



“Get the Kids Outside” Environmental Education Scholarship Grant

To experience the natural world is to spark a sense of wonder and love of the outdoors. A child raised indoors and plugged-in, with no experience of nature, is disconnected from the real world. Resulting health issues have been shown to include reduced attention, hyperactivity, childhood obesity, and a diminished use of the senses. The positive effects of nature exposure include improved cognitive functioning (including increased concentration, greater attention capacities, and higher academic performance), better motor coordination, reduced stress levels, increased social interaction with adults and other children, and improved social skills.

Experiences in nature also help foster passion and concern for nature and natural spaces. “Simply being outside,” says Lindsay Glasner, K-12 outreach coordinator, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, “can drastically change a child’s mindset and foster a love for the world around them.”

Although many schools and organizations can afford to include outdoor programs in their curriculum, for some this is a challenge. That is why the Friends of Lory State Park established the “**Get the Kids Outside**” grant, to provide a way eligible non-profits can “get students outside” at Lory State Park.

The grant was established in 2015 by a generous donor who wanted to connect local youth to the incredible ecology around them. With pine forests, riparian corridors, granite canyons, red sandstone hogbacks, diverse wildlife and migratory bird and butterfly paths, Lory State Park is an excellent “outdoor classroom” with a team of staff and volunteers dedicated to delivering fun and educational programs.

To *hear* about the natural world is one thing, to *know* is to see, smell and touch. The outdoor experience is true environmental learning.

The Friends of Lory State Park

The Friends of Lory State Park (FoLSP) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 2012 and composed entirely of volunteers. The group provides volunteer assistance and fundraising support to the management of Lory State Park; works to foster stewardship, enhance educational and recreational opportunities and advocates quality programs for visitors of all ages and abilities. Membership is open to all, and volunteers are welcome. To learn more about the FoLSP, please visit <http://loryfriends.org>.

Why does Lory State Park need a Friends group? Since 2011, Colorado State Parks and Wildlife (CPW) were “enterprised,” meaning no tax money is used to operate any state park in Colorado. All operating money comes from user fees.

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” – Baba Dioum

Scholarship Grant Application Process

Eligible applications must meet the following criteria:

1. The organization requesting the scholarship must be a non-profit organization.
2. The grant is awarded on the basis of need. Preference is given to Colorado and Wyoming applicants
3. The field trip project description must include an outdoor environmental education activity at Lory State Park and the project theme must support the mission of Colorado State Parks and Wildlife. (If this involves research, a research permit must be completed and approved prior to scholarship application.)
4. Grant applicants must coordinate a field trip date in advance with the park's environmental educator.
5. A completion report is requested by the end of the school year in which the grant field trip occurs. Please provide a description of the actual field trip, including the number of teachers, parent volunteers, and students, as well as learning outcomes achieved and state standards met.

Field trip days fill up fast! To book dates, contact Lory's environmental educator at:
dnr_oryinterp@state.co.us.

Maximum award: \$500 limit per school, per year, with funds to be used primarily for transportation.

Maximum Group Size: We must limit the number of students per visit. If your group exceeds our maximum, please consider scheduling on multiple days.

*Middle school and high school groups: 85 students. *Elementary school groups: 75 students

Fall 2021 application period is now open from September 3 to September 15.

Spring 2022 application period TBA

Email completed applications to: loryspeducation@gmail.com OR mail to:

**FoLSP Get the Kids Outside Scholarship Committee
c/o Lory State Park
708 Lodgepole Drive
Bellvue, CO 80512**

What have we done so far?

Lory State Park has hosted K-12 school groups from Larimer County, Weld County and Thompson school districts, including Chappelow (Greeley), Bauder Elementary, Laurel Academy, Putnam Elementary, Cache La Poudre, Lincoln and Preston middle schools, Wellington middle school and Salida del Sol Academy to name just a few.

Our programs cover geology, wildlife, botany, orienteering, ecology, history, and more. We serve approximately 1600 students each year.

Sample Program**

Second and fifth-grade students arrive at Lory State Park and are quickly paired into buddies. Each fifth grader has a second-grade friend for the day. Dividing into four groups, each group is assigned to one of four stations where they will interactively learn about a different feature of the natural world. After an allotted time, groups rotate to the next station, ultimately rotating through all four stations.

Station one: students learn about the wildlife inhabiting Lory State Park. They touch real animal pelts, look at skulls and tracks and learn about the unique characteristics, habitat and diet of each animal.

Station two: students learn about animal camouflage and go on a short walk to see if they can locate hidden objects along the trail.

Station three: steps back in time to explore the geological and historical changes that have occurred in the landscape around them to become the park they are visiting today.

Station four: students enjoy a mile and a half hike on the Well Gulch Nature Trail where they observe the changing vegetation and animal habitats as the trail winds through six different ecotones.*

*Students physically unable to participate in station four will be provided with an alternative activity approved in advance by teachers and the park naturalist.

***This field trip meets the second-grade life science standards and fifth-grade earth system science standards as established by the state of Colorado.*

Grant Application

Organization Name:

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Address:

Amount Requested: \$ _____. Would you accept a partial Grant? Yes No

What date(s) do you want to come to the Park? _____

Program Ideas:

- Geology field trip to learn about Lory State Park's geologic past.
- Wildlife of the Rocky Mountain foothills (mammals, birds, insects, snakes) explores who lives in Lory State Park.
- Fire in the foothills, beneficial or not? (Fire Ecology)
- Where are you? Maps, compasses and GPS.
- Service Learning Projects

*Have your own idea, or just not sure? Contact Lory's Environmental Educator for assistance at dnr_loryinterp@state.co.us

If you receive this grant, how will you acknowledge Friends of Lory State Park? (Student thank you letters, school newsletter story, social media postings, etc.)

Environmental Education Field Trip Narrative

Summary (description of the project including goals, expected outcomes and district standards met):

Please describe the age, level of experience, and number of students, and indicate the number of teachers and parent volunteers.

Please describe three measure indicators to ascertain learning outcomes will be achieved:

1.

2.

3.

****For schools only.** What is your percentage of free and reduced lunch students? _____

Project Budget

Please include:

Total cost of project, including donated time, source of matching funds, etc. \$ _____

How the funds will be used _____

Other grants applied for _____

Transportation Cost: \$ _____

* Consult with your school district for approximate cost of bus or alternate mode of transportation *and include Lory's entrance fee of \$9 per vehicle.* To reduce costs, we encourage carpooling.

Other costs associated with this field trip \$ _____

- Please explain:

Total Cost Requested: \$ _____

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of school principal or Chair _____ Date _____

