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

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

Service Learning

Diane Wendt, Service Learning Educator 970-416-2043, dwendt@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 cancelation 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. Permits are free.



CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS

2016-2017

School Program Guide

In This Guide

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



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 Nature Hike—Students take a sensory walk and learn how to be a good observer.
- How is a Tree Like Me?—Students compare themselves to a tree.
- Follow the Food Chain—Students look for evidence of the food chain.

Schedule includes two 30-minute lessons and a 60-minute nature hike.

1st 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.
- Nature Hike—Students learn how to improve their observation skills.



Schedule includes two 30-minute lessons and a 60-minute nature hike.

Registration is REQUIRED

Request a date online at naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest or contact Susan Schafer, Natural Areas Education Coordinator 970-416-2480, sschafer@fcgov.com

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
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.



Service Learning, All Grades

Opportunities for students:

- Use critical thinking
- Gain collaboration skills
- To address real-world problems

Students will learn to:

- Become stewards of their natural areas
- Gain knowledge and leadership skills that will prepare them for future success

Opportunities for your school:

- Gain increased pro-social behavior in the classroom
- Increase student engagement,
- Build school-community relationships, all while working outdoors and having fun!

Service Project Field Trip:

The Natural Areas Department provides an educational presentation before leading students in a project such as trash pick-up or restoration work.

Service Learning Station:

On your field trip, one of the academic lessons can be replaced with a short service project such as weed pulling or litter clean-up.







For The Love of Bugs!

Foss Kit: Insects

- 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.
- Insect Search Nature Hike



Schedule includes two 30-minute lessons and a 60-minute nature hike.

3rd 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



Schedule includes four 45minute activities.

Free School Field Trips-continued

4th 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.

Schedule includes four 30-minute lessons and two miles of hiking.

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.

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

Schedule includes four 30-minute lessons and two miles of hiking.

5th 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

Request a date online at naturetracker.fcgov.com/SpecialProgramRequest or Contact Susan Schafer, Natural Areas Education Coordinator 970-416-2480, sschafer@fcgov.com