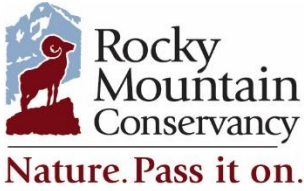


Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Community Volunteer Stewardship Days

2018 Season





Since 1931, Rocky Mountain Conservancy has supported Rocky Mountain National Park and other public land partners through educational programs and philanthropic donations. Early on, the focus of the Conservancy was developing educational materials and publications for visitors to use while in Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the past eighty year, the Conservancy has grown to support its public land partners in a breadth of ways.

Currently, Rocky Mountain Conservancy contains six departments:

- **Retail** – manages 42 nature stores throughout Colorado and Wyoming to provide visitors with educational materials to enhance their experience.
- **Publications** – produces nature guides, children’s literature, natural and cultural history books, and more.
- **Membership** – connects people to Rocky Mountain National Park in support for the Conservancy and through newsletters updating constituents on upcoming projects.
- **Development** – raises funds for RMNP and Conservancy programs through donor outreach, grant proposals, and community engagement. Funds are used for specific projects including land acquisition, historical preservation, trail maintenance, building construction, and education.
- **Education** – provides field classes, internships, nature-based activities, and fellowships for people of all ages to further understand and connect with public lands.
- **Conservation** – offers opportunities for youth, young adults, and local populations to learn about conservation through service opportunities including the High School Leadership Corps, Conservation Corps, and Community Volunteer Stewardship Days (see below).

Community Volunteer Stewardship Days Outline

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy has hosted volunteer events for Conservancy Members since 2014. These were focused on getting Members out with the Conservation Corps on National Trails Day to kick off the Corps season. Based on increasing interest in single-day volunteer projects, the Conservancy piloted a full schedule of volunteer events in 2018. This schedule included 9 volunteer days for the public and 5 volunteer days for community organizations and youth groups. Projects occurred within Rocky Mountain National Park, across all districts, and in the surrounding Roosevelt National Forests, in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

Program Goals:

1. To increase participant understanding and appreciation of public lands.
2. To foster participant awareness of conservation issues and public land management.
3. To develop stewardship skills and ethics in participants.
4. To inform participants on the role and value of public land partnerships in pursuing conservation outcomes.
5. To provide on-the-ground support for priority conservation needs of the Conservancy’s public land partners.
6. To support other local conservation-based non-profits in collaborative efforts to engage communities in stewardship work.

For more information about this program, please contact:

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2018 Project Calendar, Participation, and Hours Served

Date – Project Name	Project Type	Project Time	# of Participants	Hours
April 22 – National Ocean and Science Bowl Service Day	Trails	9AM-12PM	20 (20 youth)	60
May 19 – Colorado Public Lands Day	Litter Clean-Up	10AM-12PM	24 (8 youth)	48
June 2 – National Trails Day	Trails	9AM-2PM	65 (34 youth)	325
June 26 – East-Side Vegetation Project	Invasive Species	9AM-1PM	12	48
July 25 – Colorado River District Vegetation Project	Invasive Species	9AM-1PM	10 (1 youth)	40
August 5 – Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Project	Trails	9AM-4PM	40 (32 youth)	280
August 25 – Founders Day/Rocky Mountain Rendezvous	Trails	8AM-4PM	8/25 – 25	200
August 26 – Rocky Mountain Rendezvous (Day 2)	Litter Clean-Up	9AM-3PM	8/26 – 10	60
September 8 – Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza	Litter Clean-Up	1-3PM	16 (8 youth)	32
September 11 – Day of Service and Remembrance	Fire Fuels	9AM-1PM	8	32
September 22 – National Public Lands Day	Litter Clean-Up	10AM-12PM	32 (5 youth)	64
September 28 – Volunteer for Outdoor Colorado: CAIRN Youth Program	Fire Fuels	9AM-1PM	33 (30 youth)	132
October 2 – National Trails Act 50th Anniversary	Trails	8AM-12PM	15	60
October 16 – Colorado State University: Conservation Leadership through Learning	Trails	9AM-1PM	25 (15 youth)	100
		Total:	335 (153 youth)	1481

Project Descriptions

Trails – The Conservancy’s Community Volunteer Stewardship Days supported several trail projects in 2018. These included:

- Clearing trail corridor on the popular Lily Lake loop to ensure people of all abilities can navigate the trail (4/22);
- Rebuilding the flood-affected Aspen Brook Trail by constructing new trail surface and restoring old and user-created trails to fully reopen the trail after the 2013 floods (6/2);
- Rerouting a quarter-mile of the Bulwark Ridge Trail to make a more sustainable surface and mitigate erosion in partnership with the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (8/5);
- Removing fallen debris and constructing check steps on climber-access trails in Lumpy Ridge to mitigate trail braiding and erosion in steep terrain in partnership with the Boulder Climbing Stewards (8/25); and,
- Reinforcing the Sprague Lake Trail by adding additional log fortification on the lake-side and installing erosion matting to prevent trail surface loss on the popular accessible trail (10/2 and 10/16).



National Ocean and Science Bowl hike around Lily Lake and enjoy Lily Lake overlook after maintaining the trail.



Conservation Corps members cutting new trail surface at Aspen Brook on National Trails Day with volunteers.



Volunteers and Conservation Corps members rerouting the Bulwark Ridge Trail with Poudre Wilderness Volunteers



Rocky Mountain Rendezvous participants clearing trail of debris, constructing check steps and post-project group.



Volunteers fortifying the accessible Sprague Lake Trail with logs and erosion matting to prevent soil loss



Litter Clean-Up

- The Conservancy celebrated Colorado Public Lands Day on May 19th and National Public Lands Day on September 22nd with projects near the Beaver Meadows Entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park removing a cumulative of more than 250 lbs of trash from Rocky.
- In addition, the Conservancy helped maintain Moraine Park Campground with families from Nature Kids/ Jovenes de la Naturaleza during a family camping.



Volunteers brave the weather to clean-up Rocky on Colorado Public Lands Day.



National Public Lands Day volunteers enjoy a beautiful day while removing litter from Beaver Point!



Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturalez cleaning up Moraine Park and enjoying Rocky Mountain National Park.

Invasive Species – The Conservancy’s 2018 invasive species projects helped to restore habitat and foster native plant growth by targeting the following invasive plants:

- On June 26th, community volunteers helped manage houndstongue, musk thistle, and mullein from Horseshoe Park in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- On July 25th, volunteers removed scentless chamomile around the Kawuneeche Visitor Center and along Trail Ridge Road in the Colorado River District of Rocky Mountain National Park.



Volunteers use a grid to survey Horseshoe Park, enjoy a laugh while managing musk thistle, and gather for a group photo.



Volunteers pull and package Scentless Chamomile near the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.



Fire Fuels – The 2018 fire fuels projects supported Rocky Mountain National Park’s efforts to mitigate wildfire risk along the Bear lake Road corridor to protect National Park Service infrastructure, firefighters, and nearby communities.



Volunteers honor the National Day of Service and Remembrance by constructing slash piles for fuels reduction work.



Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado: CAIRN Youth Program kicks off their 2018-19 season with a fuel reduction project.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy would like to thank all of the volunteers who support the program, as well as our project partners. **THANK YOU!**

Project Partners:

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park
U.S. Forest Service, Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
Boulder Climbing Stewards
Boulder Climbing Community
Estes Park Mountain Shop
Rock Cut Brewing Co.
Made in Nature, LLC.
Kind Coffee