

GRASSES OF RMNP

JULY 25 - 26, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3080
FEE: \$160 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER

INSTRUCTOR: DENISE CULVER



**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 - 5:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Grass identification is difficult even for the professional botanist! Why even bother?! The grass family is the third largest family in the world, species occupy every continent, and grasses are one of the most important aspects in all of human civilization! The class will focus on the characteristics for each grass tribe (The grass family is so big that it is divided into tribes.) common in Rocky Mountain National Park. There will be a classroom component, but majority of the class will be enjoyed outside in the field.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain. Second day will be in the alpine but on level terrain.

Note: Portions of this class will occur above 11,000ft elevation.

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

Denise has been an ecologist/botanist with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program since 1995 and has worked in the ecology/botany field since 1987. Since 2008, she has designed and conducted numerous plant identification workshops for US EPA, USDI BLM, USDA Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado Native Plant Society. Prior to working for CNHP she worked for the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database and the Montana Natural Heritage Program. She worked for the National Park Service in several parks and monuments as a resource management ranger for five years. She has a B.S. degree in Botany from University of Wyoming and a M.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Montana State University. She has been the project leader for over 27 Colorado county surveys for critical biological resources and is lead author for the *Field Guide to Colorado's Wetland Plants: Identification, Ecology and Conservation*, *Common Wetland Plants of Colorado's Eastern Plains*, *Common Wetland Plants of Colorado's Southern Rocky Mountains*, and *Common Wetland Plants of Colorado's Western Slope*, as well as the Colorado Wetland Mobile App.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Saturday

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Welcome, introductions, and individuals' expectations
Participants will review grass parts, grass terminology, and definitions with diagrams. We will begin the presentation of the grass family and other related families, discuss genus characteristics, and introduce genera using identification keys.
Lunch and time afield for plant identification.

Sunday

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM
5:30 PM

Meet at Rocky Mountain Conservancy Institute, we will carpool to locations in montane, subalpine, and alpine to explore the variety of grasses.
Wrap up and depart.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER (at least a quart)**
- 10x hand lens (Diameter of 2 cm is most useful.)
- 15-cm ruler
- Field notebook (shirt-pocket size) and pencil
- A portable camp stool or chair if you have difficulty sitting on the ground
- Tweezers, or a safety pin (optional)
- Lightweight binocular (optional)
- Grass ID book

RECOMMENDED READING:

Grasses of Colorado, Janet Wingate

- We will use *Grasses of Colorado* in class. Please bring this book or contact the instructor.

How to Identify Grasses and Grasslike Plants by H. D. Harrington

Grasses of Colorado by Robert Shaw

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, and 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 \$25.00 per participant for a one-day class, \$50.00 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per bus tour seat. 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 \$25.00 per course (.5 units) or \$25.00 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 \$25.00 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.