

Inside this Issue

- Important Info
- Staying Safe
- Centennial Information
- Ranger-led Programs
- Winter Fun

Join the Celebration

This year marks one hundred years since Rocky was established. See the special insert to learn about 100 years of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder, and the events planned to celebrate the centennial birthday.

Find us on your favorite social media platform to join in on special events, photos, videos, and more!

@Rockynps

#rmnp



Rocky Mountain National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park



Park News

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



The wintry Mummy Range towers above Horseshoe Park and Fall River. NPS/Ann Schonlau

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 a pine squirrel. The brilliant blue sky and warm sunshine. This is a winter day in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Today’s 415 scenic square miles were originally set aside one hundred years ago this winter on January 26, 1915, to protect and preserve this spectacular nature and scenery for the benefit and enjoyment of all of us.

About one-third of Rocky is above tree line. The extraordinary and fragile alpine tundra world is

similar to the earth’s highest peaks and the arctic tundra regions like the far north of Alaska and Canada.

The numbers game is fun to play here. Rocky is home to 280 species of birds, 62 species of mammals, 7 native and 4 non-native species of fish, 4 species of amphibians, one reptile (garter snake), 139 species of butterflies, and approximately 110 species of vascular plants. But all these numbers add up to one thing: a wilderness environment that is worth enjoying and protecting.

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 is along 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!



Bull moose in Kawuneeche Valley. NPS/Russell Smith

Visitor Centers

Estes Park Area



Beaver Meadows
Open daily 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. (closed Nov. 27 and Dec. 25). Park information, free park movie and bookstore. Backcountry camping permits are available by following the footpath just east of the visitor center to the Backcountry Office.

Grand Lake Area



Fall River
Open 9 A.M.-4 P.M. on weekends from Nov. 29-Dec. 28. Also open Nov. 28, Dec. 22-23, Dec. 26 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1. Life-sized wildlife displays, a bookstore, and discovery room where kids can touch objects and dress up as rangers, American Indians, and pioneers.

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.



Kawuneeche
Open daily 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. (closed Nov. 27 and Dec. 25). Park information and maps, free movie, exhibits, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.

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

Entrance Fees <i>Fees may be paid by credit card, cash, or check</i>		
Automobile 7-day pass	Single-family vehicle entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase	\$20
Motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, mopeds 7-day pass	For seven consecutive days, including date of purchase	\$10/person not to exceed \$20 per vehicle
Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass	Provides unlimited entry to this park for one year from the date of purchase	\$40
Rocky Mountain National Park/Arapaho National Recreation Area Annual Pass	Provides unlimited entry to both areas for one year from the date of purchase	\$50
Interagency Annual Pass	Available to everyone and provides access to, and use of, federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one year from date of purchase	\$80
Interagency Senior Pass	A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older	\$10
Interagency Military Pass	Free unlimited entry to federal recreation sites (including National Parks) for active duty military personnel and dependents with required proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) for one year	Free
Interagency Access Pass	A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability	Free

Stay Safe

You Are Responsible

It is your responsibility to be safe and to know and obey park rules. Park safety information, rules, and regulations can be found at visitor centers, entrance stations, on trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website at www.nps.gov/romo.

Avalanches

Avalanches 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 Travel

Avoid traveling alone in the backcountry. Detailed information about your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return.

Be prepared for all types of weather conditions when hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. Always carry essential survival items, regardless of the length of your trip. Don't depend on a cell phone for emergency help as many locations in this rugged park have no cell service.

Camping is only allowed in designated sites and areas. Visitors must obtain a required backcountry permit for all overnight camping and can purchase permits at the Beaver Meadows

Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

Write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517, or call (970) 586-1242 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 Take Antlers?

It is illegal to collect or possess antlers, animal parts 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, clang pots or pans, and fight back if attacked.

Pets

Pets are prohibited in all areas of RMNP not accessible by motor vehicles, including ALL trails and meadows. For the safety of your pet and the benefit of park wildlife and other visitors, pets are only allowed in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along roadsides.

Pets should never be left unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet when outside vehicles.

Stop in a visitor center for more information on where pets are permitted on trails outside the park or see the pets brochure on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/brochures.htm>.

Stay Together!

Always stay together as a group and avoid traveling alone in the backcountry. Detailed information about your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return. Safety is your responsibility!

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.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.

Travel Tips

The Essentials

- ✓ Lots of water and high-energy food
- ✓ Layers of clothing including storm gear, hat, and gloves
- ✓ Sunglasses with UV protection
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Sturdy footwear and extra socks
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Topographic map and compass/GPS
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp
- ✓ Waterproof matches, pocket knife, whistle

Winter Roads

Weather conditions in Rocky Mountain National Park can change quickly. Be observant. Watch for and be aware of changing weather and adjust plans accordingly. Expect snow, ice, wind, and cold temperatures at any time.

The RMNP Information Office is open 8-4:30 daily and can assist with current conditions, (970) 586-1206, or stop at a visitor center.

All-wheel drive, 4-wheel drive, or snow tires may be recommended during periods of heavy snow.

The average date that Trail Ridge Road closes for the season is October 22, but it may temporarily close several times before that. For a recorded message with current Trail Ridge Road status call (970) 586-1222. Winter closures are at Many Parks Curve on the east side, 8 miles from the Beaver Meadows/US Highway 36 and Fall River/US Highway

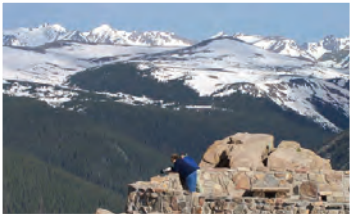
34 entrances, and the Colorado River Trailhead on the west side, 10 miles from the Grand Lake Entrance.

Weather permitting, lower elevation paved roads remain open, including Bear Lake Road.

Old Fall River Road is closed to motorized travel during the winter. Due to flood damage the road has been closed to all uses since July, 2014. The road should reopen by early November to hiking, snowshoeing and skiing.

Park Partners

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help Us Make it Even Better!



If you've **walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center**, or introduced a child to nature through the park's **Junior Ranger Program**, you know our work.

Become a Member or Donate Today!

www.rmconservancy.org



At Conservancy Nature Stores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference!

Visit the Conservancy's Nature Store in any park visitor center for the best RMNP t-shirts, games, jewelry, books, maps and other great park items. Proceeds support the park!



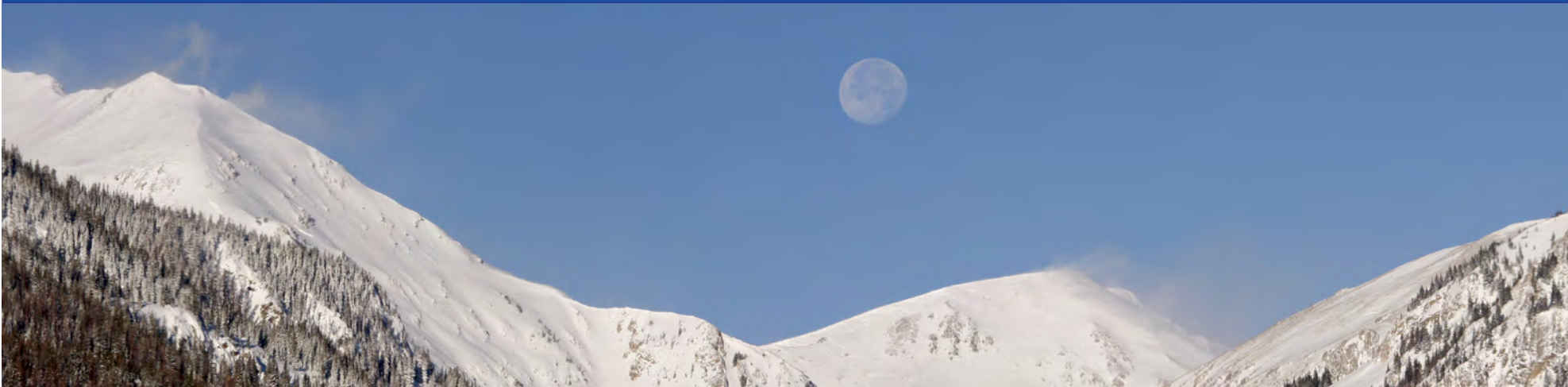


RMNP

Rocky Mountain National Park

100th Anniversary Celebration

100 Years of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder



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 30s, rates were \$17.50-\$40/night.

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

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** Abner Sprague homesteads in Moraine Park, builds Sprague's Ranch, and establishes tourism and dude ranching in the park.
- 1876** State of Colorado created by Congress
- 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.

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 rmnp100.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!

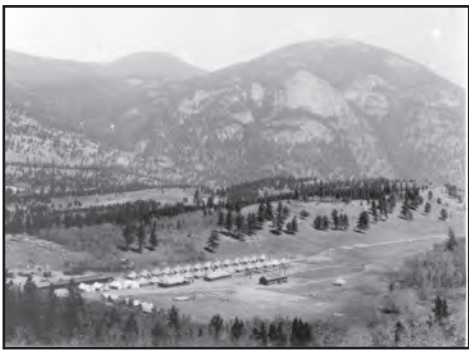


Centennial Junior Ranger

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.



The Civilian Conservation Corps created many of the roads and trails still used in the park today.



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.

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

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 Grafton 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 publicly 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 the 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.

Rocky Mountain National Park's Centennial Year

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

Centennials are important events. The 100th anniversary of the 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 2013 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 still unfinished one—it is an affirmation in 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 beside 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

- 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 sledding 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 it as 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.

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.

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 park's 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.



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 Official Poster of the Centennial, created by Jim Disney, is available for sale at park visitor centers.

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.



Visit rmconservancy.org for more information.

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



Subscribe to our YouTube channel for exclusive videos about the park, and participate in our Centennial RMNP YouTube Project. For this project, we want you to capture the moments when you were truly in awe of Rocky Mountain National Park. YOU are a part of what makes

this place so special and we want you to be the focus of these videos. Record yourself, friends, and family enjoying the park. This project is focused on the people and their emotions that are inspired by this beautiful place. Look for the finished video late summer 2015!



Join us on Instagram and help us reach our goal of 100K photos for 100 years of Rocky by posting your photos and using #RMNP. Throughout the year RMNP will be hosting seasonal InstaMeets to help reach our goal.



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 Wonder of Rocky Mountain National Park. and share it with us.

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, avalanche reports, road status, and weather.

Visit www.nps.gov/romo for more information on how to get involved digitally with RMNP!



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 @ 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 Valley Library
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

For complete details, please visit www.nps.gov/romo

- 26-31 Centennial Holiday Melodrama**
Grand Lake, CO
- 31 New Year's Eve Fireworks Celebrating RMNP**
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

Free Ranger-Led Programs | East Side

Program	Description	Length	Where to Meet	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Animals in Winter 	Discover the amazing adaptations that allow animals to survive the long winter in RMNP	20–30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center							10:30 A.M.
Wild in Winter 	Come learn about the park and wildlife in the winter in this informal chat with a ranger	drop in Sunday mornings 10-11 AM	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10-11 A.M.						
Snowshoe Ecology Walk Jan. 4-Mar. 21	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. <i>Bring your own snowshoes.</i> No previous experience needed.	2 hours	Reservation required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 586-1223 from 8 A.M.-4 P.M. daily	12:30 P.M. 1/4-3/15			12:30 P.M. 1/7-3/18			12:30 P.M. 1/10-3/21
Centennial Saturday Evening Program Jan 17-Mar 28 	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	45 minutes	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium							7 P.M. 1/17-3/28

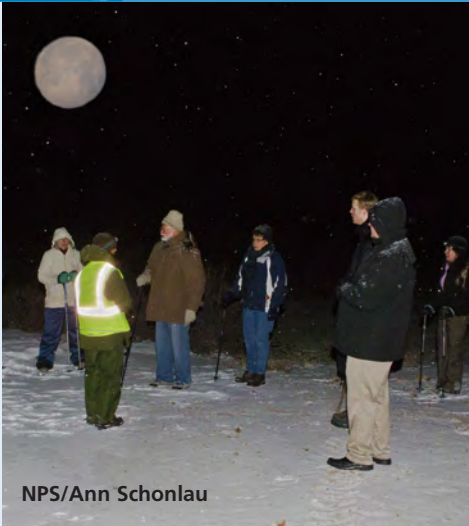
Additional Programs:

Full Moon Walk

1 to 1.5 hour walk. November 6, December 6, January 4, February 3, and March 5. Explore the park by 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

Program	Description	Length	Where to Meet	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ski the Wilderness in Winter Dec. 27-Jan. 31	Join a ranger for a mostly-level cross-country ski tour. <i>Bring your own skis and poles with large baskets.</i> Ages 8 through adult only.	1.5 hours	Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. daily							9:30 A.M. 12/27-1/31
Beginner Snowshoe Dec. 27-Mar. 7	Join a mostly-level snowshoe hike with a ranger. <i>Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets.</i> Ages 8 through adult only.	2 hours	Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. daily							1 P.M. 12/27-3/7
Intermediate Snowshoe Dec. 28-Mar. 8	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. <i>Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets.</i> Ages 8 through adult only.	2 hours	Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance, (970) 627-3471 from 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. daily	1 P.M. 12/28-3/8						

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

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

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!



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!



Hike, Snowshoe, or Ski the Beautiful Backcountry

NPS/Jim Westfall



Rangers Lead Snowshoe and Ski Programs

NPS/Ann Schonlau



Sled at Hidden Valley

NPS/Ann Schonlau

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

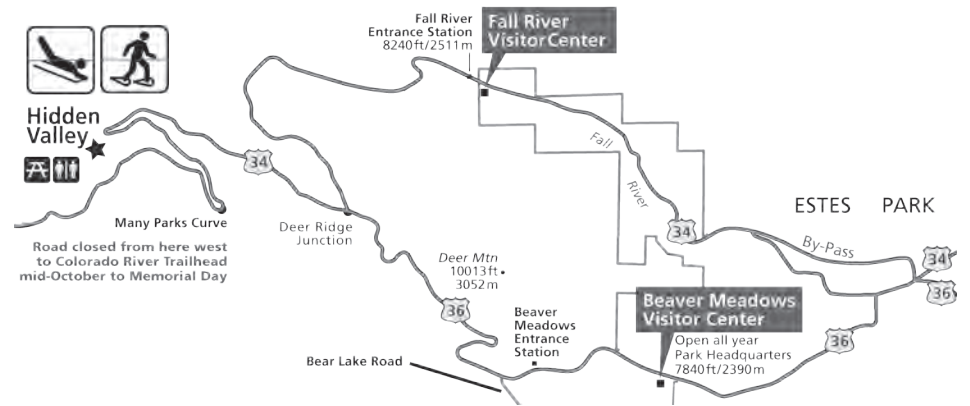
The steep terrain of Rocky Mountain National Park provides a great setting for backcountry skiing and riding. The Bear Lake and Hidden Valley areas offer some of the best terrain (skiing and snowboarding are not allowed in the Hidden Valley snowplay area; however, skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers 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 know how to use them. Be self-reliant.

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 for 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 when coming upon others on the trail.

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, snow boarders, 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.

Podcast Highlight

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



RMNP Podcasts

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/>