Check Out Colorado State Parks 2021

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 307 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. 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:
- Trail/road activities 63%
- Water-based activities 37%
- Fishing 7%
- Wildlife-related activities 37%

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:
- This park experience helped us learn more about nature: 81% agree
- The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer: 92% agree

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

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