2020 pandemic, many libraries were closed for a portion of the year or offering limited services. Only 137 patrons completed a survey about their park experience.

Activities patrons participated in while at the park:

- 63% reported participating in trail and/or road activities.
- 28% reported participating in water-based activities.
- 7% reported participating in winter activities.
- 37% reported participating in wildlife-related activities.

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

Recommend a visit to a state park (99%). Buy a day pass to visit a state park (78%). Buy an annual pass to state parks (53%).

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

80% of patrons agreed to the statement, "This park experience helped us learn more about nature."

89% 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:

"I am going to purchase an annual pass on Earth Day 4/22/21. I am newly retired and born in Colorado. I intend to visit as many state parks as possible this year."

"I really wanted a way to get out of town for a lovely weekend. This pass helped me do that. Mueller was gorgeous, the sun was bright, the breeze strong, and the people few. Thank you"

"Great pack with all the information to enjoy the outdoors (wildlife, birds, etc.). Parks have just about anything for the beginner to experienced person. Bathrooms,

camping sites, trails with all the beautiful views not seen before. Great for families with kids to get out and see. Five star rating."

There were approximately 1,527 backpack checkouts in one year. That's more than 29 checkouts per week!

The author of this report is Leah Breevoort, Research Assistant. Questions can be sent to lrs@lrs.org. The document ID is ED3/110.10/No. 358.

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