

# PHANTOMS: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF RMNP

AUGUST 8 - 9, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: III COURSE #: S4020

FEE: \$160 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER

INSTRUCTOR: MARY TAYLOR YOUNG



Rocky  
Mountain  
Conservancy

FIELD INSTITUTE

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

TIME: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Roam the park with award-winning writer Mary Taylor Young, author of the park’s centennial history *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years*. Discover traces of park history that lie hidden beneath the surface and off the beaten path. Uncover the history of places and events that are generally not interpreted by the park but are apparent when you know where to look. Participants will see billion-year-old rocks, discover Apache Fort, visit the location of the 1915 Rocky Mountain National Park Dedication Ceremony, discover the “phantom” Big Thompson entrance station and Phantom Valley Ranch, explore the site of the park’s ski area, and so much more. Check out a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps camp, witness the impact of historical floods, wander inside an elk enclosure, and see 21<sup>st</sup> century wildlife management in action.

## COURSE LEVEL: III

Short-distance walks (up to ½ mile) throughout the day, sometimes on uneven, brushy, rocky or steep terrain or trails.

**Note:** Portions of this class will be at elevations above 11,000 ft.

**BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org)):** Award-winning and best-selling Colorado writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing about the wildlife, cultures, and landscape of the West for 30 years. She is the author of 17 books, including *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years*, the park’s centennial history. She has published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, and many readers know her “Words on Birds” column, published in the *Rocky Mountain News* for 16 years. Mary has taught classes for the Field Institute every summer since 1988. Her love of nature and Rocky began with childhood summers spent at her grandparents’ cabin on Upper High Drive in Estes Park. Mary lives in Castle Rock, Colorado with her family.

**INSTRUCTOR’S WEBSITE:** [www.MaryTaylorYoung.com](http://www.MaryTaylorYoung.com)

**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:**

Note: Times are approximate and may vary with travel time and group interest in a site.

**Day One - East Side**

- 8:30 AM Introductions/course overview/departure
- 9:00 AM Site visits: Horseshoe Park, Alluvial Fan, Little Horseshoe Park
- 11:00 AM Site visit: Hidden Valley
- 12:00 Noon Lunch and site visit: Upper Beaver Meadows
- 2:00 PM Site visit: Moraine Park
- 4:30 PM Return to Field Institute building and adjourn

**Day Two - West Side**

- 8:30 AM Reconvene, recap and depart
- 9:30 AM Site visits along Trail Ridge Road: ancient rocks, evidence of Old Fall River Road
- 10:00 AM Lunch and site visits: Phantom Valley Ranch and Trading Post
- 1:00 PM Site visits: Never Summer Ranch site, Grand Ditch view, Harbison Meadows
- 4:30 PM Return to Field Institute building for wrap-up and adjourn

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Snacks, energy bars, **WATER, sack lunch**
- Portable stool or seat (optional)
- Wear long pants
- Binocular
- Notebook
- Pen/pencil and paper
- Camera (optional)

**REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:**

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

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

*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:**

*Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years* by Mary Taylor Young

**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 classes (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://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.

**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.