

PHOTOGRAPHING SPRING WILDLIFE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

JUNE 11 -12, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S1001

FEE: \$250 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**

FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: DAWN WILSON

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

TIMES:

Thursday, June 11th: 5:00 PM — 7:00 PM

Friday, June 12th: 5:00 AM – 6:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Spring is a wonderful time of year in Rocky Mountain National Park! The wildflowers fill the meadows, the peaks are still capped with snow, the temperatures are getting warmer, and the animals have given birth to their babies. Elk and moose calves are running around the meadows, pikas and marmots can be seen along Trail Ridge Road again, and birds are beginning to raise their chicks. We will head out each morning to a beautiful location to find wildlife in the golden light of early morning and then spend the day photographing a variety of animals on the east and west sides of the park and in Estes Park. While in the field, we will discuss techniques for producing dynamic photos of wildlife, tips for safely being around wild animals, and ethics for photographing wildlife. Ideal for all levels of photographers.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks to moderate hikes throughout the day on varied terrain.

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

Dawn Wilson is a professional, award-winning nature photographer who specializes in photographing the wildlife of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. Recognized as one of the top ten female nature photographers to watch by *Wild Planet Photo Magazine*, Dawn's work has been published in numerous regional and national publications, including *Wyoming Wildlife*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *Nature's Best Photography*. She frequently presents about photography to camera clubs and outdoor organizations around Colorado and is a master naturalist with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas. She published her first book in 2011 — *Colorado: Flora, Fauna and Landscapes from the Perspective of Women* — and recently published an e-book titled *Preparing for the Next Shoot: Ten Tips to Get You to the Right Place at the Right Time*.

Instructor's Website: www.DawnWilsonPhotography.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.

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, June 11, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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| 5:00 – 5:30 PM | Introductions and participants' objectives and expectations for the course (Bring camera equipment – see supplies list.). |
| 5:30 – 6:15 PM | Basics of wildlife photography, tips for composition, various styles of wildlife photography, ideas for intimate photos, camera settings, and creating a photo essay. |
| 6:15 – 6:45 PM | Expectations of field work for next day and what the group hopes to see and photograph. |
| 6:45 – 7:00 PM | Questions |

Friday, June 12, 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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| 5:00 – 5:10 AM | Meet at Field Institute. |
| 5:10 – 11:00 AM | Depart for in-field instruction; in-field instruction focusing on how to capture a story in photographs; goal of in-field location will be to find wildlife in their environment, travel up to Trail Ridge Road and then into the Kawuneeche Valley. |
| 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Break for lunch in Grand Lake (We will go to the Sagebrush Grill for lunch; lunch not included in class fee.) Discuss morning's shoot and answer questions. Critique of morning images. |
| 2:00 PM — 5:00 PM | Return to RMC - Field Institute; in-field photography instruction along the way as time and subjects permit. |
| 5:00—6:00 PM | Arrive at RMC - Field Institute. Discuss day's activities, critique of afternoon images, and survey. |

What to Bring:

- Snacks, sack lunch, water
- Sturdy and warm hiking boots or shoes
- Rain gear and cold-weather clothing (hat, gloves, rain jacket and warm waterproof jacket)
- Memory card(s) and card reader to download photos
- Laptop computer
- Camera equipment and accessories for photographing landscapes and wildlife (Remember the batteries and extra memory cards.)
- Camera manual if available (can download a PDF of the manual onto your phone)
- Camera bag/backpack large enough to carry gear for each day
- Tripod, monopod
- Cable release or electronic shutter release
- Camera rain gear (large plastic bag or lens cover)
- Pen
- Notebook for taking notes

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

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

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| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map and compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses and sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | ▪ Extra layers of clothing |
| ▪ 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.

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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 course (.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 course or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.