

Check Out Colorado State Parks 2024

Check Out Colorado State Parks provides a unique park pass and adventure backpack filled with field and exploration guides to library visitors of all ages. Started in 2016, this program is the result of a partnership between the Colorado State Library, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and local libraries. The goals of this program are to provide access to and engagement with state parks, encourage nature exploration, and expand awareness of the variety of items available at our libraries.

180 borrowers completed a survey about their experience with the Check Out Colorado State Parks program in 2024. Their responses, as well as library reported statistics, tell the story of our much beloved program in the last year.

There were approximately 7,380 backpack checkouts in 2024. That's more than 141 per week!

Patrons' activities while at the park:

- 76% reported participating in trail and/or road activities.
- 22% reported participating in water-based activities.
- 5% reported fishing
- 33% reported participating in 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 an annual pass to state parks (57%).

Buy a day pass to visit a state park (61%).

Patrons learned about nature, state parks, and libraries.

76% of patrons agreed to the statement, "This park experience helped me/us learn more about nature."

90% of patrons agreed to the statement, "The Check Out Colorado State Parks program changed my view about what libraries have to offer."

Stories from patrons and libraries:

"We live in a small, rural county with one nearby State Park. The patrons who have used this are excited and very appreciative. It impresses them that two public entities have a successful collaborative venture as this program."

“We saw baby western screech owls in their nest! It was simply wonderful!!”

“Thank you! I love libraries connecting people to nature!”

“We love this program & that it is available for folks who may not otherwise go to/afford the parks & see what they have to offer. Thanks for making this possible!”

“Thank you so much! We had an awesome family adventure!”

“We purchased an annual pass! We liked getting to visit & try our state parks for free (we just moved to CO). And they were so nice that we purchased our new pass right away. Thank you!”

Final Notes

There have been approximately 60,414 backpack checkouts since the start of the program.

Find out more at www.coloradostatelibrary.org/checkoutcostateparks

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