

January 15, 2016

Dear School Superintendent,

Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park has obtained grant monies that they have allocated to funding transportation to the Park so that schools with $\geq 70\%$ free and reduced lunch populations can participate in one of our nature-related school programs. We call the program Wonders of Castlewood. Because of the program's popularity, we are currently capping the funds available to any given school to \$300/year. Castlewood Canyon is located between Denver and Colorado Springs just off of Hwy 83 in Franktown.

Our goals are to introduce children to the wonders of nature, get them outside and away from technology, enhance their understanding of wildlife and how people's actions affect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to deliver high quality place-based environmental education.

The application to participate in Wonders as well as a synopsis of each of the programs we offer, tips for hiking, and a brief outline on wildlife ethics are attached. Classes are ideally divided into groups of 10-12 students with a parent or teacher chaperone for each group. A trained Volunteer Naturalist conducts the program. Maximum number of students is 60 with one naturalist to each group.

If you have qualifying schools in your district that would be interested in Wonders of Castlewood, please forward these materials on to them. If you would like to receive these documents on-line, please send email to cwcanyon@gmail.com or download from the Friends of Castlewood Canyon website: www.castlewoodfriends.org. To request participation in Wonders, the teacher can simply fax the completed application to 303/688-1190, email to castlewood.canyon@state.co.us or mail to the address below Attn: Wonders of Castlewood. A Park representative will then contact the teacher (or other representative) to discuss scheduling.

Regards,



Brent Lounsbury
Castlewood Canyon State Park Manager
2989 Colorado 83, Franktown CO 80116



Attachments:

Wonders Program Reservation Form
Program Synopsis

On line at www.castlewoodfriends.org

Tips for Having Fun on your Hike
Wildlife Ethics for Kids



"That which can best be learned inside the classroom should be learned there; and that which can best be learned through direct experience outside the classroom, in contact with native materials and life situations, should there be learned."

L. B. Sharp, 1947 - Pioneer in outdoor education.