

Rocky Mountain

National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



CENTER FOR PROTECTED
AREA MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Rocky Mountain National Park Internship Program: Summer 2021

Climbing Steward



Internship with the National Park Service

CSU's Center for Protected Area Management is proud to be offering its internship program at Rocky Mountain National Park for a third year. The intern selected this year will work as a climbing steward to assist park staff with its Climbing Program.

Internship Location

Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) is located 50 miles southwest of Fort Collins and consists of 415 square miles of high mountain scenery carved and sculpted by glaciers. Wildlife includes elk, bighorn sheep, coyotes, mountain lions, marmots, pikas, black bears and a variety of birds. Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved road in the U.S. provides access to the alpine tundra while connecting the east and west sides of the park. There are over 355 miles of trails within the park and the park receives over 4 million visitors every year. Additionally, 95% of the park is designated wilderness.

Internship Description

The climbing steward intern will conduct patrols of the wilderness of Rocky Mountain National Park with a focus on heavily impacted bouldering and climbing areas. The intern will educate climbers on Leave No Trace and sustainable climbing and bouldering practices, help organize cleanup efforts for climbing and bouldering areas, assist with collecting trail monitoring data, raptor monitoring, and with informational presentations/social media outreach. The intern will assist in monitoring raptor nesting at Lumpy Ridge and other popular climbing areas in the park. This increased monitoring effort will help to better protect raptors and will provide valuable and timely data that will inform management decisions to lift or extend closures. Last year was a banner year for Peregrine Falcons in ROMO (7-9 chicks confirmed at Lumpy Ridge alone).

Finally, this position will work with the park's Public Information Officer and staff from Resource Stewardship to create public outreach material specific to raptor closures. The ultimate goal is to keep the climbing public updated about park efforts and to ensure closures are lifted or extended as appropriate and in a timely manner. During raptor monitoring, technical roped climbing patrols may be utilized. Participation in these technical patrols will be dependent on the intern's skill set.

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Requested Skills

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be physically fit and prepared for vigorous exercise, be capable of carrying up to 50 lbs. through rough and remote terrain, and be willing to operate within all NPS policies and procedures while on duty. Applicants should have at least 12 months of climbing and/or bouldering experience. Leave No Trace certification or education and knowledge of Rocky Mountain's climbing areas and history is preferred. To perform roped patrols in technical terrain (not required) individuals must demonstrate (via resume and skills description on application form) the ability to comfortably lead traditionally protected multi-pitch routes at the 5.9, Grade IV level and be able to demonstrate understanding of climbing self-rescue skills. A valid driver's license is required.

Internship Details

Interns will be hired through Colorado State University as student hourly workers. Compensation, amounting to \$15.00/hour, will be above current Colorado minimum wage in order to provide compensation that allows interns to factor in the cost of transportation and housing needs. Transportation to Rocky Mountain National Park and housing is the responsibility of the intern though stewards will be permitted to use the ROMO Climbing Ranger vehicles within the park. Work location will primarily be in the backcountry in the East District of Rocky Mountain National Park. The internship will last 10 to 14 weeks, ideally from June through August/September. Intern supervisors will work with the selected students to arrange work schedules that align with both park and intern needs and circumstances; however, generally speaking a 40-hour work week is expected throughout the duration of the internship unless otherwise noted. Students will need to ensure that they are covered by CSU, personal, or parents' health insurance during their internship period.

How to Apply

In order to apply for this internship position, interested applicants need to fill out our application form found on our website: <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpam/internships/>. Through the on-line application form, you will be able provide us with basic information, respond to specific questions about the internship, and upload 2 additional documents that are required to apply: (1) a resume (max 2 pages) and (2) a reference letter from a professor or previous employer. Be sure to provide details related to your climbing experience in your application. This should include style of climbing and grades. You will also need to describe your ability to hike in mountainous terrain on and off trail, and any experience climbing in Rocky Mountain National Park.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday April 1, 2021 by 11:59pm

For additional information and questions please contact:
Erin Hicks, Project Manager, Center for Protected Area Management
Erin.J.Hicks@colostate.edu

Connect to the Following Virtual Information Sessions Via Zoom:

Info Session #1

Wednesday March 24, 2021
6:00 PM Mountain Standard Time
<https://zoom.us/j/92081099387>



Info Session #2

Thursday, March 25, 2021
12:00 PM Mountain Standard Time
<https://zoom.us/j/92270600611>