

# About the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

Citizens have voted to tax themselves to fund the conservation and management of more than 40 natural areas, making Fort Collins a great place to live, learn, work, and recreate.

Thank you!

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

[www.fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas)

[naturalareas@fcgov.com](mailto:naturalareas@fcgov.com)

Natural Areas Department Office — 970-416-2815



## Thank You Partners!

Funding for programs at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is provided by the Pulliam Charitable Trust in partnership with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department.



CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS

2015-2016

# School Program Guide

## In This Guide

- Free Field Trips for All Ages!
- Transportation Funding Available
- Service Learning



*naturally yours*



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# Free Elementary School Field Trips

## Outdoor Exploration – Naturally!

Field trips feature several stations, each 30-45 minutes long. Volunteer Master Naturalists guide students through lessons that are hands-on, fun, meet state standards, and complement your classroom studies.

### Kindergarten

#### Forest Secrets Investigators

##### Foss Kit: Trees



- **A Treetective's Senses**—Students take a sensory walk.
- **Leaf Evidence**—Students collect leaves and sort them.
- **How is a Tree Like Me?**—Students compare themselves to a tree.
- **Follow the Food Chain**—Students look for evidence of the food chain.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

#### Living In A Salad Bowl

##### Foss Kit: New Plants

- **Plants Give Us Gifts**—Students discover the benefits of plants.
- **Hitchhiking With A Green Thumb**—Students learn about seed dispersal.
- **How Green Is Your Lunch?**—Students learn that all food comes from plants.
- **A Long Walk Back**—Students learn how to improve their observation skills.



Registration is **REQUIRED**

Request a date online at [naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest) or contact Susan Schafer, Natural Areas Education Coordinator  
970-416-2480, [sschafer@fcgov.com](mailto:sschafer@fcgov.com)

# Registration

Registration is required for all programs.

## School Field Trips

Use Nature Tracker to request a field trip date on-line at [naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest](http://naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest)

Or contact: Susan Schafer, Natural Areas Education and Volunteer Coordinator, 970-416-2480, [sschafer@fcgov.com](mailto:sschafer@fcgov.com)

## Service Learning

Catherine Dillon, Service Learning Educator  
970-219-1106, [cdillon@fcgov.com](mailto:cdillon@fcgov.com)

## Details

- Registrations are first come, first served.
- Limited transportation funding is available—ask us!
- A minimum of two-weeks advanced notice is required. Plan ahead to get your preferred dates!
- Small groups are encouraged. Groups are limited to 60 students per day.
- Programs are subject to volunteer availability.
- Custom programs available upon request.
- Teacher and chaperone participation is required.
- All programs are subject to change or cancellation due to poor weather.
- If you visit a Natural Area on your own with a group of more than **15** people, you need a permit, visit [fcgov.com/naturalareas](http://fcgov.com/naturalareas). Permits are free.

## Exploration Station, All Grades

Students discover and connect to nature in this unstructured activity. Volunteer Master Naturalists ensure safety and supply equipment such as bug boxes and hand lenses.

## Service Learning, All Grades

Your students can participate in a service learning project at a natural area with a friendly and knowledgeable guide. The Natural Areas Department provides an educational presentation before leading students in a project such as trash pick-up or restoration work.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### For The Love of Bugs!

#### Foss Kit: Insects

- *Insect Search*—Students search for evidence of insects.
- *Shake a Shrub*—Students gently shake a bush to discover the insects that live there.
- *Ant Investigations*—Students observe ants and determine their food preferences.
- *Dances with Dragonflies*—Students learn about the life cycle and special physical attributes of dragonflies.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### Dragonfly Chronicles

#### Foss Kit: Structures of Life

- *Soft Gold*—Students learn about beaver adaptations.
- *Avian Adventures*—Students learn about common bird species and how to identify them.
- *Cache La Cattails*—Students investigate the botanical adaptations of cattails and learn about their importance.
- *Every Drop Counts*—Students learn about macroinvertebrates and the important role they play as indicator species.



Dave Leatherman



## Free School Field Trips- continued

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### A Slice of Prairie Pie

##### Foss Kits: Environments

- *Day of the Living, Non-Living and Dead*—Students look for living, non-living and dead elements of nature.
- *Rockin' in the Rockies*—Students learn how rocks are connected to living creatures.
- *Prairie Dogs Investigations*—Students compare prairie dog behavior to their own everyday activities.
- *Prairie Puzzle*—Students learn about the interconnections between prairie animals.



#### Bobcat Ridge Natural Area:

##### Pioneer Lessons

- *Local Economy in Masonville*—Students experience buying and trading goods with each other and the Masonville Store to learn about pioneer life.
- *Daily Chores*—Students try their hand at pioneer chores such as hauling water and hanging laundry.
- *Pioneer Games*—Students learn about games that children played 100 years ago and take part in those games.
- *One-Room Schoolhouse*—Students experience a one-room schoolhouse setting and do several lessons that might have been taught a century ago.



\*\*4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers—you may select a combination of natural and cultural history stations at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Colorado Landforms Rock!

##### Foss Kit: Landforms

- *Human Hogbacks*—Students learn about geologic layering and uplift.
- *It All Begins with a Rock*—Students follow story clues through the food chain to learn about the interconnections within an ecosystem.
- *The Secret to Plant Success*—Students learn about plant adaptations.
- *Eco-Connection Search*—Students look for living and non-living elements interacting as evidence of an ecosystem.



#### Eco-Week Prep Hike

Students take a moderate 4-mile hike around the Valley Loop Trail at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area while learning basic

trail etiquette and reviewing local ecology. Students will stay with the same hiking group all day and eat lunch on the trail. For safety reasons, hiking groups are limited to 50 students per day.

*The Power of Water and Birding by Habitat* are available at riverside natural areas in partnership with Fort Collins Utilities WaterSHED Program. Call 970-224-6141 to learn more.

All programs are free. Registration is **REQUIRED**

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