

OWLS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

MAY 22, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3002
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**

FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: JEFF MAUGANS

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute & Conference Center PAGE 1 OF 2
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 4:00 PM – MIDNIGHT

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Participants will explore Rocky Mountain National Park in search of owls during their spring courtship and nesting season. Participants will be listening for the vocalizations of northern pygmy, northern saw-whet, flammulated and great horned owls. The class will venture into the field at dusk for the opportunity to spot diurnal pygmy owls. After dark, participants will explore owl habitats with the hope of spotting a pair of nesting owls.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will learn the specific adaptations that owls use for their survival.
2. Participants will learn diversity and speciation among owls.
3. Participants will learn specific field techniques used to locate owls.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks throughout the day/night primarily on level terrain.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Jeff Maugans worked as a park naturalist for the National Park Service from 1977 to 2009. His special area of interest is birds. He is a Pennsylvania native and has a degree in outdoor education and natural science from Pennsylvania State University. He has worked at Mammoth Cave National Park, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Edison National Historic Site, Gateway National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He came to Rocky Mountain National Park in 1990.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Welcome and introduction to Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute; meet participants; cover class objectives, expected outcomes, and procedures for the class.
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	Classroom instruction on owls plus an overview of species diversity.
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Dinner/discussion (participants are to bring a sack meal).
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM	In the field at various sites.
11:00PM - Midnight	Return to Field Institute; wrap-up; evaluations.

USEFUL EQUIPMENT:

Participants should bring clothing suitable for staying warm in temperatures ranging from 30°F to 40°F. Multiple layers of sweaters, sweatshirts, and fleece coupled with hats, gloves, and warm footwear are recommended over nylon coats and jackets. Nylon is noisy and can prevent hearing subtle sounds. Flashlights suitable for safe walking are permissible, but big lights to search for or to illuminate owls are not allowed.

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack dinner, snacks, water

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 units) or \$25 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at www.RMConservancy.org. Participants must enroll in all classes of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.