Partnerships Abound Around Libraries, State Parks, and Early Literacy in Colorado
Check Out Colorado State Parks
Who/Partners

- Colorado State Library
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- All 258 CO public library branches
- All 3 military libraries in CO
- 17 interested academic libraries
- All 42 state parks
What?

- State park pass
- Backpack
- Binoculars
- Colorado wildlife laminated guide
- Colorado trees & wildflowers laminated guide
- Guide to Your 42 State Parks
- Leave No Trace™ card
- Activity ideas list
- Evaluation form
Check Out Colorado State Parks

A Quick Guide to Colorado's 42 State Parks

3 Easy Steps to the State Parks

1. Use the pass to get into the park for FREE.
2. Use the backpack to explore a nearby state park to see what you can learn.
3. Share a photo with #CheckOutColorado on Twitter or Instagram.
Why?

• Increase access to Colorado state parks
• Provide broader learning experiences
• Encourage healthy activities
• Facilitate library-park collaborations
• Increase reach of state parks
• Allow people to try before they buy
• Expand traditional library services
• Celebrate & sustain the 2016 summer library program theme of health & wellness
Programming ideas

• Provide park ranger programs at the library & storytimes at the park

• Enhance existing library programs & facilities

• Promote mid-week visitation/picnics/events

• Collaborate on regular & special events

• Install Little Free Libraries in parks & campgrounds

• Install StoryWalks in parks
Promotion
A day at Crawford State Park with Delta County Libraries (and Ian).

We checked out a backpack full of supplies from the Library!

Mom wore the backpack so I could run around and have fun!

We made sure to hang the State Parks Pass on our car before we left for our walk.

I looked at lots of tracks in the mud and even left some of my own!

We caught a grasshopper in the bug catcher.

Check Out Colorado State Parks is a partnership between the Colorado State Library and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Backpacks are available to check out for one week at a time from the Paonia Library. Please contact your library for more information.
Next steps

- Denver Museum of Nature and Science IMAX tickets
- Twitter/Instagram photo contest for Library Card Sign-Up Month and Outside the Lines
- Continued cross promotional campaigns
One Book 4 Colorado
What?

- Program distributes 75,000 copies of the same book in English and Spanish to 4-year-olds through public and military libraries
- Held annually for 2 weeks in April
- Privately funded
- Author or illustrator makes appearances in Colorado libraries and partner facilities
Who/Partners

• Colorado State Library
• Colorado Lt. Governor’s Office
• Denver Preschool Program
• All 258 CO public & 3 military libraries
• Private sector & nonprofit community
• Rocky Mountain PBS
Why?

• Increase awareness of early literacy
• Encourage parents to read every day with their children
• Close vocabulary gap of low-income kids
• Help instill early literacy skills to get kids ready to read at kindergarten
• Make reading fun for young kids
• Increase home libraries
Programming
Migrant Education Program

Department of Education program serving migrant families distributes OB4CO books to 4-year-olds through home visits and events.
Read to the Children Program
Thank you!

Beth Crist
Youth & Family Services Consultant
Colorado State Library
Crist_b@cde.state.co.us