

EARLY WILDFLOWERS OF RMNP

JUNE 6, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3016
FEE: \$80 (ADULTS AGES 16 AND OLDER)

INSTRUCTOR: LEANNE BENTON



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

TIME: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Some of the park's early blooms are the loveliest, from tiny alpine forget-me-nots to colorful Calypso orchids. Search out these beauties with former Rocky Mountain National Park interpretive naturalist Leanne Benton! Depending on what is blooming, participants will explore high alpine ridges or lower montane meadows. During field exploration, participants will get up-close with the mountain flora to discover their adaptations for survival and interesting stories behind their beautiful faces. Identification techniques will be honed, and participants will gain confidence using a simple flower key.

COURSE LEVEL: II

The class will include a walk of more than a mile on rolling terrain.

Note: Portions of this class may be held above 11,000ft elevation.

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

Leanne is a former ranger-naturalist in Rocky Mountain National Park and has led wildflower walks in the park for 25 years. She has studied and photographed the park's wildflowers for more than 30 years.

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 FOR EACH DAY:

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Welcome/Introductions
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Travel to field location
8:45 AM – 11:30 AM	Wildflower exploration; Identification techniques; Folklore; Other information
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Lunch
12:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Continue wildflower exploration, possibly in second location according to wildflower abundance
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Travel back to Field Institute; Wrap-up; Evaluations
4:00 PM	Depart

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- Notebook
- Hand lens
- Books (highly recommended): *Rocky Mountain Flower Finder and Alpine Flower* - Check at Front Range booksellers or online for these titles. We may do some plant keying using these books.

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 lunch, 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.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Plants of RMNP, Beidleman
Colorado Wildflowers, Vol. 1 & 2, Guennel
Rocky Mountain Flower Finder, Wingate

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 unit) 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 courses 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.