Park News

**Winter 2014/2015**
October 14, 2014 – March 21, 2015

**Winter Wildlife Watching**
Rocky is a wonderful place to look for wildlife, and many park roads are open in winter to provide access to their wintry world. Bring your field guides and binoculars, and don’t forget your camera.

As with any wild animals, you never know when or where you’ll see them, and consider yourself fortunate to see what you can. Winter is a good time to look for large mammals...

- Elk and mule deer are most active at dusk and dawn, and are usually seen in meadow areas.
- You might catch a glimpse of elk in Horseshoe Park.
- Deer Mountain is well-named, as it is usually a good place to see mule deer.
- The best place to look for moose in the Colorado River on the park’s west side.
- Look for bighorn sheep along the Highway 34/Fall River corridor on the park’s east side.
- Coyotes may be seen any time of day.

Several members of the jay family not only stay for the winter but are residents year-round, including Steller’s jays with their striking blue bodies and black-crested heads, gray jays, Clark’s nutcrackers, and the iridescent long-tailed black-billed magpies.

Even in winter, Rocky Mountain National Park is truly a place of wilderness, wildlife and wonder. Enjoy your visit!

**Free Park Movie**
See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center from 8:30 A.M.-4 P.M. daily. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of RMNP, as well as wildlife and park history. Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Captioned, audio description and en Español at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

**Park Phone Numbers**
- Park Information: (970) 586-1206
- Trail Ridge Road Status: (970) 586-1222
- TTY for deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired (970) 586-1319
- Dial 911 to report Emergencies

**Park News**

**Enjoy Your Visit**
By Katy Sykes, Information Office Manager

The glowing whiteness, the crunch and slap of snowshoes and cross-country skis. The chatter of Coypus may be seen any time of day.

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Even in winter, Rocky Mountain National Park is truly a place of wilderness, wildlife and wonder. Enjoy your visit!
Travel in groups and make noise.

Waterproof matches, pocket knife, ✓ ✓
Topographic map and compass/GPS
First aid kit
Sturdy footwear and extra socks ✓ ✓
Sunglasses with UV protection
Layers of clothing including storm ✓ ✓

The Essentials
overnight camping and can purchase required backcountry permit for all sites and areas. Visitors must obtain a cell service.

locations in this rugged park have no conditions when hiking, skiing, or
Be prepared for all types of weather you fail to return.

backcountry . Detailed
Avoid traveling alone in the
Backcountry Travel
Avalanches Avalanche can be easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain and avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies. If caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.

For current avalanche conditions, check at a visitor center, call (970) 586-1206, or see the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/

Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center.
Write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517, or call (970) 886-1242 for more information.

The administrative permit fee of $20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.

Can I Antlers? It is illegal to collect or possess antlers, animal fur or natural features (rocks, pinecones, etc.) from the park. Leave antlers and other park resources for others to enjoy.

Falling Trees Falling trees are an ever-present hazard and can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful around dead trees when it’s windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow.

Fishing A Colorado State fishing license is required to fish in the park. The fishing brochure including regulations is available at park visitor centers and on the park website, http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm.

Ice fishing is allowed in the park except in designated closed waters. All fishing regulations apply. No mechanical equipment is allowed in designated wilderness, so hand augers only are permitted.

High Elevation Each year a large number of visitors experience symptoms of altitude sickness. These include headaches, dizziness, and can lead to unconsciousness. High altitude can also aggravate preexisting medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower elevation.

Hypothermia Drowsiness, impaired judgment, excessive shivering and slurred speech are all signs of hypothermia. Prevent this condition by wearing insulated, wind-proof layers and drinking plenty of fluids.

Mountain Lions Keep the following in mind when traveling in mountain lion country:

Travel in groups and make noise as you hike closely together. Keep children close.
If you see a mountain lion, stop, stay calm, and back away slowly. Never approach a lion or turn your back and run. Stand tall and look large. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
If approached, make loud noises, shout, clap hands, chant pans or, and fight back if attacked.

When Viewing Wildlife

- Obey wildlife closure areas and “no stopping” traffic zones.
- Use parking areas along the road. If not available, pull your vehicle completely off the road and do not park on vegetation.
- Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness.
- If you cause an animal to move or change its behavior, you are too close! Wildlife can be unpredictable. For your safety and theirs, enjoy and

Photograph wildlife from a distance.

Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness.

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Many things happened in 1915.

World War I was in full swing. The House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote. The Kiwanis Club was founded. Pluto was photographed for the first time. The Lusitania was sunk, and Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra were born. The first transcontinental phone call was made. Ford manufactured its one-millionth Model T, and Albert Einstein formulated the theory of relativity.

On January 26th, Rocky Mountain National Park was established.

A lot of history has passed between 1915 and today. A lot of things have changed – music, science, manufacturing, technology, politics. But some things haven’t.

Rocky Mountain National Park is still here. After almost 100 years, despite all the history, all the change, and all the progress, Rocky Mountain National Park is still important to people. Our need for mountains and wild places, beauty and escape is just as strong today as it was 100 years ago, if not more so.

Some visitors seek out the high country on a regular basis, using it as a portal through which to filter the world. Some have a memory of a snow-covered peak or a day on the trail to think back on fondly. Others will never set foot inside Rocky Mountain National Park’s boundaries, and yet find great joy in simply knowing that it exists.

The celebration of Rocky Mountain National Park’s 100th Anniversary is for everyone. It is a reminder of all that has happened here. It is a celebration of the connections that people have made with this place, the things that live here, and those who work diligently to protect it. This celebration is a challenge to us to refresh the values that Rocky Mountain National Park embodies as we progress into the next 100 years. It is a renewal of the vow that was made to protect this place, so that it can continue to shelter us and those who come after us.

You will do many things in 2015.

Let the 100th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park be one that you remember.

We invite you to join us for the celebration. Read on to find out about the many ways you can get involved!

Gold never really panned out for the miners at Lulu City.

The Grand Ditch cuts across the Never Summer Mountains and can be seen from Farview Curve.

In 1910, Sprague’s Lodge was built in the Glacier Basin Area. By the 30’s, rates were $17.50-$40/night.

Timeline of Events

10,000 BC Clovis Paleoindian hunters enter the park as the glaciers retreat.

1200-1300 Ute enter North Park and Middle Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

1800 Arapaho make first appearance in the park.

1820 Stephen A. Long Expedition on the plains and are first non-Indians to see Longs Peak.

1843 Rufus B. Sage is first explorer to enter east side of the park and write about it.

1858 Joel Estes enters what is now Estes Park and starts a ranch.

1868 John Wesley Powell, William Byers (Rocky Mountain News), and others make the first ascent of Longs Peak.

1871 Addie Alexander is the first woman to climb Longs Peak

1874 Hayden’s “U.S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories” enters the park.

1874-1886 Mining occurs on the west side of the mountains; Lulu City and Gaskill Towns established.

1895-1935 Grand Ditch is built to bring water from Never Summer Range across La Poudre Pass and down the Cache Le Poudre to the plains for agriculture.

1896-1902 Mining on the east side of the park (Eugenia and Meeker Mines).

1905 Stanley Hotel constructed in Estes Park.

1906 Antiquities Act passed, allows the President to create national monuments.

www.nps.gov/romo for detailed information on events
What’s Your Story?

When did you fall in love with Rocky Mountain National Park?
http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/centennial-social-media.htm
How has the park left its mark on your family? What pictures tell your park story?

Now there is a way to share your stories, memories, and photos of your time in Rocky Mountain National Park and be part of the Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial Celebration!

Visit rnp100co.com to contribute to the Centennial Family Photo Album. Click on the decade of your choosing and upload a photo or write down your story (or both). Your memories will become part of our virtual time capsule that will be kept to help document the connections that people have made with the park over the past 100 years.

Spread the word to friends and family who might want to participate, enter your memory, and then check back to see how the album grows.

Be part of the legacy of Rocky Mountain National Park!

Centennial Junior Ranger

You are the future of Rocky Mountain National Park!

Junior Rangers of all ages are invited to pick up a Centennial Junior Ranger Activity Sheet to test your knowledge and creativity. Turn in your completed page for a special Centennial Sticker.

Activity sheets and stickers are available only at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, Fall River Visitor Center, Alpine Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

Rocky Mountain National Park’s Centennial Year

by James H. Pickering, Historian, Lammergeier, Town of Estes Park

Centennials are important events. The 100th anniversary of the dedication of the 1915 dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park is certainly no exception. That event took place on September 4, 1915, on an open knoll in Horseshoe Park close by today’s Lawn Lake trailhead, a two-sided banner overhead. Though the day was overcast, the crowd was large. Individuals and families came from Denver and other Front Range towns as well as from Estes Park. Enos Mills, already celebrated as “The Father of Rocky Mountain National Park,” served as master of ceremonies. “This is the proudest moment of my life,” he told the crowd. “I have lived to see the realization of a great dream come true. It means great things for Colorado and for the nation.” And indeed it most certainly has. Though the anniversary of that dedication Saturday is still a year away, a series of events are being planned that will give all of us ample opportunity both to celebrate and reflect.

Looking back one thinks of the park’s milestone events and achievements. There have been many. One thinks of the completion of Fall River Road over the Continental Divide in 1920, and its successor, Trail Ridge Road in 1932, of the Civilian Conservation Corps days of the 1930s which advanced important park projects, including trail building, by well more than a decade; and of the “holing through” of the 13-mile Alva Adams tunnel beneath the park in 1944, a key element in the Colorado-Big Thompson trans-mountain irrigation project. Other, more recent, accomplishments include the opening of the Beaver Meadows Visitors Center in 1967, a cornerstone of Mission ‘66 project, the last concerted attempt to refurbish and update America’s system of national parks; and the completion in 2003 of the reconstruction and relocation of portions of much-traveled Bear Lake Road.

Centennial years, rightly considered, should not simply focus on the past. They should draw our attention to the present and to the future as well. Over the past hundred years Rocky Mountain National Park has grown slightly in size and greatly in complexity. To be sure, it is rather less cluttered than it was in 1915. All of the great resort hotels (those “castles of woods”) are gone, as are many of the other inholdings once found in places like Moraine and Horseshoe Parks. The size of the ranger force and support staff of necessity has also grown (at the time of the dedication there were only three). They are needed to take care of the more than three million visitors who enter the park each year. Balancing this accessibility with the need to protect and preserve the park’s fragile ecology is, and will remain, a major challenge. Enos Mills’ dream of 1915 is, in fact, an unfinished one — it is an affirmation of progress, as all truly great dreams are.

So even as we enjoy the centennial events of the coming months let us do so with gratitude not only to those who made Rocky Mountain National Park possible but to those who labor today and will labor tomorrow to keep Enos Mills’ dream alive. The late Western writer Wallace Stegner called national parks “the best idea we ever had.” Those of us who have had the privilege of hiking the trails of Rocky Mountain National Park, lunching besides one of its supremely beautiful lakes, or fishing one of its peaceful and sequestered streams, will surely agree. Our ability to enjoy the authenticity of such experiences, not to mention the wonder of it all, is the gift of the past to the present.

Let then this celebratory centennial year also be a year of re-dedication. Let it be a year in which we reaffirm our own responsibility as present-day stewards in helping to preserve this special place, so that a hundred years hence it will be said that we in our time—to quote the Organic Act of 1916 that created the National Park Service—helped “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects ... by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Put in less lofty terms: that we too helped pass Enos Mills’ “great dream” forward into the hands of those whom we will never know.

Timeline of Events continued

1906 Road up the Big Thompson River (Hwy 34) completed.
1907 Squeaky Bob Wheeler opens the Hotel de Hardscrabble for tourists in the Kawuneeche Valley.
1907 Enos Mills, James Graffon Rodgers, and others begin lobbying for the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park.
1914 Arapaho pack trip provides 30 Indian names for mountains and other topographic features in the park.
January 26, 1915 Congress signs legislation creating Rocky Mountain National Park.
September 4, 1915 Rocky Mountain National Park is publically dedicated in Horseshoe Park.
1913-1920 Fall River Road is constructed as the first road over the Continental Divide between Estes Park and Grand Lake.
1933-1942 Trail Ridge Road constructed.
1936 Hidden Valley becomes a ski area; closed in 1992 and removed by 2002.
1936 CCC crews remodel Moraine Park Lodge into the Moraine Park Museum and build nearby amphitheater that ushered in a new era of park interpretation and education programs.
1937-1947 Colorado-Big Thompson Project and Alva B. Adams tunnel completed under the park.
1939 Abner Sprague becomes the first park visitor to pay an entrance fee.
1955 National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth announces Mission 66, a construction program designed to bring the national parks into modern conditions for increasing amount of visitors.
1960 New bridge over the Big Thompson River is completed and the present Beaver Meadows Entrance is opened as part of Mission 66.

www.nps.gov/romo for detailed information on events

Trail Ridge Road was constructed carefully so as to not damage the fragile alpine tundra.

Over 3000 people from all over Colorado attended the park’s dedication on September 4, 1915.

The Civilian Conservation Corps created many of the roads and trails still used in the park today.
Poem for Parks by Cactus May, Artist-in-Residence 1996

On Flat-Top mountain
a man in a stiff baseball cap
and striped tube-socks
told me every two breaths
he took up here let him live
one more down there.

He pointed a bony finger.
I stayed on top a little longer
in case he was right.

A woman from Wisconsin
stopped me at Cub Lake
she swept her hand
at the water-lilies and the light
told me to imagine all this
as John Wesley Powell saw it.

I did.
And I could, without television
or a coffee-table book
because it’s still here.

Early light is often best for catching
the nuances of the park’s spectacular
peaks.

En plein air is a French expression
that means “in the open air” and is
particularly used to describe the act
of painting outdoors.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy

The nonprofit Rocky Mountain
Conservancy (formerly the Rocky Mountain Nature
Association) was founded in 1931 to develop informational
brochures for the park. Today, through the publication and
sale of educational materials, the Conservancy supports
the research and educational programs of Rocky Mountain
National Park and its public lands partners. The Rocky Mountain
Conservancy also raises funds for trails and improvement projects
within Rocky Mountain National Park.

The Rocky Mountain
Conservancy Field Institute will
be offering a special Centennial
Seminar Series throughout 2014
and 2015 in order to highlight the
wilderness, wildlife, and wonder
of the park. Seminars are led by
talented instructors and usually
require some hiking, and cover
a myriad of topics including
wildlife biology, history, botany,
and photography.

Stop by a bookstore in one of
the park visitor centers to shop,
pick up a seminar catalog, or
learn more about becoming a
member and helping to support
Rocky Mountain National Park.

Timeline of Events continued

1964 The Wilderness Act is passed which
later allows for further protection of the
park.

1966 National Historic Preservation Act is
created to protect historic and prehistoric
resources on federal lands.

1968 Beaver Meadows Headquarters
building is finished.

1982 The Lawn Lake dam collapses
resulting in a flood that kills 3 people and
severely impacts Estes Park.

1988 McGraw Ranch is purchased and the
buildings are remodeled and turned into a
research center in 2001.

1992 Lily Lake area is purchased and the
popular accessible trail is constructed.

2000 Fall River Visitor Center opens. A
congressional act was required to allow a
private company to build a visitor center
outside the park with NPS staff.

2002 Beaver Meadows Headquarters is
declared a National Historic Landmark
as the only building in the NPS designed
by the Frank Lloyd Wright school of
architecture.

2003 Grand Ditch breach occurs.

2004 Hidden Valley reopens for winter
sliding and summer picnics.

2007 Sister Park Agreement signed with
Tatra National Parks.

2008 The Final Elk and Vegetation
Management Plan/Environmental Impact
Statement is signed.

2009 The Omnibus Public Land
Management Act of 2009 is passed
providing additional protection for over
95% of the backcountry of the park by
designating as it official Wilderness.

2011 Sister Park Agreement signed with
Tusheti National Park in the Republic of
Georgia.

2013 Record flooding severely impacts
Rocky Mountain National Park and
surrounding communities.

Celebrate Rocky on Social Media

Join in on the celebration
conversation by finding us
on your favorite social media
platform. Gain access to special
events, photos, videos, and
more!

@Rockynps

Like us on Facebook
for a daily glimpse into
the world of Rocky
Mountain National Park. See
beautiful photos and video, and
join in a discussion about what
Rocky means to you.

Minute of Wonder Weekly
Video Series: Every Monday
morning during the celebration
year a one-minute “Minute of
Wonder” video will remind
you of why we are celebrating
the Wilderness, Wildlife, and
Wonders of Rocky Mountain
National Park.

100 Days Outside Challenge: Even if you can’t celebrate our
Centennial with us here in the
park all year long, celebrate with
us from home by joining this
Facebook event and sharing the
beauty of nature where you live
(#100DaysOutside).

Follow us on Twitter for
up-to-date information
about trail conditions,
avenue reports, road status,
and weather.

Visit www.nps.gov/romo
for more information.

1997 The War of 1812 Bicentennial Quilt
is dedicated. As a part of what makes
Rocky Mountain National Park.

1998 At the 21st Century Conference
on the Future of the National Parks,
the idea for the National Parks
Conservation Association was
approved.

1999 The Rocky Mountain Conservation
Corps (RMCC) is formed.

2001 The Centennial of the National
Park Service is celebrated.

2003 Grand Ditch breach occurs.

2008 The Final Elk and Vegetation
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2009 The Omnibus Public Land
Management Act of 2009 is passed
providing additional protection for over
95% of the backcountry of the park by
designating as it official Wilderness.

2012 The Congresswoman Deborah B. Landry
is named the first woman to
represent a U.S. national park in
Congress.

2013 Tusheti National Park in the Republic of
Georgia is given a special National
Park Service designation.

2015 Tusheti National Park in the Republic of
Georgia is given a special National
Park Service designation.

Art in the Park

How do you remember Rocky Mountain National Park? Do you treasure
a particular photograph of golden aspens and Longs Peak? An oil painting
of the mist rolling off Adams Falls? Have you made a sketch or written your
own poem to memorialize your latest visit?

Art, it seems, is one of the most prominent ways through which Rocky
Mountain National Park finds and maintains a home in our hearts and
memories. Throughout the celebration of Rocky Mountain National Park’s
100th Anniversary, many opportunities to appreciate the art of nature
will be showcased. Which will you enjoy? You may listen to a concert or a
storyteller. You may take home iconic images in a commemorative book,
poster, or calendar. You may watch as a plein air painting takes shape before
your very eyes. Or you may take in a program presented by one of the
guest artists in Residence.

Since 1984, the Rocky Mountain National Park Artist-in-Residence
program has provided visitors to the park with opportunities to see
our heritage through the eyes and ears of selected artists. For the 100th
Anniversary, many of these works of art will be put on display throughout
the year for new audiences to enjoy.

Art has always played a pivotal role in the protection and appreciation of
national parks, and Rocky Mountain National Park is no exception. As we
celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the park, ask yourself how art has helped
shape today’s park and how it might help you find a new and enduring
connection with this special place.
Rocky Mountain National Park
Winter Centennial Calendar of Events

For complete details of 2014 and 2015 events, please visit www.nps.gov/romo

October 2014

21 Fire Rangers of Rocky (for kids)
   Estes Valley Library
   Estes Park, CO
22 Readings From Enos Mills
   Estes Valley Library
   Estes Park, CO
25 Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder Halloween
   Grand Lake, CO
28 Enos Mills: Rocky Mountain Naturalist
   Estes Valley Library
   Estes Park, CO

November 2014

3 Meet Me at the Museum:
   Souvenirs of RMNP
   Estes Park Museum
   Estes Park, CO
7 American Experience: The Big Burn
   Estes Valley Library
   Estes Park, CO
8 Whooo's There?
   Estes Park Museum
   Estes Park, CO
10 Fire Rangers of Rocky
   Estes Valley Library
   Estes Park, CO
18 The Big Burn: An Evening With Timothy Egan
   Estes Park, CO - Tickets Required
22 Tree Lighting Ceremony
   Estes Park, CO
28 The Wonder of Christmas
   Grand Lake, CO
28 Catch the Glow Parade
   Estes Park, CO

December 2014

20-21 Home for the Holidays: The Wonder of Christmas in the Rockies
   Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater
   Grand Lake, CO

January 2015

16 National Western Stock Show and Rodeo
   Honors the RMNP Centennial
   Denver, CO
17 Centennial Film Release
   Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
18 Estes Park's RMNP Birthday Celebration
   Estes Park, CO
24 Centennial Speaker Series: Jim Pickering
   Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
26 Pioneers of the Peaks
   Estes Park Museum
   Estes Park, CO
26 Birthday Cake!
   Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
   Kawuneeche Visitor Center, RMNP
26 Grand Lake Nordic Center Centennial
   Ski Free Day
   Grand Lake, CO

February 2015

23 Pioneers of the Peaks
   Estes Park Museum
   Estes Park, CO

March 2015

4-5 Continental Divide Research Learning Center Conference
   Estes Park, CO
5 One Park, Many Perspectives
   Boulder, CO
8-9 Grand Lake Catch and Release Ice Fishing Contest
   Grand Lake, CO
24 Centennial Speaker Series: John Fielder
   Denver Museum of Nature and Science
   Denver, CO - Tickets Required

Long Term Events

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
   YMCA of the Rockies Centennial Hikes
   www.y-hikes.com/index.html for details

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
   Grand Lake Chamber and Visitor Center
   100th Anniversary Activities
   grandlakechamber.com/100th

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
   Centennial and RMNP Information at The Old Gallery
   14862 Peak to Peak Hwy, Allenspark, CO

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
   Colorado Mountain Club Hikes, Climbs, and Snowshoes in RMNP
   www.cmc.org for more details

September 26, 2014 - October 4, 2015
   Climb On! - an Exhibit
   Estes Park Museum
   Estes Park, CO

November 22, 2014 - January 11, 2015
   The Wonder of Art from the Park - an Art Exhibit
   Grand Lake, CO

January 24 - March 24
   History as Art: In Three Parts
   Loveland Museum
   Loveland, CO

January 24 - May 2
   Harold Dunning’s World View
   Loveland Museum
   Loveland, CO

For complete details, please visit www.nps.gov/romo
Free Ranger-Led Programs | East Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Where to Meet</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Animals in Winter</strong></td>
<td>Discover the amazing adaptations that allow animals to survive the long winter in RMNP</td>
<td>20–30 minute talk</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
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<td>10:30 A.M.</td>
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<td><strong>Wild in Winter</strong></td>
<td>Come learn about the park and wildlife in the winter in this informal chat with a ranger</td>
<td>drop in Sunday mornings 10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
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<td>10:11 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Snowshoe Ecology Walk</strong></td>
<td>Come snowshoe with a ranger. Learn techniques to traverse various terrain as you explore the natural world of a subalpine forest. Ages 8 through adult only. Bring your own snowshoes. No previous experience needed.</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Reservation required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 586-1223 from 8 A.M.-4 P.M. daily</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>1/4-3/15</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>1/7-3/18</td>
<td>12:30 P.M.</td>
<td>1/10-3/21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centennial Saturday Evening Program</strong></td>
<td>Learn more about our 100th anniversary through interpretive ranger programs celebrating the wilderness, wildlife, and wonder of the park. Please stop by Beaver Meadows Visitor Center or call (970) 586-1206 for specific topics and times</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium</td>
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<td>7 P.M.</td>
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**Additional Programs:**

**Full Moon Walk**
1 to 1.5 hour walk. November 6, December 6, January 4, February 3, and March 5. Explore the light of the full moon. Times and locations will vary each month. Reservations are necessary but can be made no more than 7 days in advance. Call (970) 586-1223 between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Maximum six people per reservation for this program. Outdoor clothing and gear appropriate for the conditions are required.

**Holiday Programming**
Join us over the holiday season for a calendar full of fun family activities. December 26-January 1, the park will be offering special programs to celebrate the winter season. Please stop by a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206 for specific topics and times.

**Part of an Organized Group?**
Park rangers may be available to provide special programs for groups. Please call (970) 586-3777. Group reservations can be made in advance.

Free Ranger-Led Programs | West Side

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<td><strong>Ski the Wilderness in Winter</strong></td>
<td>Join a ranger for a mostly-level cross-country ski tour. Bring your own skis and poles with large baskets. Ages 8 through adult only.</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>Kawanueche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily</td>
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<td>9:30 A.M.</td>
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<td><strong>Beginner Snowshoe</strong></td>
<td>Join a mostly-level snowshoe hike with a ranger. Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Ages 8 through adult only.</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Kawanueche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily</td>
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<td><strong>Intermediate Snowshoe</strong></td>
<td>A more rigorous tour with elevation gains of up to 500 ft. Requires the ability to maintain a good pace over uneven terrain at high altitude. Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Ages 8 through adult only.</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Kawanueche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily</td>
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Programs may be canceled in the event of extreme weather or high winds — All children must be accompanied by an adult — Park entrance pass required.

Junior Ranger Program

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos, se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!

Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge. You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at:romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

NPS/Beth Honea
**Things to Do**

**Winter Fun in Rocky**

Winter is a spectacular time to visit the wilderness of Rocky Mountain National Park. With some preparation, many exciting activities await you.

Always be prepared for snow, freezing temperatures, short winter daylight hours, cold winds, and changing winter weather. Be sure to layer up with insulated, waterproof clothing, wear sunglasses, and use sunscreen.

Navigating in winter conditions can present one of the most difficult challenges you will face in the backcountry. Many of the park trails are not marked for winter use. Following other tracks is not a recommended practice as it can get you lost, so have and know how to use a topographic map and compass or a Global Positioning System (GPS).

**Be safe and have fun!**

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**Snowshoe**

Ever thought how fun it would be to hike in the winter, to see the park’s beautiful backcountry, but there’s all that snow? Consider snowshoeing!

It’s as easy as strapping snowshoes on your boots and grabbing a couple of poles. No training is necessary – if you can hike, you can snowshoe. Most park trails can be explored with snowshoes. A few pieces of equipment are essential: you will need a pair of snowshoes and waterproof boots. Poles are helpful for maintaining balance, but optional. Waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry.

**Backcountry Ski and Ride**

The steep terrain of Rocky Mountain National Park provides a great setting for backcountry skiing and riding. The Bear Lake and Hidden Valley areas offer some of the best terrain (skiing and snowboarding are not allowed in the Hidden Valley snowplay area; however, skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers may pass through and must use caution around sledders, and slow down to yield the right-of-way). Skiers and riders should be prepared for a variety of variable snow conditions. Much of this country is in avalanche terrain. Be sure to check the avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/. Skiers and riders should carry at a minimum an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/. Skiers and riders should carry at a minimum an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/. Skiers and riders should carry at a minimum an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/. Skiers and riders should carry at a minimum an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/. Skiers and riders should carry at a minimum an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and avalanche forecast through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, http://avalanche.state.co.us/forecasts/backcountry-avalanche/front-range/.

**Cross-country Ski**

Picture yourself gliding through a silent forest full of fresh, white snow. Cross-country skiing is a rejuvenating sport that pairs physical exercise with the beauty of nature. You will need skis and poles with large baskets. Waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry. In general, terrain and deeper snows on the west side of the park make for better cross-country skiing, but you are welcome to strap on your skis throughout the park.

Skiers must be in control at all times and give plenty of notice of their approach on your skis throughout the park.

**Sled**

Hidden Valley is the one place in Rocky where sledding is allowed. It is a pretty gentle hill, being the bottom of the bunny slope of the former Hidden Valley Ski Area. No tows are provided; you walk your sled, saucer, or tube up the hill and slide down. Skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers may pass through but must use caution around sledders, and slow down to yield the right-of-way. Park rangers and volunteers may be there to help, but you’re on your own and sledding at your own risk. A restroom is by the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. On most weekends when there’s an attendant, a warming room is also available to visitors.

Winter winds can scour the area, causing conditions to vary, so call the park Information Office for the latest information, 970-586-1206.

**Snowshoe or Ski with a Ranger**

Check the ‘Free Ranger-Led Programs’ page for snowshoe and cross-country ski opportunities with a ranger; reservations are required.

**What if I Don’t Have My Own Equipment?**

The communities of Estes Park and Grand Lake have shops where winter recreation equipment, including snowshoes, skis, poles, boots, sleds, tubes, saucers, gaiters, and stabilizers can be rented or purchased.

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**Podcast Highlight**

Check out nps.gov/romo and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

**Free Wi-Fi**

Bring your wireless electronic device for free Wi-Fi service, available in and around the Beaver Meadows, Fall River, and Kawuneeche visitor centers.

**Toward a Greener Park**

**Recycling Available In Major Park Locations**

Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in park campgrounds and at major park locations. Look for our distinctive recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.

**Leave No Trace**

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While hiking, camping, and enjoying all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace Ethics:

• Plan ahead and prepare
• Travel and camp on durable surfaces
• Dispose of waste properly
• Leave what you find
• Minimize campfire impacts
• Respect wildlife
• Be considerate of other visitors

For more information visit http://www.lnt.org/