

## **Wild Places Code of Ethics for Students**

### **Castlewood Canyon State Park**

We, as visitors to Castlewood Canyon State Park, will respect the rights of wildlife, and the natural wonder that is their home. We will remember that we are visitors to this beautiful place.

We will put the needs and safety of wildlife and their habitat before our wishes to observe and take pictures. We will do everything we can to conserve wildlife and their habitats. This will allow us and other Park visitors to see animals behaving naturally and undisturbed in their own environments.

Here are some guidelines for being a respectful visitor to this home of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects:

#### **Observe animals from a safe distance for us and for them**

- Learn to recognize and respect wildlife alarm signals.
- When an animal changes behavior as a result of our presence, we are too close and must leave.
- Never deliberately approach an animal. Move slowly and quietly.
- Use binoculars, spotting scopes and viewing blinds for a close view.
- Always avoid nests, roosts, and dens.

#### **Allow wild animals to forage for their natural foods and live naturally**

- Put the safety and health of wildlife first by resisting an impulse to go closer or offer a handout.
- Reserve any feeding of wildlife to backyard birds.
- Leave eggs, baby birds and other young animals where we find them and quickly exit the area.

#### **Be careful when you take pictures**

- Never chase, herd, flush or make deliberate noises that stress wildlife.
- Use a telephoto lens from a viewing blind or a vehicle and observe from recommended distances.
- Leave plants, trees, rocks, and other natural features as we found them.

#### **Always be considerate**

- Travel on durable surfaces, including established trails, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Observe all rules and regulations.
- Wait our turn to view or photograph animals when sharing a viewing area.
- Control pets on 6' maximum leash, and leave immediately if a potential threat to wildlife.
- Tread lightly, staying on trails and roads.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises. Use your indoor voice.

#### **Leave what you find**

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects where they are. They are part of the habitat.
- Take only memories, pictures, and a wish to preserve nature with you.
- If you see trash that someone less considerate than you has left behind, pick it up and put it in the trash can.

#### **Return a gift to nature in all our actions**

- Participate in wildlife and habitat conservation and restoration.
- Help others to become responsible wildlife watchers.

(Adopted by the National Partners in Watchable Wildlife)