



Photo: Ann Duncan



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy

Nature. Pass it on.



Since 1931... Making a difference in Rocky Mountain National Park

Founded in 1931, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy is the nonprofit partner of Rocky Mountain National Park. Our primary mission is to provide philanthropic and programmatic support to Rocky Mountain National Park, including funding for youth education through the Conservancy's Next Generation Fund. We also work with Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other nonprofit partner agencies to provide educational services and support.

In addition to its educational and visitor services programs, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy engages in special fundraising projects to benefit Rocky. The first philanthropic project, in 1985, was the acquisition of the Jennings Tract, a private landholding located in the Kawuneeche Valley, which was transferred to the park for permanent protection.

Since then, with the support of thousands of members and donors, the Conservancy has raised more than \$33 million to fund more than 50 projects for the park, such as the construction of handicapped-accessible trails around Lily Lake and Sprague Lake, trail improvement at Lake Haiyaha, land protection on the park's west side, and the design and construction of the spectacular Fall River Visitor Center.

Our mission

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy promotes stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park and similar lands through education and philanthropy.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Who we are:

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is a vibrant, growing organization with an active core membership of nearly 3,000 individuals and families. Additionally, we have more than 14,000 contributors, including individuals, local and national businesses and foundations.

How we work:

The Conservancy operates Nature Stores within Rocky Mountain National Park and other public lands sites in Colorado and Wyoming. In addition to providing visitor services, educational publications and mementos, these stores provide funds that support the interpretive programs at the sites where they are located. Profits from these earned income activities also underwrite Conservancy operations and mission-driven programs ensuring that a greater share of philanthropic donations directly fund projects in and around Rocky Mountain National Park.

Signature programs and projects:

- Land Protection
- Historic Preservation
- Trail Improvement
- Park Research Funding
- The Next Generation Fund
- The Rocky Mountain Conservancy–Conservation Corps
- The Field Institute
- Publications
- Membership



“I want this park to continue as accessible and beautiful as it is now, for my children, their children, and THEIR children, just as my parents enjoyed it before me.” — Joan Winstein

Land Protection

Protecting our nation's valuable lands

Since the early 1980s, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy has assumed a leadership role in acquiring many important parcels of land, both in Rocky Mountain National Park and in the adjacent Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, and transferring the land to these federal agencies for permanent protection.

In order to quickly respond to acquisition opportunities from willing sellers, the Conservancy seeks to maintain a viable land protection fund. Only lands that are significant to the long-term benefit of the park or nearby forest are considered.



Land Protection Project Highlights

- Wild Basin Property, \$350,000 (2017)
- Cascade Cottages, \$3,200,000 (2016)
- Johnson Property, \$400,000 (2013)
- Crane Trust Tract \$11,830 (2010)
- McGowan Tract, \$18,100 (2009)
- Owen-McMahon Tract, \$300,000 (2008)
- Kueker Tract, \$600,000 (2007)
- Fahy Tract, \$846,000 (2005)
- Miller Tract, \$1.02 M (2002)
- Enos Mills easement, \$54,136 (2002)
- Sleepy Hollow, \$315,248 (2002)
- Lily Lake Water Rights, \$60,000 (2000)
- Adams Tract, \$280,000 (1999)
- Roessler Tract, \$415,000 (1998)
- Baldpate, \$20,000 (1990)
- Jennings Tract, \$78,000 (1985)

“Without the support of its members like me, all the things I hold dear about the park and its adjacent lands, including programming, land acquisition, protection and preservation, would eventually be plundered and lost forever.” — Katherine Dines

Trail Restoration

Maintaining access to park trails

For many, hiking the more than 350 miles of scenic trails in Rocky Mountain National Park is the ultimate wilderness experience. For others, strolling the handicapped-accessible walkways is the best way to share the scenic wonders of the park with family and friends. Whether a gentle stroll or a rigorous climb, trails in the park are valued for the access they provide to some of the most magnificent places in Colorado.

Due to the wear and tear of high visitation, trail repairs and improvements are in constant demand in this park. Our much-loved trails require on-going attention to keep them safe and in good condition to protect park resources and ensure visitor safety.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy continually raises funds for numerous trail improvement projects to help the park with its priority projects, making trails more easily located, safer and beautifully crafted to protect the resource for years to come.



Trail Improvement Project Highlights

- Alluvial Fan \$200,000 (2019)
- Bierstadt Trail \$173,050 (2017)
- Pack animals \$11,500 (2017)
- Lily Lake Trail Repair, \$109,000 (2016)
- Coyote Valley Accessible Trail repair, \$122,000 (2016)
- Alberta Falls – Lake Haiyaha Trails Rehabilitation, \$420,000 (2009-2012)
- Lily Lake Accessible Fishing Pier, \$30,000 (2011)
- The Loch/Sky Pond Trail, \$342,311 (2006)
- Mills/Black Lake Trail, \$205,000 (2002)
- Adams Falls Trail \$91,000 (2001)
- Lily/Storm Pass Trail, \$136,000 (2001)
- Bear Lake Trail, \$234,290 (2000)
- Sprague Lake Accessible Trail, \$249,280 (2000)
- Lily Lake Trail, \$225,507 (1997)
- Coyote Valley Accessible Trail, \$109,764 (1994)
- Beaver Ponds Boardwalk, \$35,000 (1985)



“My yearly contributions are a way that I can help make sure that this wonderland is available to my daughter and the generations to come so that they can see the beauty and grandeur of the natural world. There is no other place like Rocky and never will be. It needs our support.” — Jim Kubichek



Historic Preservation

Preserving the park's heritage

Dozens of historic buildings dot Rocky Mountain National Park. Even more can be found in neighboring communities and adjacent national forests. This is where our historical heritage comes to life. These are reminders of generations past.

As stewards of history, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy already has restored many significant buildings.

The Conservancy and the park regularly select special structures in need of help. Only through the hands-on strategies of repair, restoration and adaptive use will these buildings be saved and their important history conveyed to coming generations.



Wigwam Tea Room before restoration

Historic Preservation Project Highlights:

- Park Archeological Surveys, \$15,000 (2019)
- Holzwarth Site Improvements, \$4,156 (2017/2019)
- Wigwam outbuildings, \$59,000 (2007)
- Wigwam Tea Room, \$58,000 (2005)
- McGraw Ranch cabins, \$167,090 (2002)
- Never Summer Ranch cabins, \$86,000 (1999)
- Quarters 48 restoration, \$160,000 (1997)
- William Allen White cabins, \$140,884 (1998)
- Shadow Mountain Lookout, \$43,814 (1996)

Nature. Pass it on.

The Next Generation Fund

Passing the stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park on to our children is a task as big as our signature mountains. With the support of our donors and members, our goal is to build and maintain a connection between children, nature and the park.



Through the Next Generation Fund, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy captures the hearts, minds and funding necessary to secure the future of the educational programs at Rocky Mountain National Park.

To meet these challenges, there are two parts to the Next Generation Fund: a “working” fund, which provides more than \$500,000 in donations annually for program support; and continuing to build an endowment fund that will eventually support these programs in perpetuity.

Programs supported by the Next Generation Fund:

- The Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Conservation Corps
- Rocky’s Junior Ranger Program
- RMNP’s *Heart of the Rockies* Environmental Education program
- Youth and family-oriented publications and exhibits
- Park internships and fellowships
- Conservancy internships and fellowships
- Family programs through the Conservancy’s Field Institute
- Free education programs for kids through the Field Institute



photo © Michael Lichter

“For purely selfish reasons, we designate our dollars to go to the Next Generation Fund. We want to instill a love for the park in young hearts so that long after we are gone, someone will still be taking care of ‘our’ park.” — Larry and Linda Williams

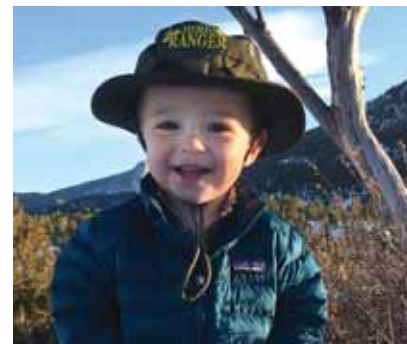
Next Generation Fund Program Highlight:

Junior Ranger Program

Engaging kids as future park stewards

This program helps children and their families to explore and experience Rocky Mountain National Park up close. Through engaging activities and books, Junior Rangers become familiar with the flora and fauna of Rocky to help them develop a love for nature, nurturing a sense of commitment to the future of parks and protected areas.

The Next Generation Fund supports the program through the development and publication of innovative activity booklets, games and Junior Ranger items.



Dynamic Program Success!

- The Junior Ranger Program presents thousands of Junior Ranger badges to enthusiastic young rangers every year.
- Each year hundreds of Junior Ranger programs are offered multiple times per day covering a variety of natural history topics.
- The Junior Firefighter program engages more than a thousand summer visitors participating in 32 programs.



Photo: NPS/Bonnie Beach

“My wife and I contribute to the Next Generation Fund because they are who will need to preserve the future, to the Trails Funds because we love to use them and to land protection to help grow and protect this true national treasure.” — Steve Watson

Next Generation Fund Program Highlight:

Environmental Education

Connecting kids to the natural world

The *Heart of the Rockies* Education and Outreach program is a partnership between the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and Rocky Mountain National Park. The program reflects both organizations' commitment to provide more than 12,000 K-12 students each year with the opportunity to learn about the sciences in the natural outdoor classroom of Rocky Mountain National Park.

The program focuses on bringing children from the park's gateway communities, and under-served students and youth who otherwise would not have the opportunity to visit, closer to nature.

The Next Generation Fund provides support to the program through the annual funding of a National Park Service Education Specialist and several education interns.

The Fund also addresses the budget challenges many schools face by providing \$15,000 annually to subsidize bus transportation from Front Range schools to Rocky Mountain National Park. For many, this alone makes getting out of the classroom and into the park a feasible option.

Success!

- Since its inception, the *Heart of the Rockies* program has reached more than 160,000 students and youth from throughout Colorado.
- Every year, the *Heart of the Rockies* environmental education program provides hundreds of programs for as many as 10,000 students, youth and families.
- Each year, eight to ten different schools receive NGF funding for transportation to the park on multiple occasions through the year.



“Without the Conservancy, many critical projects would not be completed in Rocky. I am proud to be a member of this organization that has such a fabulous impact on my favorite national park.” — Bert Corwin

Next Generation Fund Program Highlight:

Conservation Corps

Nurturing stewardship through work

The Conservation Corps is an AmeriCorps program providing a unique service-learning experience for young adults interested in public land conservation. For eleven weeks, crews work with National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service professionals in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests building and maintaining trails, restoring native habitat, preserving historic structures, and improving campgrounds.



Originally established through a grant from the Daniels Fund, the Conservancy places young adults on crews of five to eight members with one to two crew leaders managing each crew. In the field, crews receive technical oversight from public land professionals. Crew leaders develop critical leadership skills, while fostering a positive learning experience among crew members. Crew members gain on-the-ground conservation experience, learn outdoor skills, develop an understanding of public land management, and advance their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. All of these young people are challenged to broaden their perspectives and achieve goals they never thought possible. Throughout the summer, they explore natural resource careers and develop professional resumes while protecting and preserving our public land heritage.

“Our dollars help grow and sustain the park and enhance the experience for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.”

— Tim and Wendy Haight



“The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is a program I will forever be grateful to. It has taught me life lessons that I do not believe I would have been able to obtain anywhere else. On one of the most important levels I was able to give back to the public lands that have given me so much since I was a kid, it warms my heart to know other people that care so much about these areas and want to spend their time developing and protecting them. The power of hard work, leadership, education, dedication, friendship, and giving radiates through the program.” – Angelee, Crew Member 2019

“Working for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Conservation Corps allowed me to develop a new kind of relationship with these natural places that have shaped the person I’ve become. My relationship has grown deeper, more full, based on a drive to live responsibly and give back to the places I use. Meeting young people who want to serve public lands and make a difference has been inspiring and will guide my future for some time to come.” – James, Crew Leader 2019



Work accomplished in 2019:

- 11,385 collective hours of service
- 137 miles of trail maintained
- 846 downed trees cleared from trails
- 2235 trail drainages repaired/installed
- 4 backcountry bridges repaired/constructed

- 39 acres of land managed for invasive plants
- 5 campsites restored
- 11 historic structures preserved

34 young adults nurtured as public lands stewards

“Some (of our) donations have been to the Conservation Corps. We could not help but be impressed when coming upon trail restoration work when hiking in the park. The spirit of the groups and the work they were doing were remarkable.” — Carlen Schenk



Next Generation Fund Program Highlight:

Outdoor Adventures for Kids

Connecting young people to the natural world

Integrated into the goals of the Next Generation Fund are programs offered for young people through the Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Field Institute. Education-based programs provide hands-on learning experiences with Rocky Mountain National Park as a classroom.

Classes are geared to engage kids at the appropriate learning level, and designed to increase awareness of natural and cultural history with attention to the education curriculum in the schools.

Field programs also provide opportunities for children and adolescents who may be at risk, or disadvantaged, to develop a connection to the park and the natural world. Intergenerational programs bring together family members to explore the wonders of Rocky.



The Conservancy also funds the development and publication of fun, educational books for kids.

"The Conservancy's support of the park has grown over the decades from a collection of excellent improvement projects to vital physical and education funding available nowhere else!" — Allan C. Northcutt

Next Generation Fund Program Highlight:

Student Internship Opportunities

Developing interpretive and education skills

Students needing an internship for college graduation or graduates seeking field experience or a career change often satisfy these needs working in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Each year, students work full-time during various seasons to assist with education and outreach in the park; conducting interpretive programs; providing informal, roving interpretation along trails and at overlooks; and providing park information and answering questions at visitor centers. They work alongside professional ranger-naturalists and educators to learn the art and craft of conducting education programs in the field.

The Next Generation Fund provides more than \$85,000 annually to give these students life-long experiences in the park — an investment in future generations that can grow exponentially.

Internship Program Successes

- Interns interact with and assist the visiting public, answering questions at a variety of visitor centers, Sheep Lakes Information Station and during roving assignments.
- Interns research and prepare interpretive educational programs following the park's Interpretive Development Plan and receive coaching feedback on throughout their seasons.
- Colorado River District interns assist with Environmental Educational programs for Grand County schools.
- Interns participate in career days to learn about and interact with other park departments to expand their park experience.



“The Conservancy cares about the needs of the park as well as the generosity of their members and donors; as such, every dollar is stretched as far as it can be to achieve as much good as possible.” — Karen Waller



Field Institute Programs

Education as a tool for stewardship

It all started in 1962, an auspicious year for the Conservancy's Field Institute program. Dr. Beatrice Willard, a local ecologist and tundra specialist, was deeply inspired by the potential of field-based educational experiences in the national parks. In Rocky, she initiated the first educational program of its kind in a national park.

More than 50 years later, this innovative and energetic program continues, expanded from the original few classes about plants, wildlife and native peoples, to hundreds of day-long and multi-day adventures in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Today, participants discover and explore a wide range of topics through custom, youth and family programs, and outdoor educational adventures and tours, including hiking and skill-building, photography, art, natural history and cultural history.



Educational Tours by Bus

From the comfort of a 14-passenger bus or an 11-passenger van, the Conservancy's Field Institute also offers guided bus tours throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. These educational adventures provide visitors with a unique experience to explore the park in greater depth with a professional naturalist.

Conservancy Volunteers in the Park

Creating opportunities for connecting with Rocky through service

Since 2015, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy has engaged the public in volunteer service opportunities in Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests. These volunteer projects allow local communities, visitors, corporate groups, and organizations to give back to the park through on-the-ground conservation projects to support public land management goals. The projects range from two-hours to a full eight-hour day. Volunteers can participate in litter clean-ups, invasive species management, native plant restoration, trail maintenance, and fire-fuels reduction projects. Across this spectrum of work, the Conservancy engages volunteers of diverse ages, abilities and interests.

In recent years, the Conservancy has hosted more than a dozen projects annually. More than 300 volunteers have contributed thousands of hours of service to Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding U.S. Forest Service lands. Each year, these projects include celebrations of Colorado Public Lands Day, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day. Additionally, the Conservancy hosts a fire fuels reduction project honoring 9/11-National Day of Service and Remembrance.



“We are members because we see and have seen the many good projects undertaken by the Conservancy. We continue to donate because we love Rocky and know that our donation will be used for its benefit.” — Randall and Janet Maharry



Visitor Services

Enriching the visitor experience

In the tradition of national park partner agencies nationwide, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy operates Nature Stores in five visitor centers and three seasonal retail kiosks in Rocky Mountain National Park. These sites provide educational items to the public that inform, but also invite deeper exploration and understanding of Rocky Mountain National Park's natural history and recreational options.

Informational products include photography, and natural history books and fun books for kids, Junior Ranger items, maps, mementos, games, apparel and much more. All products are reviewed and approved by national park staff, with net proceeds given to the park to support significant educational programs.

The Conservancy also operates Nature Stores in Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, and in multiple Forest Service locations and one BLM area in Colorado and Wyoming, to provide educational materials to visitors at these sites. Proceeds support special events, exhibit development and renovation, and supplies to these natural areas.



Trusted park information

Publications created by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy have provided trusted park information for years. To name a few:

- Geology Along Trail Ridge Road
- Rocky Mountain National Park: Natural History Handbook
- Guide to Trail Ridge Road
- Arapaho Names and Trails
- Field Guide to Wildlife Viewing
- High Country Names
- Mammals: Wild & Watchable



Supporting Rocky's programs through visitor services

In addition to supporting the operations of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, funds generated through the sale of educational products help the park in three ways: by providing educational materials to expand the visitor experience; by supporting park research projects with generated profits; and by supporting educational programs of the national park.

Annual programs supported include:

- **Publications:**
 - Park Newspaper
 - Informational Site Bulletins
- **Staff Services:**
 - Interpretive Staff positions
 - Intern/Park staff training
 - Volunteer Training/Events
- **Programs:**
 - Park museum/archiving program
 - Research Conferences
 - Special park events
 - Distance Education program
 - Speaker-Series
 - Discovery Days

Learn more about us at [RMConservancy.org](https://www.rmconservancy.org)

Discover how the Conservancy works to enhance Rocky and other public lands

Shop our Nature Stores for a great selection of Rocky Mountain National Park products

Enroll in award-winning Field Institute programs, including bus tour adventures!

Become a member and receive discounts in the Nature Stores, on classes and at other public lands stores nationwide

Donate to support your favorite program or improvement project in the park

"I support the Conservancy because it offers excellent learning opportunities for all ages — they are the growing ambassadors to keep the park alive for future generations." — Terri Morrow



Make a Gift to Protect and Conserve Rocky Mountain National Park

From the trails you hike to the wildlife you encounter, our work in Rocky Mountain National Park helps protect and preserve the beauty of one of America's favorite national parks.

Next Generation Fund — a critical endowment fund created in 2006 to meet the challenges of connecting the next generation of youth with nature.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Conservation Corps — providing a unique service-learning experience for college students interested in natural resource conservation.

Trail Improvement — raising millions of dollars for numerous accessible trails, trail construction and improvement projects in the park since 1985.

Land Protection — protecting land within and around the park and national forests requires preparation. Help us be ready to step forward when a willing seller places property on the market.

Historic Preservation — preserving and restoring dozens of historic buildings that dot Rocky Mountain National Park.

Legacy Endowment — supporting projects and programs of long-term significance in perpetuity for Rocky Mountain National Park.



Help make the park the *best* it can be.

RMConservancy.org

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Become a member today!

Creating a strong foundation of support for Rocky

The Conservancy is a group of thousands of dedicated members and donors working to fill the unmet needs of Rocky Mountain National Park and our other public lands partners. Memberships provide the Rocky Mountain Conservancy with crucial financial support, and create a stable foundation for the organization's operations, often additionally choosing to support projects directly, including building and repairing trails, protecting land for the park, educating the next generation of public lands stewards and so much more. Members also become a helpful resource for volunteer activities in the park and with the Conservancy.

Conservancy members treasure Rocky Mountain National Park. We keep our members informed about park issues and park events and provide ways for them to stay connected to this beautiful place.



Members enjoy a 15% discount at all Conservancy Nature Stores in the park

Membership Benefits:

- A 15% discount at Conservancy Nature Stores in park visitor centers and at the Conservancy's online store; discounts at stores in most U.S. national parks; discounts on select Field Institute programs
- A welcome packet, including a subscription to the Conservancy's *Quarterly* newsletter, and a membership gift at the premium \$50 level
- Invitations to member events and special Members-only programs



Photo: Lee Kline

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