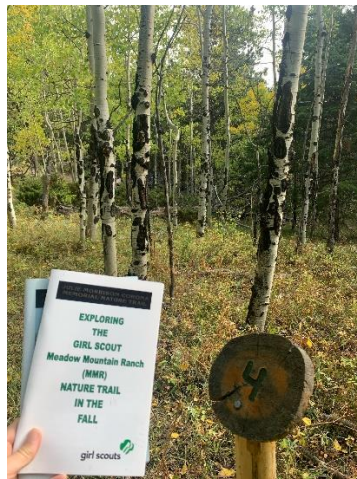




MEADOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL & PATCH PROGRAM

The Nature Trail at Meadow Mountain Ranch (MMR) is a 1.25 mile one-way trail with 21 stops along the way! The trail winds through aspen grove forests and along the north lateral moraine up to the top of Vista Spur with its nearly circular panoramas of high mountain peaks! Trail-goers experience history, geology, biology, math and science while following along with activity guides with unique lessons or games specific to each stop on the trail. There are four activities guides and accompanying patches for each season: fall, winter, spring and summer. You will learn about plants, flowers, animals, rocks, trees – all with a view!



How do we reserve the Nature Trail?

If you already have an overnight reservation at MMR, experiencing the nature trail is included in your stay. Due to COVID – 19, overnight group reservations are currently closed at MMR but groups can reserve a day only session at the MMR nature trail. The nature trail is available for day use reservations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Reservations can be up until 3 days prior to visit. For additional questions contact property.reservations@gscolorado.org

To reserve the MMR Nature Trail for day use:

- Visit the GSCO property reservation website: <http://girlscoutsofcolorado.checkfront.com/reserve/>
- Select the date of your visit, using the same day for starting and ending date
- Select MMR at the property, select 'see listings'
- Select "MMR Nature Trail" as the reservation selection, the category will be indicated in green if booking slots are available
- Select 'book now' under MMR nature trail
- Complete the group reservation details and pay the \$10 per group fee at time of booking

Who can book the nature trail?

Girl Scout groups can book the nature trail on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays for a day hike between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Up to two groups can book per day, these groups should either be a troop or GSCO family. All members of the group must either a current Girl Scout member or additional insurance for the non - members in the group must be purchased for the day by emailing insurance@gscoloraod.org. Groups agree to follow all GSCO [COVID - 19 guidelines around in person activities.](#)

What can I expect when hiking the nature trail?

Prior to your visit the MMR property manager will reach out to with additional information about what to expect on the trail, how to prepare for your hike and directions to the property. Upon arrival, groups will check in with the property manager to get nature trail activity guides, trail maps and Leave No Trace hiking information. Depending on the time of year you will receive the appropriate seasonal activity book for Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer. Snowshoes may be available on site, contact the property manager prior to your reservation. Since the weather is so varied at Meadow Mountain Ranch you could be hiking multiple seasons at one time!

Using the activity guidebook, you will follow the trail stopping for activities at numbered posts along the way. Plan on 2 – 4 hours for maximum immersion and to accommodate all experience levels. Plan for uneven terrain and uphill sections. Check the weather for Allenspark, CO prior to your visit and dress accordingly. As a baseline, we recommend packing layers of warm clothing, extra water and wearing sturdy closed toed shoes.

How do I earn and purchase the Nature Trail patch?

The complete patch set is a five-segment, 4-inch square, colorful and seasonal collection! Anyone can purchase the central circle patch to show your pride in MMR, but you must complete a seasonal series of activities to earn any of the other four segments. To earn each seasonal section, you need to hike the trail and complete the appropriate seasonal activities in the guidebook. Each segment costs \$1.50 and patches are available for purchase through the GSCO retail store. In addition to earning nature trail patch, your hike will qualify to work on a portion of the Trail Adventure badge!

What else can I do at Meadow Mountain Ranch?

In addition to the nature trail, you can hike other trails on the beautiful property, like the two-mile round-trip trail to Hercules, one of the largest trees in Rocky Mountain National Park! [Check out the MMR trail map here.](#)

History of Nature Trail

Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts from Fort Collins originally created the Nature Trail between 1978 and 1979 and it was supported and maintained by the family of Julie Corona Morrison. From 2007-2011, a group of intrepid volunteers skilled in arts, sciences, local history and quality Girl Scout programming developed the seasonal guides to assure a broad-ranging and cumulative experience for trail-goers. For four years, they explored and researched all aspects of the trail to encourage visitors to return all four seasons until a year-long journey is complete. Thank you to MacDonald Book Shop in Estes Park for their generous donations of reference books and also to Master Graphics in Estes Park for support with printing services to make the guide books colorful and easy to use.