



Empowering Colorado Educators: A Workshop on Connecting Youth to Nature and Conservation

COURSE SUMMARY

Join us for a 4-day workshop to learn about wildlife, forestry, agriculture, and water! This workshop is open to all Colorado K-12 educators, paraeducators, specialists, and administrators. Educators will take part in discussions with expert speakers, develop hands-on skills in the outdoors, receive take-home classroom resources, and complete a lesson link project to plan how they will apply the information learned to their subject and grade level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1 Discuss the benefits of connecting youth to conservation in a school setting.
- 2 Understand aspects of wildlife biology, forest ecology, agriculture, and water through hands-on activities and discussions with experts.
- 3 Determine which aspects of wildlife biology, forest ecology, agriculture, and water knowledge can be tied into the state standards.
- 4 Compose a lesson link project that aligns with participants' grade level and subject, integrating state standards along with the learning and activities from the workshop.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

In partnership with Colorado State University Pueblo, educators who attend this workshop have the opportunity to gain Continuing Education Units (CEUs) issued under the seal of CSU Pueblo's Division of Extended Studies.

Successful completion of this workshop equates to **3 CEUs (30 hours of contact hours)**. In order to receive units, participants must attend all days in full and be an active participant.

Educators register with CSU Pueblo using a link provided after registering for the course. After completing the full contact hours, CSU Pueblo will mail out a transcript and certificate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course will be facilitated primarily outdoors at Sacramento Creek Ranch. We will use indoor facilities in case of inclement weather and for certain activities. Please expect to walk/hike up to two miles per day on various terrains at high elevation (9,800-11,500 feet elevation; unpaved trails, forested areas). Below is an anticipated schedule (subject to change).

Time	Day 1 – Forestry	Day 2 – Water	Day 3 – Wildlife & Biodiversity	Day 4 – Agricultural Ecology
7:30 - 8:00 a.m.			- Independent Birding Walk - Citizen Science	
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.		- Introduction to Day - Watersheds in Colorado Group Chalk Activity	- Biodiversity Guest Speaker from Syracuse University	- Introduction to Day - Connecting Today's Theme to State Standards - Travel to Ranch
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.		- Stream Restoration Guest Speaker from Colorado Open Lands & Sacramento Creek Exploration	- Travel to Pennsylvania Mountain - Pennsylvania Mountain Exploration - Travel back from Pennsylvania Mountain	- Agroecology Guest Speaker - Ranch Exploration and Activities
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	- Welcome - Introduction to Course - Introductory Activity			
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	- Conservation 101			
12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	- Lunch	- Lunch	- Lunch	- Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	- Forest Ecology - Introduction to Plant Identification - Tree Coring	- Riverscape Health Assessment	- Changing the Land and its Wildlife Impacts - Land Fragmentation Activity	- Ranch Exploration and Activities Continued - Travel back from Ranch
3:00 - 4:15 p.m.	- Meet a Tree Activity - Connecting Today's Theme to State Standards	- Connecting Today's Theme to State Standards - Lesson Link Plan Activity	- Connecting Today's Theme to State Standards - Lesson Link Plan Activity	- Lesson Link Plan Finalization & Sharing
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	- Lesson Link Plan Activity - Closing & Feedback	- Closing & Feedback - Introduction to Morning Activity	- Lesson Link Plan Activity	- Closing & Debrief
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.			- Lesson Link Plan Activity Cont. - Closing & Feedback	
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.				

COL and MALT are committed to making our programs accessible.

If you require an accommodation or modification for the teacher workshop, please contact us.



COURSE LOGISTICS & DETAILS

Location

This workshop is held at Sacramento Creek Ranch near Fairplay, Colorado. The property is owned and managed by Mountain Area Land Trust and was donated to them by Terry and Al Hershey in 2019. This 71-acre property was conserved in 2020 with Colorado Open Lands and boasts many nature trails, beaver ponds, and if you're lucky – wildlife sightings!

Sacramento Creek Ranch is equipped with a newly renovated classroom space, ranch house, greenhouse, yurt, and miles of publicly accessible nature trails. It is the perfect place for this workshop!

Lodging & Meals

Lodging is available (at no cost to the participant) in Fairplay at the Hand Hotel. Please request accommodation at registration. You may also choose to commute from home if preferred.

Meals are included (Monday lunch through Thursday lunch). Although snacks will be available, we do suggest bringing your own favorites.

Dietary restrictions and allergies will be accommodated as best as possible.

Travel

Some activities will take place offsite near Fairplay. You may choose to drive your own vehicle or carpool with COL/MALT staff or other participants.

Address & Directions



2234 Busch Run | Fairplay, CO 80440

From Fairplay, head northwest on CO-9 N. After about 2 miles, turn left onto CR14 (Sacramento Creek Road).

Turn left on Busch Run after 1 mile. Sacramento Creek Ranch is located to your right (see picture above).

What to Bring

Although we will have some extra essentials available, we recommend the following for a successful workshop: Backpack, sunscreen, hat, closed-toed and sturdy hiking shoes, water shoes, various clothing layers, rain/wind breaker, reusable water bottle, favorite snacks, notebook, device (for lesson links), and any classroom-specific resources you'd like to refer to.

Questions? Contact Yvonne Schramm at yschramm@coloradoopenlands.org or 303.988.2373 ext. 223 or Jeff Jordan at jeff@savetheland.org.

