

# Check Out Colorado State Parks

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 287 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. Between June and November 2016, 720 patrons completed a survey about their experience with the program:

## Patrons recommend visiting a park and are likely to buy a pass

Based on your experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, how likely are you to:



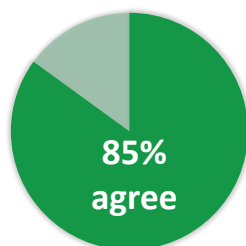
The parks pass from my library encouraged me to visit a park that, although it is less than an hour from where I live, I had never been before. The park was absolutely gorgeous, the rangers knowledgeable and kind, and the all-around experience excellent. **I cannot recommend this program enough!**

**The pass is wonderful and a great idea** for any family unable to afford much of anything. We do plan on buying a pass as soon as it is in the budget.

We made it our goal to visit as many new parks as we could with this pass. We learned [about] so many new parks as a result of this experience and **we highly recommended Eldorado to friends...as well as the pass.**

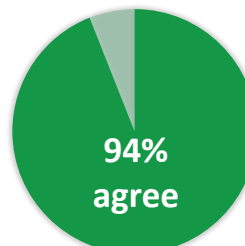
## Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



We got to walk the trails and **tried to identify as many wildlife as we could**, also it was nice for a single mom to be able to enjoy outdoor fun with the kids.

The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



I didn't know anything about the kids programs some of the state parks offer. We are new to USA. I'm looking forward to the education programs about wild animals. My kids will love it, and so will I. **So important to know these things.**

It was a family excursion to the great outdoors, yet still close to home. **The information provided in the backpacks, along with the binoculars excited the younger children.** They were able to pick out a bald eagle and zoom in on it, there were smiles all around.

There were approximately **3,960** backpack checkouts in the first **6 months**.  
That's **165** checkouts per week!

# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2017

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 297 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. In 2017, 806 patrons completed a survey about their experience with the program:

## Patrons recommend visiting a park and are likely to buy a pass

Based on your experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, how likely are you to:



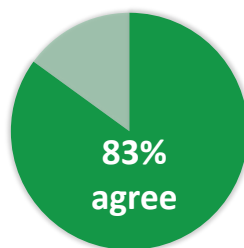
Thank you for this wonderful backpack of information and goodies. My husband and I loved learning and experiencing our closest state park. **Now we will buy a pass and travel to other state parks.** This pack is a fabulous tool to get people out in our beautiful natural surroundings!

I would definitely use a parks pass often, but \$70/year is outside of my budget. I'm thankful the library has things like this and the adventure pass to help me enjoy CO anyway. **I tell people about these programs all the time!**

We had forgotten [what] a lovely park Lathrop is, and had not bothered to take the 12 mile car trip there to hike. **We will be buying an annual pass and visiting a lot this year.** Thank you, Colorado Parks & La Veta Library.

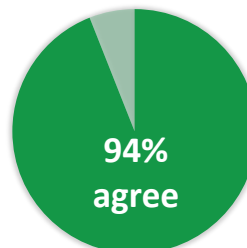
## Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



My son loves to explore. I am trying to foster that with both him and my daughter. We used the guides for trees and shrubs and for animals to identify many things we saw. **It was fun to watch the wonder in their eyes.**

The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



I really appreciated having the pass from the library...We shared the fact that we checked out the pass & other items in the backpack with a couple we met on the gondola. **They were astonished this was available & eager to ask Denver libraries about the backpack.**

Thank you for this great opportunity! We feel that this is a wonderful program to acquaint people with [what] state parks and libraries have to offer. We found the booklets extremely helpful and **our grandchildren especially loved identifying species of birds, wildlife and plants** with the binoculars. We would really like to explore parks further from our home. We are saving to purchase an annual pass.

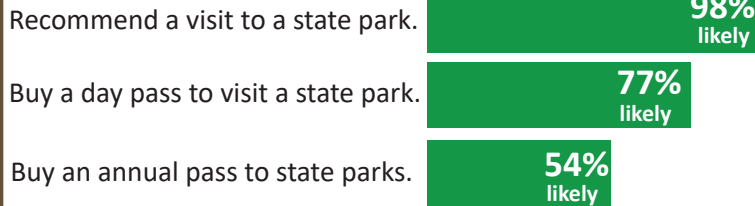
There were approximately **6,980** backpack checkouts in **1 year**.  
That's **134** checkouts per week!

# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2018

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 297 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. In 2018, 560 patrons completed a survey about their experience with the program:

## Patrons recommend visiting a park and are likely to buy a pass

Based on your experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, how likely are you to:



[We] learned that **the parks are treasures** and that we can be thankful to the entities that preserve and take care of them for our enjoyment and well-being.

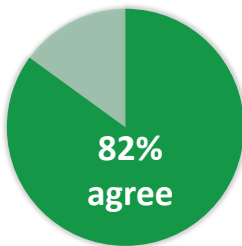
**This backpack is a great benefit to our community.** Please keep it up!

We are thankful the library has this program—we **wouldn't be able to go otherwise.** Thank you!

We love that we can check out Colorado State Parks passes at our library. Our family really likes to go on hikes and **this makes it possible for us to go to new parks around us.** Thanks!!

## Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:

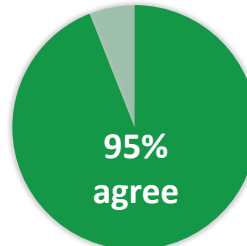


I'm a beginner kayaker and the lake access is helping me perfect my roll. **This will make me a safer boater** and give me another way to enjoy my time in the wilderness.

**This State Park [Yampa Valley] hit the mark on activities!** We did a "first-ever" river float with the park rangers. The flower/tree identification guide, along with the wildlife one, were so fun to find in the library backpack, we used them!

**Loved being able to teach my daughter** and show her what CO State Parks have to offer. Great program!

The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



It's a great way for people to have a chance to go to a state park that otherwise might not be able to afford it. Thank you for having this program. **It's also a great way for folks to discover just how much your local library has to offer.**

There were approximately **7,630** backpack checkouts in **1 year.** That's **147** checkouts per week!



# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2019

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 297 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. In 2019, 371 patrons completed a survey about their experience with the program:

Based on their experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, patrons are likely to:

Recommend a visit to a state park.

99%

Buy a day pass to visit a state park.

79%

Buy an annual pass to state parks. 57%

We are seniors on a fixed income. **This pass was wonderful to allow us to visit this park and its trails!** Thanks! A great experience. Thanks for contributing to us in a special way!

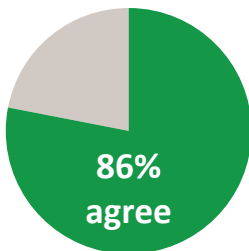
We purchased a pass!

Castlewood Canyon State Park is a place we've always driven past and wondered about. **We were so glad to finally explore it, and hope to go back.**

## Patrons learned

about nature, state parks, and libraries

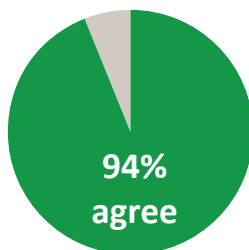
This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



Up close viewing of turkey vultures at Castlewood Canyon **was a first & an amazing experience for my daughter and I.**

Tiger salamander larvae are fascinating! The lost pond in Mueller State Park was full of them and we spent a long time watching them. They are such interesting looking creatures and **none of us had ever seen anything like them in the wild before.**

The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



We learned things about the bald and golden eagles we did not know. We appreciated the opportunity to access our State Parks via the SP Backpack Program and **had no idea this existed through the library system.** Thank you!

There were approximately **7,692** backpack checkouts in **1 year**. That's **148** checkouts per week!



# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2020

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 307 Colorado libraries with two park passes and adventure backpacks filled with information and educational activities. Patrons of participating public, military, and academic libraries can check out a backpack for a week at a time to visit state parks for free. In early 2020, the partners expanded the program with updated brochures, a new Colorado Birds guide and a plastic carrying pouch for the brochures and pass. Due to the extreme nature of the 2020 pandemic, many libraries were closed for a portion of the year or offering limited services. Only 137 patrons completed a survey about their park experience.

Activities patrons participated in while at the park:



Trail/road activities

63%



Water-based activities

37%



Winter activities

7%



Wildlife-related activities

37%

Based on their experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, patrons are likely to:

Recommend a visit to a state park.

99%

Buy a day pass to visit a state park.

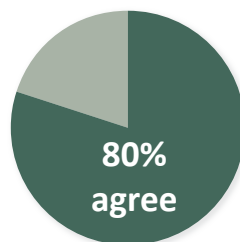
78%

Buy an annual pass to state parks. 53%

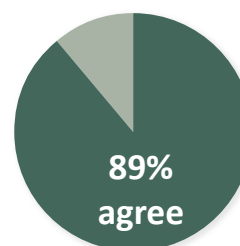
Patrons learned

about nature, state parks, and libraries

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



I am going to purchase an annual pass on Earth Day 4/22/21. I am newly retired and born in Colorado. I intend to visit as many state parks as possible this year.

I really wanted a way to get out of town for a lovely weekend. This pass helped me do that. Mueller was gorgeous, the sun was bright, the breeze strong, and the people few. Thank you!

Great pack with all the information to enjoy the outdoors (wildlife, birds, etc.). Parks have just about anything for the beginner to experienced person. Bathrooms, camping sites, trails with all the beautiful views not seen before. Great for families with kids to get out and see. Five star rating.

There were approximately **1,527** backpack checkouts in one year.

That's **29** checkouts per week!

# Check Out Colorado State Parks 2021

Check Out Colorado State Parks ([cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack](http://cpw.state.co.us/librarybackpack)), the result of a partnership between **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and the **Colorado State Library**, provides 307 Colorado libraries with two park passes and adventure backpacks filled with information and educational activities. Patrons of participating public, military, and academic libraries can check out a backpack for a week at a time to visit state parks for free. While backpack circulation was down due to the continuing pandemic, this program provided critical access to nature for many during 2021. 397 patrons completed a survey about their park experience.

Activities patrons participated in while at the park:



Trail/road activities

63%



Water-based activities

37%



Fishing

7%



Wildlife-related activities

37%

Based on their experience with Check Out Colorado State Parks, patrons are likely to:

Recommend a visit to a state park.

99%

Buy a day pass to visit a state park.

80%

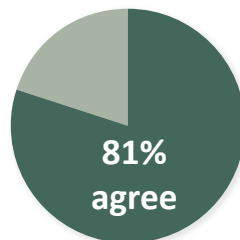
Buy an annual pass to state parks.

60%

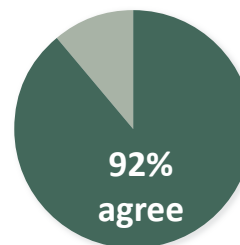
Patrons learned

about nature, state parks, and libraries

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



Enables we seniors to walk/fish in the fresh air and avoid the COVID threat. We could not afford to do so otherwise.

This was my first visit to each of these parks after living here nearly 20 years. Thank you for the library pass access. I loved both of these parks and will visit again!

We were able to access the boat ramp to tube the Colorado River! We saw herons and enjoyed the water. We also walked our dogs around the lake. Amazing program! We would not have gone without this.

This pass allows my family access to the State Parks on our unusual school year! Thanks for an opportunity to hike in January--that was a first for us! We hope you'll continue this program.

There were approximately **5,881** backpack checkouts in one year. That's **113** checkouts per week!

# 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%

Trail/road activities



32%

Water-based activities



9% Fishing



29%

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%

"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."

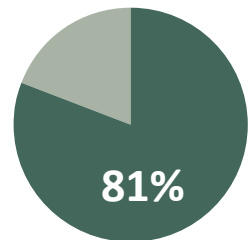
"Our patrons love this program and the passes are always in high demand... I also love seeing our patron's faces light up when they first learn of the program and that they can visit a Colorado state park for free."

"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."

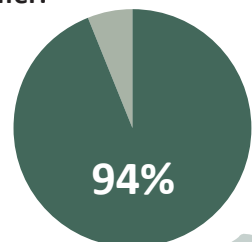
"Our 7 year old used everything in the packet. She could identify birds, animals and flowers. She especially liked the binoculars."

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

This park experience helped us learn more about nature:



The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer:



There were approximately **8,764** backpack checkouts in 2022.

That's more than **168** checkouts per week!