

Request a Program

Program Seasons / Info

Visit: offero.cityofloveland.org

On the home page click on the **Request** box. Log in or create an account.

Choose Your Date

Available dates on the online calendar are shown in green. Choose a date & fill out the form as completely as possible to request a program for your group. Include an alternate date in case your first choice is not available.

« October 2024 »						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Example only

Choose Your Topic

Use the educational program titles within this brochure as your topic on the form:

- Critter Scene Investigation (PreK–1st grade)
- Plants & Places (Grades 2–3)
- Canyon Ecosystem Exploration (Grades 4–5)
- **NEW!** Colorado History (Grade 4)

Submit the Form

Once the form is completed, click on **Submit Request** at the bottom of the page.

Submitting this form does not reserve your date; staff will contact you to complete the registration process and confirm details.

We're Here to Help

Contact Michele Van Hare at 970.962.2643 or michele.vanhare@cityofloveland.org for assistance with this process.

Your Adventure Awaits

Our trained Open Lands & Trails volunteers are passionate about teaching kids to love nature as they learn about the environment around them. Our quality programs are rich in wildlife, plants and Colorado history.

Spring: March – May | Fall: Sept – Nov

Our Goal is to Support You

We are excited to offer opportunities to bring students outdoors. All programs support CDE Standards for education. For lists of supported standards for each program, please visit:

lovgov.org/environmentaleducation

This link also provides more information and resources, including preparatory materials and site information for each program location.

Facilities & Preparation

Covered picnic areas and restroom facilities are available at each location. Students should bring a sack lunch, extra clothing layers and wear closed-toed shoes and long pants for the best experience. Programs include lots of walking and a game or two that involves running. The games are lots of fun and educational, too!

Accessibility

Learning stations, trails and lunch areas are accessible by wheelchairs and scooters; terrain consists of packed surfaces & recycled asphalt.

FAQ Answers

- The programs are FREE and are taught by trained Open Lands & Trails volunteers.
- We ask for program requests as far in advance as possible for staffing needs and bus availability.
- Transportation is the responsibility of the school. Transportation scholarships are available by request. Critter Scene Investigations for PreK–1st grade can travel to your school.
- We **require** 1 chaperone per 7–8 students. Group max is 60; larger groups come 2 days.
- **NEW in 2024:** Colorado History for 4th grade at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the City of Loveland to provide equal services, programs and activities without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age and without regard to the exercise of rights guaranteed by state or federal law. It is the policy of the City of Loveland to provide language access services at no charge to populations of persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and persons with a disability who are served by the City.

For more information on non-discrimination or for translation assistance, please contact the City's Title VI Coordinator at TitleSix@cityofloveland.org or 970.962.2372. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For more information on ADA or accommodations, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at ADACoordinator@cityofloveland.org or 970.962.3319. Title VI and ADA Grievance Policy and Procedures can be located on the City of Loveland website at: lovgov.org



Free

Outdoor Educational Programs

Transportation Scholarship Funding available for qualified schools

Supports CDE Standards (Colorado Department of Education)



REGISTER: offero.cityofloveland.org

MORE INFO: 970.962.2643

City of Loveland Parks & Recreation
Open Lands & Trails Division
500 E. Third St., Suite 200 • Loveland, CO 80537
lovgov.org/openlands

1/2024

Open Lands & Trails Division
City of Loveland
Parks & Recreation Department



PreK–1st Grade

Critter Scene Investigation

Offered at your school or
Namaqua Park | 730 Namaqua Ave.

Critter Scene Investigations are 2 to 2.5 hour outdoor programs for Pre-Kindergarten through 1st grade students.

During CSI programs, students walk from station to station in small groups, collecting clues and information to solve a wildlife mystery. Each mystery is based on a real-life event that happened in one of our natural areas. The program changes each year so students can return and experience a new program. Morning or afternoon programs available.



Our open Lands & Trails
volunteers are ready to engage
your students in learning about
nature and the environment.
Your adventure awaits!

Grades 2–3

Plants & Places

River's Edge Natural Area | 960 W. First St.
Bus parking: on west side of main lot
Walk-in access: use crosswalks & underpasses

The Mighty Cottonwood | 30 min
Students learn about the parts of a tree, the cottonwood life cycle and the tree's value and lore.

Cattails Lab & Pond Plants | 30 min
Wetland plants and wildlife inhabitants are featured. Students dissect cattails using tools and microscopes to learn about their adaptations.

Unique & Hazardous Plants of Colorado | 30 min
What do "native" and "invasive" mean?
How do plants protect themselves?
What does poison ivy look like?

Plants & Places Habitat Hunt | 45 min
Students receive basic instruction on habitats and plants at River's Edge to use in a guided scavenger hunt. Length: 0.5–1 mi

Seed Dispersal Hike | 45 min
Students learn various methods of seed dispersal, collect specimens and compile a small collection to take home. Length: 0.5–1 mi

Includes Sun, Soil, Water & Air song and relay race.



Grades 4–5

Canyon Ecosystem Exploration

Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park | 1211 W. Hwy 34
Bus parking: turn right at entrance, park by cones

Offered in two versions:

Full-Day (for groups of 60 or less): 4.5 hours includes full lessons for all five stations, listed below.

Half-Day: 2.5 hours includes adjusted lesson times as noted below and our online supplemental curriculum. Larger schools may sign up for two half-day programs (morning & afternoon) and lunch periods will overlap at the Mountain Park. Contact us for details.

Plant Life of the Canyon | 30 min*^+
A walking tour presents information about different microclimates resulting in three different plant communities in the canyon.

Colorado's Life Zones | 30 min*^
Includes information on specialist and generalist animals. A look into species' habitat and food requirements and identifying which life zones they are found in Colorado.

Closing the Loop – Energy Returned and Recycled | 30 min*^+
Includes discussion of decomposition, decomposers and items that resist decomposition resulting in habitat degradation.

Animal Adaptations | 45 min (both versions)
Students learn how different adaptations increase ability to survive when the animal's physiology and/or behavior fit the environment.

Energy Through the Biosphere | 45 min
An overview of energy flows. Focus is on producers and consumers. Energy lost as heat and energy stored as biomass briefly covered.

Includes playing the Food Chain Game

* times shown are for the full-day version
^ 15 minute mini-station in half-day version
+ online supplemental lesson available

Grade 4

NEW! Colorado History: It Happened Here

Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park | 1211 W. Hwy 34
Bus unloading: turn left at entrance, go to bridge
Bus parking: upper east parking lot by cones

Offered on Wednesdays: 3 to 3.5 hours, suitable for the late start schedule. Local events anchor learning about territorial, state and national history as it relates to Colorado's development.

Louis Papa's Cabin: Homestead | 30 min
What did the Homestead Act of 1862 require for land ownership? Who could homestead? How did Louis Papa and his parents support the development of the Big Thompson Valley?

US 34: Game Trail to National Highway | 30 min
Why did people come? Why was a road built? A discussion around gaining access to game and fish, fur, gold, water, land, grazing territory, hydro-electric power and the tourism business.

Civilian Conservation Corps: Shelters | 30 min
The Great Depression changed the west as young men built structures, planted trees and fought forest fires. Their work gave Loveland a mountain park and picnic destination since 1935.

Where Did Colorado Come From? | 30 min
This station is about the geological origins, climate changes and prehistoric life of Colorado. How can there be sea, jungle and ice age fossils in the same state? How did the Rocky Mountains form? Why are there shell fossils in Loveland? What rocks are in the canyon and how old are they?

All students will leave with a timeline. Lunch includes an optional fun-fact scavenger hunt.