

South Platte Park

3000 W. Carson Dr.
(north of Mineral, west of Santa Fe)
Littleton, CO 80120

Natural area and trails open daily sunrise to sunset.

- 878 acres along South Platte River
- 5 lakes open to fishing
- Local and regional trails

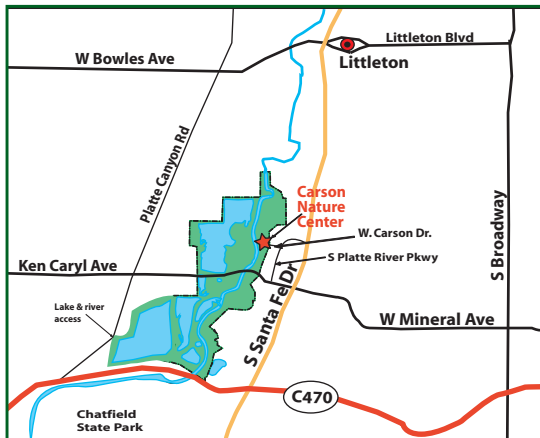
Carson Nature Center

Open Tu-F from 12-4:30 pm • Weekends 9:30 am-4:30 pm

- Interactive displays
- Year-round public programs
- Volunteer naturalist program

Guided Programs

Request field trips for schools, scouts and other organizations.



303.730.1022

ssprd.org/nature • [@SouthPlattePark](https://www.facebook.com/SouthPlattePark)



South Platte Park offers field trips with hands-on discovery, outdoor exploration, and inquiry-based learning. Programs are designed to help students master current state academic standards. Staff members are trained interpreters, certified by the National Association for Interpretation. Before your visit, a packet of pre-trip and post-trip activities are provided to introduce your South Platte Park field trip.

- **Group Logistics:** The full experience includes a guided hike or water exploration, chaperone-led small group activities or a nature center tour, and a guided experience with the river table. 10 to 55 students may attend, and larger groups will be split to rotate among activities. Groups smaller than 10 are welcome but must cover the minimum cost for 10. Programs typically run 10 am-1:30 pm and can shift for your school and transportation needs. A partial-day program is available that runs 1.5-2 hours for groups up to 30 students and includes only the guided hike or water exploration.
- **Chaperones:** Adults supervise 3-5 children and pay no fee. One adult is required for every 5 children. As chaperones will participate in activities and monitor safety, please do not bring siblings or other children.
- **Cost:** Groups within the South Suburban District pay \$8.50 per student for the full experience (\$7 for the partial-day trip). Groups from outside of the District pay \$10 per student for the full experience (\$8.50 for partial-day). Scholarships are available to qualifying groups.
- **Deposits:** A 50% deposit is required within two weeks of scheduling to hold your date.
- **Cancellation:** Programs occur regardless of weather. If schools are closed, we will attempt to reschedule or will refund the deposit. Groups choosing to cancel their program for any other reason forfeit their deposit.
- **Planning:** Call 303.730.1022 to book a field trip. Book early for the best selection of dates!

Visiting as a group on your own? Contact us for rules and to schedule in advance.

Field Trips

South Platte Park

A Natural Area





NATURE DETECTIVES (Pre-K-1st)

Look for clues! Students discover which animals live here through puzzles and a memory challenge. On an outdoor hike, they'll find real clues and evidence.

Standards:

Pre-K Science: Recognize that living things have unique characteristics and basic needs that can be observed and studied.

The acquisition of concepts and facts related to the natural and physical world and the understanding of naturally occurring relationships.

Kindergarten Science: To live and grow, animals obtain food they need from plants or other animals, and plants need water and light.

Plants and animals meet their needs in their habitats and impact one another; people can prepare for severe weather.

1st Grade Science: All organisms have external parts they use to perform daily functions.



INSECTS & SPIDERS (1st)

Students explore the world of insect body parts, functions and life cycles. Outside, they'll catch insects and spiders in nets and examine buggy differences.

Standards:

1st Grade Science: All organisms have external parts they use to perform daily functions.

Young organisms are very much (but not exactly) like their parents, and also, resemble other organisms of the same kind.



GOLD PANNING (1st-3rd)

Gold put Denver on the map! Students trace the geography of Colorado's gold rush on a giant floor map while re-enacting adventures from history. Then, like early settlers, they'll pan for this precious metal in the South Platte River.

Standards:

1st Grade Social Studies: Ask questions and discuss ideas about patterns and chronological order of events from the past.

Locate places and spaces using geographic tools.

Individuals work in different types of jobs to earn an income.

2nd Grade Social Studies: Resources are scarce, so individuals may not have access to the goods and services they want.

3rd Grade Social Studies: Producers and consumers exchange goods and services in different ways.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

ICON	PROGRAM NAME	GRADES ⁺	MONTHS
	Nature Detectives	preK-1st	All year
	Insects and Spiders	1st	May, Aug, Sept, Oct
	Gold Panning	1st-3rd	Late April- mid Oct
	Plant Exploration	2nd	All year
	Life Underwater	2nd-4th	Late April- mid Oct
	Ecosystem Adventure*	3rd-6th	All year
	The Human Consumer*	5th	All year
	Wild Places in Urban Spaces*	6th and older	All year

*always a double program

⁺ Grade levels are flexible and programs can accommodate a range of ages.



PLANT EXPLORATION (2nd)

Sip and Fly! Children sort pollinators and seed spreaders, and visit three different plant neighborhoods to discover which plants and animals live there.

Standards:

2nd Grade Science: Plants depend on water and light to grow and on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around.

A range of different organisms live in different places.



LIFE UNDERWATER (2nd-4th)

To live underwater you need special features. Students wade in the river, use nets and turn over rocks to find aquatic animals and observe the adaptations that allow animals to live underwater.

Standards:

2nd Grade Science: A range of different organisms lives in different places.

3rd Grade Science: Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.

Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

4th Grade Science: Organisms have both internal and external structures that serve various functions.



ECOSYSTEM ADVENTURE (3rd-6th)

Assemble an illustrative ecosystem jigsaw puzzle. Students work with puzzle pieces representing components of a riparian ecosystem, hike to see natural processes in the real world, report to each other about four communities and work at an interactive river table.

Standards:

3rd Grade Science: A variety of weather hazards result from natural process; humans cannot eliminate weather-related hazards but can reduce their impact.

4th Grade Science: A variety of hazards result from natural process; humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can reduce their impact.

Middle School Science: Organisms and populations of organisms are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living things and with nonliving.



THE HUMAN CONSUMER (5th)

Humans consume resources and "producers." Students play producer/consumer/decomposer tag and shop for "What's on the Menu?" While hiking, they'll observe and draw past or predicted changes.

Standards:

5th Grade Science: The energy released from food was once energy from the sun.

Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water.

Matter cycles between air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die.



WILD PLACES IN URBAN SPACES (6th +)

Open space parks within cities are in a unique situation. Students tour South Platte Park and work at a river table.

Or... Naturalists come to your school or site.

BUILD A BEAVER (1st-2nd)

Beavers Rock! Dress a student like a beaver while actual artifacts are passed for hands-on experience. Conclude with Beaver Rap.

ANIMAL COVERINGS (K-2nd)

Feathers, fur and scales... Oh, my! Students sort mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and more.

Fees for a school or site visit (Rent-a-Naturalist) are \$59R / \$65NR per hour (plus pay for travel time for destinations out of District).