



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



COURSE SUMMARY

Join us for a 3-day workshop to learn about wildlife, forestry, and water! This workshop is open to all Colorado K-12, special education, literacy programs and gifted and talented classroom educators. Educators will take part in discussions with expert staff, 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 Understand aspects of wildlife biology, forest ecology, and water system/restoration through hands-on activities and lessons with experts.
- 2 Identify how wildlife biology, forest ecology, and water system/restoration knowledge can be tied into state standards.
- 3 Discuss the benefits of connecting youth to nature and conservation in a school setting.
- 4 Explore natural processes that students can relate to that shape their daily lives and drive community decisions.
- 5 Compose a lesson plan unit for their grade and subject integrating state standards and the learning and activities from the workshop.

GRADUATE LEVEL RELICENSURE CREDIT

Successful completion of this course equates to **1 semester hour of graduate level relicensure credit** from Colorado School of Mines. In order to receive credit, participants must attend all days in full, be an active participant, and complete all activities.

Colorado School of Mines will only grant credits for a course when the full contact hour requirements have been met. Missed sessions of a course cannot be made up by attending subsequent offerings of the same class or by completing substitute assignments.

Official transcripts for the course will be available approximately 4-6 weeks after the course is completed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course will be facilitated primarily outdoors at Sacramento Creek Ranch. We will use the 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 (unpaved trails, forested areas). See below an anticipated schedule:

Time	Day 1 – Wildlife	Day 2 – Water	Day 3 - Forestry
8:00-8:30 a.m.	- Optional Breakfast	- Breakfast (provided)	- Breakfast (provided)
8:30-9:30 a.m.	- Welcome - Introduction to Course - Benefits of EE	- Introduction to Day - Water in Colorado - Connecting Water to State Standards	- Introduction to Day - Forestry Guest Speaker
9:30-10:00 a.m.	- Travel	- Travel	- Connecting Forestry to State Standards
10:00-11:30 a.m.	- South Park Wildlife Overview - Wildlife Habitat Activity	- Stream Restoration Guest Speaker	- Tree Coring - Forestry Nature Game
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	- Travel	- Travel	- Conservation Action in the Classroom
12:00-12:30 p.m.	- Lunch (provided)	- Lunch (provided)	- Lunch (provided)
12:30-1:30 p.m.	- Wildlife Guest Speaker - Connecting Wildlife to State Standards	- Water Quality Lesson - Water Usage & Impact Lesson	- Lesson Link Activity Finalization - Lesson Links Sharing
1:30-2:00 p.m.	- Wildlife Nature Game	- Water Nature Game	- Closing & Debrief
2:00-4:00 p.m.	- Lesson Link Activity	- Lesson Link Activity	
	- Dinner (provided)	- Dinner (provided)	

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 classroom space, ranch house, greenhouse, barn, 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) at the Hand Hotel in Fairplay. Please request accommodation at registration. You may also choose to commute from home if preferred.

The following meals are also included:

Light Breakfast on Tuesday-Thursday; Lunch on Tuesday-Thursday; Dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday. 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), any classroom-specific resources you'd like to refer to, pen/pencil.

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

