



Page 2
Fun Activities
For Your
Family



Page 6
List of
Upcoming
Events Near
You



Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments

Family Newsletter

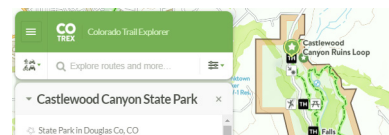
Winter edition, 2018-2019



Happy New Year!

This January 1, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) invites you to start 2019 off on the right foot by having fun outside at a Colorado State Park. At least 25 State Parks are hosting an organized First Day Hike. The hikes vary in ability and distance depending on the location and weather conditions. Be sure to dress in layers, wear proper footwear and pack snacks and water.

We look forward to seeing you at [First Day Hike event near you!](#)



Outdoor Resources

Looking for a new place to explore or use your snowshoes this winter? Check out page 4 and 5 for some great resources to help you plan your next adventure!



How Are We Funded?

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of the Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open spaces.

Half of GOCO funds are dedicated to CPW projects, including support for environmental education programs and youth outreach. Colorado Lottery games fully fund SOLE, making us all winners!



Winter Adaptations



Before we head outside to face the cold, we put on a coat, scarf and gloves. But how do animals survive freezing temperatures?

Many animals and birds have special adaptations that help hold heat next to their skin.

Beavers underfur consists of dense, short, fine hairs that acts as insulation. Their outer-

coat has coarse, long, glossy guard hairs to keep water out. Likewise, many birds, have outer feathers that repel water and snow. Birds have interior feathers, called down, that act as fantastic insulation.

When you go for your walk look for some local wildlife. What adaptations do you think they have to help survive the cold?

This is no time to hibernate! With the right preparations you can enjoy going outside all winter long. Layer on your insulation and wear a protective outer coat to hold in the heat.

Generation Wild has great ideas to get outside this winter. See examples from their [100 things-to-do-list](#) below.



#22 BUILD A SNOWMAN

Fun and easy to do with family and friends right next to your home.



#60 GO CARDBOARD BOX SLEDDING

You don't need a big hill to enjoy the ride.



#69 GO ICE SKATING ON A POND

Borrow some skates and find some solid ice to start gliding.



#22 MAKE A PINECONE BIRD FEEDER

[Here's how make a feeder](#) and lend a hand to our feathered friends.



Take It Outside With Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Ice Fishing Workshop for SOLE Families

Join SOLE educator Emily and Statewide Angler Outreach Coordinator Howard for this **free** workshop on December 22, 2018, from 12:30-3:30 pm at Pine Valley Ranch Open Space. Come learn the basics of ice fishing and maybe catch a fish. Shuttle transportation from Denver is available. Deadline to register is December 12, 2018.

For details and registration [click here](#)



Sometimes the best part of ice fishing has nothing to do with fish. Winter anglers enjoy quiet landscapes, early morning light shining off a lake's frozen ripples, and perhaps animal prints in the snow.

After learning the basics of ice fishing, you may want to go out on your own. Colorado State Parks, such as Steamboat Lake, offer ice fishing during winter.

Ice conditions can vary, so take safety precaution before going out onto a frozen lake, pond

or river. Knowing how to judge ice conditions and changes in the weather can help you make more informed decisions while enjoying winter activities.

Be sure to [purchase a fishing license](#) before you head out!

Web Tools to Find Outdoor Fun

Here are a few websites with information and ideas on where to go and what to do. Print this page or save the web addresses to quickly find events and outdoor activities.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website has several great pages:

- [“Things to Do”](#)
- [“Places to Go”](#)
- [“Events and festivals”](#)

Recreation.Gov hosts information about national parks, fish and wildlife refuges, national forests, etc. <https://www.recreation.gov/>

Be sure to mark your calendars for [free days for national parks in 2019](#):

- January 21
- April 20
- August 25
- September 28
- November 11

ReserveAmerica.com is a one-stop website for making reservations at lodges, campgrounds, marinas, day use areas and tours. <https://www.reserveamerica.com/>

Special Offering for 4th Graders



Every Kid in a Park is offering one free Holiday Tree Permit to fourth-graders who have a valid 4th Grade Parks Pass. These free [holiday tree permits](#) are only available at the [U.S. Forest Service District offices](#)

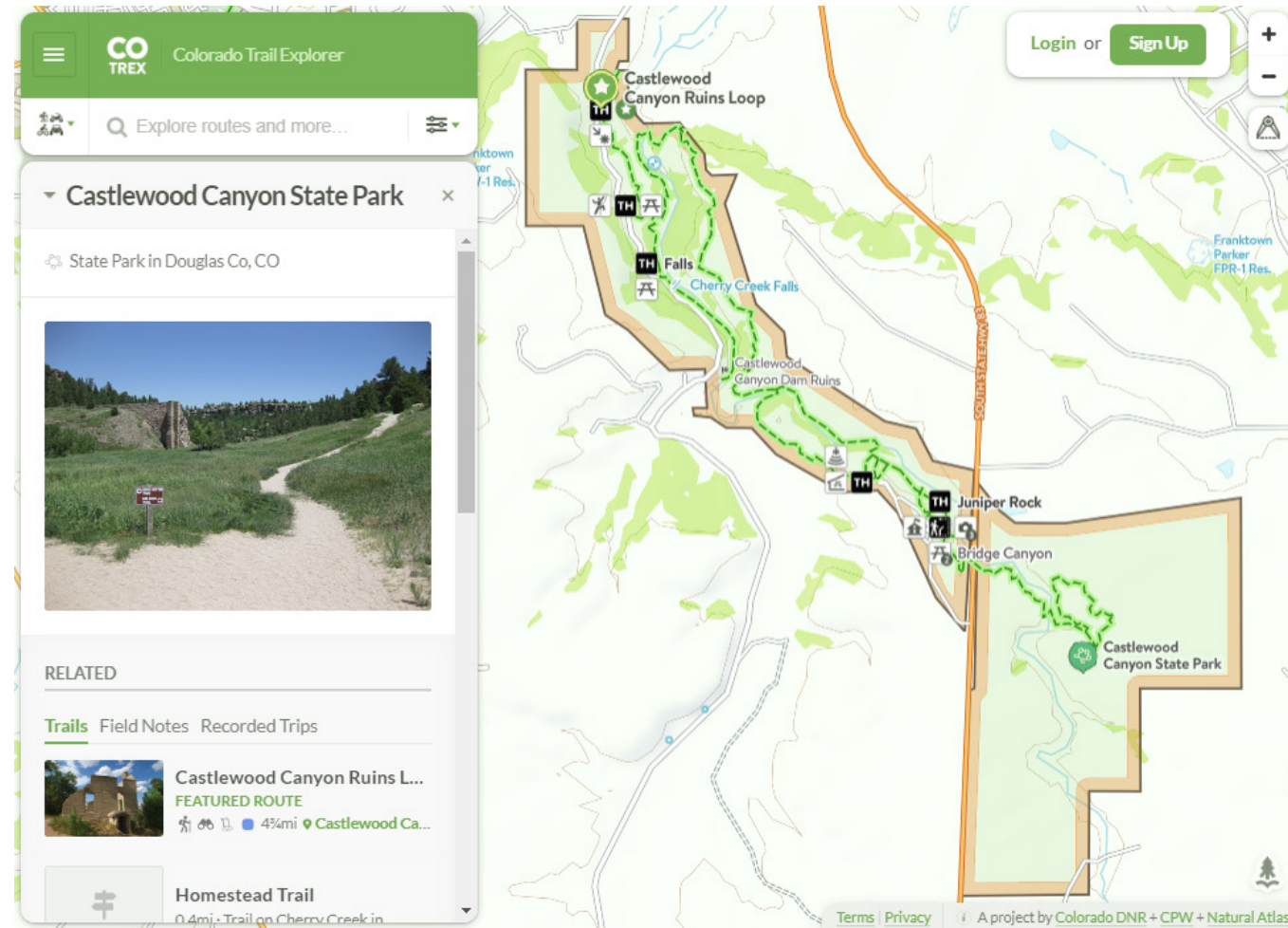
The 4th grade student must be present and show their Every Kid in a Park Pass to obtain a free Holiday Tree Permit.

If your fourth grader doesn't have a Every Kid in a Park Pass, then click on the circle to learn how to get one.



Stay up to date with SOLE!

www.cpwsole.org



Download the Free COTREX app today!

Start exploring Colorado's expansive network of trails, track your adventures, and share your experiences.



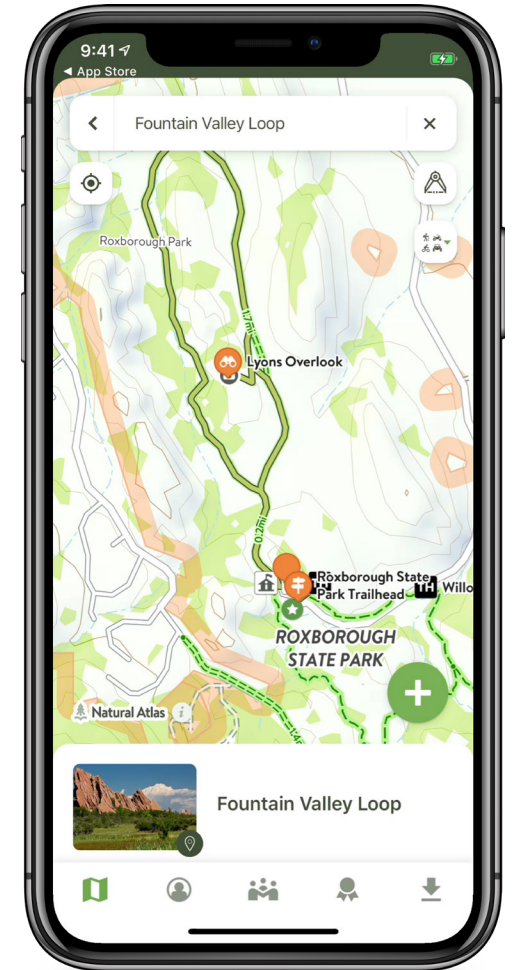
New App From Colorado Parks and Wildlife!

The COTREX trail app is a web application, as well as an app for IOS and Adroid smartphones. You can access information for 40,000 miles of trails in Colorado. COTREX offers the most comprehensive trail map available for the state.

This online tool allows you to view trails by use, name, or pan and zoom to explore trails across the state. Trail maps can be download and used offline.

COTREX is for everyone: hikers, bikers, ATV riders, equestrian riders, wheelchair users and others.

COTREX is your gateway into Colorado's magnificent outdoors.



- Local Family Events -

- December 7** ◆ **BEAR CREEK BY CANDLE LIGHT**
5:00PM-8:00 PM
 245 Bear Creek Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
 Come to the Center's holiday celebration! Walk on luminary-lit nature trails, enjoy live music, crafts, and a chili dinner from Texas Roadhouse. Minimal fee \$4 per member/\$5 per nonmember.
 For more details click [here](#)
- December 7-8** ◆ **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT BENT'S OLD FORT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**
 Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, CO 81050
 Witness the holiday pleasures and pastimes of the 1840s at an isolated trading post. Join in historic games and enjoy foods and festivities that enlivened the fort. Candle light tours will be given, but require a reservation. Minimal fee.
 For more details click [here](#)
- December 15** ◆ **WINTER SOLSTICE WALK**
6:00 PM TO 8:00PM
 Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo, CO 81003
 The walk starts at the River Campus Yurt.
 For more details and to register click [here](#)
- December 22** ◆ **ARKANSAS VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY 4TH SATURDAY BIRD WALK**
9:00 A.M.-
 Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo, CO 81003
 The bird walk starts at the River Campus Deck
 For more details click [here](#).
- December 29** ◆ **RAPTOR RESOLUTION RUN**
10:00 AM
 Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo, CO 81003
 The run starts the River Campus Yurt.
 For more details and to register, click [here](#)
- January 20** ◆ **ALMOST FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE**
 Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo- CO 81003
6:00PM
 For more details and to register, click [here](#)
- January 19** ◆ **ENGAGING THE SENSES**
9:00 AM TO NOON
 Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, Colorado Springs, 80906.
 Engage the senses in a mindfulness exercise, guided hike, and fun-filled art-making. Ages 10 years old and up. For more details click [here](#)
- February 2** ◆ **PUEBLO EAGLE DAY AT THE RAPTOR CENTER**
 Nature and Discovery Center, Raptor Center, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo, CO 81003
 For more details click [here](#)

