

Check Out Colorado State Parks 2022

Check Out Colorado State Parks, the result of a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado State Library, provides 308 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. This program provided critical access to nature for many during 2022. In 2022, 356 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.
- 32% reported participating in water-based activities.
- 9% reported fishing
- 29% 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 (98%). Buy a day pass to visit a state park (75%). Buy an annual pass to state parks (63%).

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

81% of patrons agreed to the statement, "This park experience helped me/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:

"This program has been really well received in our community, allowing access and opportunity for everyone to get out and enjoy the beauty of Colorado."

“Our patrons love this program and the passes are always in high demand... I also love seeing our patrons’ faces light up when they first learn of the program and that they can visit a Colorado state park for free.”

“In a region where access to public lands has been seriously limited due to the ongoing impact of a major wildfire a few years ago, this program is the key to getting out and into our amazing local landscape.”

“Our 7 year old used everything in the packet. She could identify birds, animals and flowers. She especially liked the binoculars.”

There were approximately 8,764 backpack checkouts in 2022. That’s more than 168 checkouts per week!

The author of this report is Sara Wicen, research assistant at Library Research Service. Questions can be sent to lrs@lrs.org. The document ID is ED3/110.10/No. 364.

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