

**South Platte Park** offers field trips with hands-on discovery, outdoor exploration, and inquiry-based learning.

Each program is designed to help you meet the Colorado Academic Science Standards and have been peer-reviewed to meet standards set by the North American Association for Environmental Education. Staff of South Platte Park are Certified Guides through the National Association for Interpretation and volunteers have been trained in content and teaching style.

In advance of your visit, a packet of pre-trip and post-trip activities are provided for you to introduce and reinforce the field trip.

**Schedule:** Programs are scheduled Tuesday through Friday every week of the traditional school year. One group is scheduled per day.

**Group size:** Maximum group size is 30, with an option on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to book "double programs" with two groups of up to 30 alternating between guided programs and self-guided activities. Small groups are welcome, but will be charged for a minimum of 10. One adult is required for every 5 children.

**Cost per student:** \$4 District Students  
\$5 Groups outside of South Suburban's boundaries  
An additional \$1 per student is charged for "double programs." There is no charge for chaperones. Talk to us if your school is having difficulty paying by the deadline.

**Deposits:** A 50% deposit is required within two weeks of scheduling.

**Cancellation:** Programs occur regardless of the weather, unless schools or roads are closed or other dangerous conditions exist. In that situation, we will make every effort to reschedule, or refund the deposit. Groups choosing to cancel their program for other reasons forfeit their deposit.

**Planning:** To book a program, please call 303-730-1022. The South Platte Park calendar is frequently filled 3-6 months in advance. On **January 1**, you may schedule for the entire **calendar** year. **August 15**, you may schedule for the traditional **school** year. Please schedule your program early!

Groups of 10-60 are welcome to visit on their own after scheduling in advance with the park.

### Nature Programs Align with Classroom Teaching

Field trips are most successful when they ILLUSTRATE material learned in the classroom. Please realize that the effectiveness of our activities is greatly reduced if our program is the first time your group has seen the material. It is best if you choose a program that will tie in with your current curriculum. Please look inside for your options.



Life Underwater

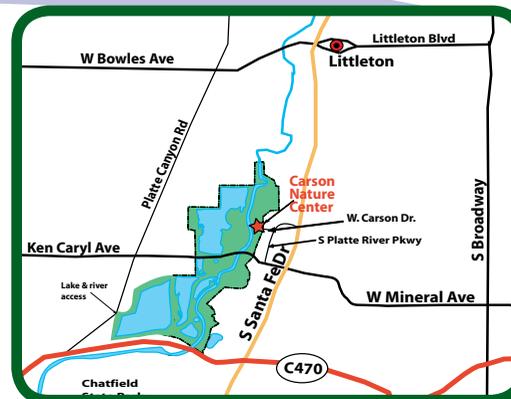


Insects & spiders

**Call today to book your field trip! 303-730-1022**



River Table Demonstration



### South Platte Park

**3000 W. Carson Dr.**

Littleton, CO 80120  
(north of Mineral, west of Santa Fe)

#### A Natural Area

Open daily sunrise to sunset

#### 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
  - 878 acres of open space
- 2.5 miles of the South Platte River—unchannelized!
  - 4 miles of walking trails
  - Several marsh wetlands
    - 7 lakes
- Teacher recertification courses

303-730-1022

[www.sspr.org/nature](http://www.sspr.org/nature)



South Suburban  
PARKS AND RECREATION

 printed on recycled paper

**City of Littleton**

# South Platte Park

*A Natural Area*



## Guided Programs



South Suburban  
PARKS AND RECREATION

**City of Littleton**



## Animal Detectives

### Target Grades:

Pre K-1st

### Program Duration:

75-90 Mins

**Seasons:** Year round

**Theme:** Become Nature Detectives to solve the mystery of who passed by.

**Description:** Students discover what animals live here through communication games, memory challenges, and a scavenger hunt deciphering clues and sorting local wildlife.



### CO Model Content Science Standards grades K-2:

#### Life Science:

- Students sort animals based on their common needs and how characteristics help them survive.
- Students use questions, evidence, and direct observations to investigate living things
- Students develop an explanation as to why a habitat is or is not suitable for a certain animal and can explain how animals depend on their habitat

#### Physical Science:

- Children are encouraged to be clear and precise like scientists.

## Insects & Spiders

**Target Grades:** Pre K-1st

**Program Duration:** 90 Mins

**Seasons:** May, Sep, Oct

**Theme:** Too many legs can make you buggy!

**Description:** Catch different kinds of insects in special nets to examine their shapes, sizes, colors and more! Explore the world of insect life-cycles, body parts, needs and diversity.



### CO Model Content Science Standards grades K-2:

#### Life Science:

- Students will analyze how living organisms depend on their habitats to survive.
- Students will learn how different mouth structures have different functions.
- Students will understand that insect bodies go through different life stages as they grow.

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students will understand that sunlight or shade impacts habitats and what lives there.

## Sensing the Season

**Target Grades:** Pre K-2nd

**Program Duration:** 90 Mins

**Seasons:** All

**Theme:** Nature notices the sights and sounds of a new season just like you!

**Description:** Students use all their senses on an exploratory hike to experience the season, then examine how plants and animals respond to the changes.



### CO Model Content Science Standards grades K-2:

#### Life Science:

- Students will use observations to support ideas about how certain characteristics help animals to survive.
- Students will identify and explain similarities and differences such as the texture, size, color, and shape of various natural items based on the season.

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students will apply evidence gathered using their senses to explain how the natural world responds to changing seasons.
- Students will identify the four seasons and what each one looks like in Colorado.

## Ecosystem Adventure

**Target Grades:** 3-5

**Program Duration:**

120 minutes+

**Seasons:** Year Round

**Theme:** It takes all the right pieces to assemble an Ecosystem jigsaw puzzle.

**Description:** Students use an interactive river model then hike to explore a real river ecosystem. They seek out clues of the food web, report to each other about the non-living components, and watch natural processes change an ecosystem.



### CO Model Content Science Standards

#### for grades 3-5:

#### Life Science:

- Students understand and can describe interactions among biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem.
- Students can identify characteristics that make a riparian ecosystem unique and compare different habitats within those ecosystem

- Students can identify a specific ecosystem within Colorado.

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students observe a model and real life river system to understand that erosion and deposition can be influenced by both human and natural factors.

#### Physical Science:

- Students view a demonstration of how objects may be moved or changed by water.

## Plant Exploration

**Target Grade:** 2-3

**Program Duration:**

120 Minutes

**Seasons:** Spring, Fall, Winter

**Theme:** Plants are alive and need their parts to survive.

**Description:** Children prepare a "plant-part salad" before exploring "Plant City." They will choose three "neighborhoods" to visit and discover how plants use their parts to adapt to where they live. Students receive journals, dissect cattails, sort seeds and plant new life!



### CO Model Content Standards and Grades 2-3:

#### Life Science:

- Students will use observation to determine whether or not a habitat is appropriate for certain plants.
- Students will use tools such as a thermometer and magnifying glasses to observe habitat components.
- Students will describe how plants survive in their habitats

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students will analyze the ways in which temperature, sun, and shade make a habitat suitable or unsuitable for different plants.

## Gold Panning

**Target Grades:** 2-4

**Program Duration:** 90 Mins.

**Seasons:** Last 2 weeks of Apr - First 2 weeks of Oct (or discuss weather options with teacher).

**Theme:** Gold put Denver on the map!



**Description:** Pan for precious metal in the South Platte River as the early settlers did. Hear of the adventures of Colorado's earliest fortune seekers and the impact of gold on Colorado history, and trace the geography and geology of Denver's river.

### CO Model Content Standards Grades K-4:

#### History:

- Students understand how economic factors have influenced the development of Colorado cities.
- Students use maps to answer questions about Colorado history.
- Students will understand the importance of prospecting in Colorado's history.

#### Physical Science:

- Students practice separating materials based on density through gold panning

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students learn the relevance, social value, and uses of a natural resource (gold).

## Life Underwater

**Target Grades:** 2-5

**Program Duration:**

90 Mins+

**Season:** 2<sup>nd</sup> week Apr thru 2<sup>nd</sup> week Oct

**Theme:** Life underwater

isn't for every creature. To survive you need special features or you'll end up feeding other creatures!

**Description:** Students wade the river to find aquatic animals. They use nets and search under rocks to discover and capture dozens of creatures, sort them to find their place in the food web, and observe the adaptations they use to survive underwater.



### CO Model Content Science Standards Met, Grades 3-5:

#### Life Science:

- Students will be able to explain the importance of specific structures in the survival of underwater life.
- Students will observe two different aquatic ecosystems to compare and contrast habitat types.
- Students will learn how different organisms adapt to different habitats in order to survive.

#### Earth Systems Science:

- Students learn how human and natural forces (such as rivers) can change the Earth's surface.