

Check Out Colorado State Parks 2021

Check Out Colorado State Parks, the result of a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado State Library, provides 307 Colorado libraries with 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. While backpack circulation was down due to the continuing pandemic, this program provided critical access to nature for many during 2021. 397 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.
- 37% reported participating in water-based activities.
- 7% reported fishing.
- 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 (80%). Buy an annual pass to state parks (60%).

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

81% of patrons agreed to the statement, "This park experience helped us learn more about nature."

92% 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:

"Enables we seniors to walk/fish in the fresh air and avoid the COVID threat. We could not afford

to do so otherwise.”

“This was my first visit to each of these parks after living here nearly 20 years. Thank you for the library pass access. I loved both of these parks and will visit again!”

“We were able to access the boat ramp to tube the Colorado River! We saw herons and enjoyed the water. We also walked our dogs around the lake. Amazing program! We would not have gone without this.”

“This pass allows my family access to the State Parks on our unusual school year! Thanks for an opportunity to hike in January--that was a first for us! We hope you'll continue this program.”

There were approximately 6,915 backpack checkouts in one year. That's more than 133 checkouts per week!

The author of this report is Beth Crist, Youth Services Consultant. Questions can be sent to lrs@lrs.org. The document ID is ED3/110.10/No. 360.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Learn more by visiting [Colorado Parks and Wildlife's library backpack webpage](#).
