



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

Castlewood Canyon State Park  
2989 S. Hwy 83 • Franktown, CO 80116  
PH: (303) 688.5242

May 4, 2026

Dear School Superintendent,

Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park have obtained grant funds and allocated them to transportation to the park, so that schools with  $\geq 70\%$  free and reduced-price 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 \$400/year. Castlewood Canyon is located between Denver and Colorado Springs, just off 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 it and its habitats, and deliver high-quality place-based environmental education.

The application to participate in Wonders, a synopsis of each of the programs we offer, tips for hiking, and a brief outline of wildlife ethics are available on the Friends of Castlewood Canyon's website at <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/projecto-5>. Classes are ideally divided into groups of 10-12 students with a parent or teacher chaperone for each group. Trained Volunteer Naturalists conduct the program. The maximum number of students is 60, with one naturalist for each group.

If you have qualifying schools in your district that would be interested in Wonders of Castlewood, please direct them to <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/projecto-5> to see the available school programs and download the application form. To request participation in Wonders, the teacher can simply email the completed application to [castlewood.canyon@state.co.us](mailto:castlewood.canyon@state.co.us) or mail it to the address below, Attn: Wonders of Castlewood. A Park representative will then contact the teacher (or other representative) to discuss scheduling.



Laura Clellan, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Richard Reading, Chair · James 'Jay' Tutchtton, Vice-Chair · Eden Vardy, Secretary · Jessica Beaulieu ·  
Frances Silva Blaney · John Emerick · Tai Jacober · Dallas May · Jack Murphy · Gabriel Otero · Christopher Sichko

Regards,

Larry Butterfield  
Park Manager  
Castlewood Canyon State Park



P 720.622.4172

2989 S. Highway 83

Franktown, CO 80116

[larry.butterfield@state.co.us](mailto:larry.butterfield@state.co.us) | [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)

Online at <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/projecto-5>

- This letter
- Registration Form
- Available School Programs
- 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



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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