



Girl Scouts of Colorado Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend Activity Guide

Girl Scouts of Colorado and Colorado Parks & Wildlife have teamed up for the annual Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend, Sept. 13 and 14. We invite you to get outside, enjoy the fall weather, and explore your local state park with Girl Scouts!

Packing List and Preparation

Before heading out, visit the park website for the most current information about road conditions, fire hazards, directions, and other park specific information. This is not an individual girl drop-off event; girls must attend as part of a troop or with a family. Park entrance fees of \$9 - \$11 per car apply. You may also enter with your [Keep Colorado Wild Pass](#).

Be sure to check the weather report for the local area around your park prior to visiting and pack accordingly. Many state park trails have high sun exposure and weather in Colorado can change quickly and dramatically. We recommend wearing layers and packing sunscreen, a full water bottle, comfortable walking shoes, a picnic lunch, a hat, a backpack to carry everything, and your Girl Scout uniform.

Participating Parks and Programs

Girl Scouts, troops, and families are invited to visit the parks listed below for special programs and self-guided activities. Many parks will also have a Girl Scout staff table with additional activities and special giveaways like a free Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch (while supplies last). In addition to activities available, we encourage you to pack a picnic lunch, explore hiking trails on your own, adventure with your troop or family and spend the whole day at the park! Most parks will also have a special booklet as a self-guided activity – available at the visitor center and/or the Girl Scout table at each park.

*Additional questions on program plans can be directed to the park office,
contact information is linked in the park names below.*

In Partnership With

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Barr Lake State Park, Brighton – Saturday, Sept. 13

It's the fall birding festival at Barr Lake State Park! The festival takes place from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. and includes the following activities:

- Guided bird tours starting at 7 a.m.*
- Bird banding station visits starting at 7:30 a.m.*
- Mindful birding walk at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
- Family activities, crafts, and other educational booths starting at 9:00 a.m.
- Nature journaling and field sketching workshop at 11 a.m.*

*Sign up for these events at the Bird Conservancy booth the day of. [See the full Fall Birding Festival schedule here](#). Stop by the GSCO table from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. to pick up a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and giveaways while supplies last! All activities are at the park nature center. [See the park map here](#).

Castlewood Canyon State Park, Franktown – Saturday, Sept. 13

Special drop-in programs for Girl Scouts are listed below. All programs will run from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Open activity booths for Girl Scouts including Leave No Trace, crafts, nature journaling, face painting, and make a t-shirt using a colored stencil that will be ironed onto a white shirt.
 - T-shirts are provided by the park in kids small and medium only. Participants are welcome to bring t-shirts in different sizes. White cotton works best.
- Guided hikes will be offered and trail maps for self-guided hiking will be provided.

Visit the Girl Scout staff table from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. for a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last! Please enter the park at the Highway 83 entrance and park at the Canyon Point parking lot. The Girl Scout program is at the group picnic area closest to this lot. Girl Scouts and families are encouraged to bring a lunch and spend the whole day – there's lots to explore in Castlewood Canyon! [See the park map here](#).

Cherry Creek State Park, Aurora – Saturday, Sept. 13

Cherry Creek State Park will be hosting Girl Scouts Love State Parks at the swim beach. All activities below (except archery) will be available from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Come practice or learn how to cast for fish with the game Backyard Bass! Knowable staff will be on hand to provide tips and tricks to casting. Learn the Statewide Limits and determine if you get to keep your next fish or if you have to release it back.
- Learn what "Ethics of a Good Angler" and "Leave No Trace" have in common.
- Explore Colorado wildlife by taking a close look at the park's collection of animal skulls and pelt at the Pop-up Wildlife Museum located inside the Swim Beach Classroom.
- Explore the park on your own with the augmented reality app Agents of Discovery.
- Become a Jr. Ranger of Cherry Creek State Park.
- Beginner Archery Class at the shooting range. Time and details coming soon.

Visit the Girl Scouts table at the swim beach building for a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here](#).

Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado Springs – Saturday, Sept. 13

Cheyenne Mountain State Park will be hosting a "No Child Left Inside" event on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Lime Kiln Parking Lot. This event is part of a nationwide movement promoting environmental education and outdoor exploration for kids in kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scouts are invited to join in the fun! A variety of stations will be available for you to learn about Colorado's natural resources and recreational activities. Stations will include archery, bb guns, nature journaling, and more! Visit the Girl Scouts table from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to pick up a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here](#).

Eldorado Canyon State Park, Eldorado Springs – Saturday, Sept. 13

Eldorado Canyon State Park and My Nature Lab present an all-ages Reptile and Amphibian Program! Through live animal demonstrations and interactive activities, we will learn about reptiles and amphibians and their habitats and behaviors. Come meet My Nature Lab's animal ambassadors for this exciting demonstration! We will meet at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center located at 9 Kneale Road, Eldorado Springs, CO 80025. [See the park map here.](#)

Timed Entry Reservations are recommended for entering the park on Saturdays due to the high volume of visitation and limited parking availability. You can book your entry by visiting [CPWshop.com](https://cpw.state.co.us/state-parks/eldorado-canyon-state-park) under the "Visit a Park" tab. More information can be found at our website: <https://cpw.state.co.us/state-parks/eldorado-canyon-state-park>

Lake Pueblo State Park, Pueblo – Sunday, Sept. 14

Special programs for Girl Scouts will be hosted at Quail Run Pavilion from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and will include:

- Leave No Trace investigation
- A nature inspired craft station to create a nature journal or wildlife watercolor paintings
- Skins and Skulls
- Scat and Tracks Identification

Self-guided activities include Junior Ranger books, Agents of Discovery, and a scavenger hunt which can be picked up from the visitor center. Visit the Girl Scouts table to pick up your free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last at Quail Run pavilion, located on the south side of the reservoir, between the Visitor Center and the South Shore Marina. Turn to the right after passing through the South Entrance Station toward the South Fishing Area. You will see a parking lot and picnic tables on your left. Turn into the parking lot and look for the large pavilion which will be to the right. [See the park map here.](#)

Lory State Park, Bellvue – Saturday, Sept. 13

Join GSCO at Lory State Park on Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Lory State Park Visitor Center for a table on the wildlife that lives in Lory! This interactive table will include games and crafts!

A guided hike will be offered from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will meet at the Well Gulch Trail Head. The hike will start promptly at 10 a.m. At the visitor center, you can also pick up your free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#)

Mueller State Park, Divide – Saturday, Sept. 13

Mueller is excited to be a part of Girl Scouts Love State Parks! There will be a variety of programs including:

- 9 – 10:30 a.m. and 1–12:30 p.m.: Geocaching at Outlook Ridge Trailhead*
*Space is limited and pre-registration required – [sign up here!](#) Learn about geocaching and embark on an adventure to find the various caches hidden near the trail! Limited to 15 Girl Scouts per session.
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Basic Fly Fishing at Dragonfly Pond
Learn how to fly fish and how it is different from other styles like bait fishing, trolling, and spinning. Use your new or seasoned skills to try to catch a fish at one of Mueller's favorite ponds. All gear is provided. Best for ages 9 and up. Parking is limited. If parking is full at Dragonfly Pond, School Ponds I the next closest parking lot.
- 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Junior Rangers at the Pond – Meet at Peak View Trailhead
Learn more about the ponds and critters at Mueller State Park. Become a Junior Ranger by investigating aquatic life in the park. Earn a special badge by attending all three Junior Ranger programs. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Parking is limited at Peak View Trailhead. Additional parking is located at Homestead Trailhead and the Comfort Station nearby.
- 3pm – 4pm: Nature Journaling at Outlook Ridge Trailhead

Discover what you can uncover when you slow down to observe the natural world around you. This session will be focused on the changes seen during fall. Please come with your own journal/notebook and writing utensil. This program is for all ages. Construction paper and crayons will be available for kids. This program lasts roughly 1.5 hours.

All vehicles entering the park need a valid park pass. If you need to purchase a day pass you can do so at the Visitor Center between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., or with cash at the self-service station by the large information sign on your right when you enter the park. Please be mindful of parking areas and only park in designated spots. Visit the Girl Scouts table at the Outlook Ridge Trailhead to pick up your free Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#)

Navajo State Park, Arboles – Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14

Park rangers at Navajo State park will be offering 2 days of fun and unique programs!

- Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Pontoon Boat Tours*
*Multiple sessions available, but space is limited, and pre-registration is required – [sign up here!](#)
Ranger Wade will be taking troops out on a 30-foot pontoon boat, complete with a slide! Explore the Colorado side of the reservoir, learn more about the park, and spend time sliding into the water from the boat and swimming around before returning to the dock.
- Saturday, 12– 4 p.m.: Skins & Skulls and Survival Bracelets at the Visitor Center
Ranger Jordan will have a skins and skull table at the Visitor Center to learn more about animals. She will also be teaching survival bracelet tying throughout the day.
- Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Backyard Bass and Tree Cookie Necklaces
Join Ranger Wade to play Backyard Bass, a fun game to learn how to fish on land! While you're there, spend time making a tree cookie necklace.
- Sunday, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.: Survival Fires with Ranger Jordan and Ranger Kaeti
- Sunday, 12 – 3 p.m.: Archery Lessons with Ranger Jordan and Ranger Kaeti

Additional programs include self-guided scavenger hunts on trails. For more information about any of the programs offered at the park, stop by the Visitor Center. All programs are weather and fire bans permitting. [See the park map here.](#)

Ridgway State Park, Ridgway – Saturday, Sept. 13

Fall Bird Banding! Dive into a unique experience at Ridgway State Park. Stop by our bird banding station from 8-11 a.m. at the Dallas Creek park entrance to learn about birds that live and migrate in the park. Then take a hike on the Dallas Creek Nature Trail to practice your bird watching skills. Also, stop by the Girl Scouts table at the Dallas Creek Confluence from 8am-11am for a free Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#)

Rifle Gap State Park, Rifle – Saturday, Sept. 13

Self-guided activities include scavenger hunt, junior ranger book, nature hikes, and exploring the park visitor center. Don't forget to stop at nearby Rifle Falls State Park to explore the waterfall and caves! Visit the Girl Scouts table from 9–11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Cottonwood Campground picnic area at Rifle Gap for special giveaways and a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#)

Roxborough State Park, Littleton – Sunday, Sept. 14

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Visitor Center Patio

Volunteer naturalists will teach the basics of the Seven Leave No Trace principles including the effects of trash on wildlife, performing autopsies on stuffed toy birds to show how trash can harm wildlife, talk about how much bears must eat before hibernating, how to safely and responsibly view wildlife, and play games that teach how long it takes litter and trash to decompose. Roxborough also has a “trash” garden that demonstrates the effects of the sun and weather on trash and litter. Our volunteer naturalists will also be available to share their knowledge of the natural features of the park, the animals that live there, as well as maps and hiking advice. Self-guided tour guides are available in the Visitor Center.

Visit the Girl Scouts table for a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch and other giveaways while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#) *Note: Parking at Roxborough is limited and can fill quickly on weekends. Early arrival is recommended!

Staunton State Park, Pine – Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14

It's “Living History Days” at Staunton State Park!

Come join some old time fun, live music by the campfire at the renovated Staunton Cabin! Take a free Cabin tour and enjoy some Johnny Cakes and lemonade! Learn about how doctors Racheal and Archibald Staunton treated patients during the pandemic of their times, with old school surgery techniques and medicinal plants. Create Historical Crafts and play old-time games! Experience the Feather Trade and the fight to protect our beautiful birds from becoming ladies' hats! Trapping and Hunting gear used in the day will be displayed along with the valuable furs that were sought after by fur traders. Learn about prohibition and the hidden stills in Colorado! Learn how and why women were key to the Prohibition Laws of the Day!

Take a hay ride to the cabin from Meadow or Visitor Center parking lots or hike from the Visitor Center or Staunton Ranch Trail and hunt for the stolen Reynolds Gang treasure! Meet the sheriff and claim your reward when you find the treasure! (This hike will end at the Staunton Cabin!). Activities take place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. [See the park map here.](#)

Sweitzer Lake State Park, Delta – Sunday, Sept. 14

Welcome Girl Scouts and Families to Sweitzer Lake State Park! Join Ranger Kelli at 10 a.m. for a guided walk around the nature trail. After the hike, enjoy “Art in the Park” where rangers will guide you through a Gytaku fish printing and landscape painting! Art supplies will be provided by Sweitzer Lake. Stop by the visitor center to pick up your national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch while supplies last! [See the park map here.](#) Contact Sweitzer Lake State Park for more information.

Sylvan Lake State Park, Eagle – Saturday, Sept. 13

Welcome to Sylvan Lake State Park! Self-guided programs for Girl Scouts include:

- Hiking the 1.4 mile lake trail with interpretive markers and points of interest. Or explore the 6 mile West Brush Creek Trail that begins at the visitor center and takes you to Sylvan Lake.
- Stop by the entrance gate and borrow one of our fishing poles (bait included). Sylvan Lake was recently stocked with rainbow trout! A Colorado fishing license is required for anyone 16 or older and [can be purchased here.](#)
- Pick up a scavenger hunt from the visitor center, return with a completed sheet and earn a prize!
- Rent a canoe or kayak from the entrance gate and enjoy being out on the water. Lifejackets and paddles included.

Pick up a free national Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch from the visitor center while supplies last. See the park map here. [See the park map here.](#)