



# Come Explore

community programs

## Nature Discovery Center

Summer Hours: Open June 23rd  
10am – 4pm; Saturdays – Thursdays  
10am – 8pm; Fridays

### Guided Nature Discovery Walk

11am and 2pm (60 min); Daily

Join a Walking Mountains naturalist on a morning or afternoon walk and discover how plants and animals adapt to the high elevation environment as you identify signs of life on Vail Mountain. Located at the top of the Lionshead Gondola. FREE

## US Forest Service

Join Walking Mountains and White River National Forest as they present evening campground programs on public lands.

*Programs run Saturdays from June 19 through September 4.*

### Evenings at Yeoman Park

7pm (60 min); Saturdays, Yeoman Park Campground Amphitheater. FREE

### Evenings at Sylvan Lake State Park

7pm (60 min); Saturdays, Sylvan Lake State Park Campground Amphitheater. FREE

## Vail Nature Center

Summer Hours  
9am – 5pm; Daily

*These programs leave from the Vail Nature Center adjacent to Ford Park and Gore Creek. Registration required for evening programs: 970.479.2291.*

### Wildflower Walk

11:30am (60 min); Mondays & Wednesdays; Thursdays 2pm  
June 23– August 30

### Morning Bird Walk

9am (60 min); Tuesdays & Thursdays; June 23– August 30

### Evening Beaver Pond Tour

7pm (90 min); Thursdays;  
June 23– August 30

### Family Fun Night

7pm (90 min); Wednesdays;  
Call for Dates

### S'mores and More: Family Campground program

7pm (90 min); Fridays;  
June 23– August 30

### Stories in the Sky: Stargazing at the Vail Nature Center

Sunset (*times vary – call*); Tuesdays;  
June 23 - August 30

### Creekside Tours from the Vail Farmer's Market

11am and 1:30pm; Sundays;  
June 23 - August 30

*Meet at the Vail Nature Center Booth at the Vail Farmer's Market for Creekside Tours.*

Walking Mountains, formerly Gore Range Natural Science School, operates under special use permit from the White River National Forest and is an equal opportunity service provider.



*Programs provided by the Nature Discovery Center are courtesy of Vail Resorts, the US Forest Service and Walking Mountains.*

*formerly Gore Range Natural Science School*

sign-up  
today

Summer 2011

# Group Excursions

**DOES YOUR GROUP,  
ORGANIZATION OR FAMILY  
LOVE THE OUTDOORS?  
WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

**WHEN:**  
*Walking Mountains Science Center  
offers a variety of courses from  
June 21st - August 3rd, 2010.*

**WHERE:**  
Whether we come to you, or take you  
to various locations throughout the  
Eagle River Valley, our programs  
are specifically tailored for adults,  
organizations, families and  
children. Program formats include  
guided hikes or evening lectures.

**PRICES:**  
\$125 an hour per instructor.  
Guided Hikes: 12 participants  
per instructor. Evening  
Programs: 30 participants per  
instructor. Custom programs  
can be created at \$200 per  
hour per instructor.

*Contact Dale Versteegen  
970-827-9725 ext 15  
dalev@walkingmountains.org  
for additional info and to  
schedule your program.*

fun for  
everyone

### Lofty Lifezones

*Guided Hike (depends on groups)*

Hike through a variety of life zones & explore how various non-living factors influence the ecology in the area. Identify plant & tree species in a variety of different high alpine communities.

### Botany Basics

*Guided Hike (2-3 Hours)*

This course will teach you to identify plants, wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Wander with us through the wildflowers, and walk away with core knowledge about plant family characteristics and how to use a dichotomous key.

### Fire Ecology

*Guided Hike (2-3 hours)*

Learn about the fire risks associated with pine beetle infestation. Wander with us through various life zones & walk away with core knowledge about what conditions truly impact fires in our locale.

### Musing over Mushrooms

*Guided Hike (2-3 Hours)*

This popular program is guaranteed to whet your appetite for the fungus that rise among us during late summer. We'll begin with the basics of understanding the role of fungus in our ecosystem and then spend time on a foray hunting for and identifying local mushrooms.

### Rocky Mountain Ornithology

*Guided Hike (2-3 Hours)*

Learn the elements of birding and take flight! We'll cover bird habitat, key identifying characteristics, and tips for when and where to find local species, and then we'll spend some time watching for raptors and songbirds.

### Universal Perspectives

*Adult Evening Program (1.5 Hours)*

Become part of our solar system while discovering how the sun, moon and stars continually change depending on where you are standing in the universe. This is an interactive astronomy program that includes star-gazing.

### Wildlife Biology

*Guided Hike (2-3 Hours)*

Investigate the interrelationships of wildlife populations in the Rocky Mountains and how current programs are protecting a variety of species in the region. We'll explore prime wildlife habitats and look for signs of the many animals that live in this community.

### Macroinvertebrate Mayhem

*Guided Hike (2-3 hours)*

Come & explore the crystal clear waters of the Vail Valley & learn about the amazing creatures that spend their time hiding in the rocks, sticks and leaves of our streams.

come  
explore

# Children & Families

## Bear Aware

*Family Evening Program (1.5 Hours)*

Black bears are everywhere, but you don't want to treat them like your teddy bear. Explore the life cycle of bears while learning how our lives actually impact the livelihood of these favorite forest friends.

## Bugs and Blooms

*Family Guided Hike or Youth Day Camp Program (2 Hours)*

Wildflower season in the mountains is full of colorful sights and buzzing sounds. We'll learn about the role insects play in the lives of flowers as we hunt for creepy crawlies in the meadows and on the forest floor.

## Aquatic Creep and Crawl

*Family Guided Hike or Youth Day Camp Program (2 hours)*

Come & explore the crystal clear waters of the Vail Valley & learn about the amazing creatures that spend their time hiding in the rocks, sticks and leaves of our streams.

## Colorado Cats, Scary or Necessary

*Family Evening Program (1.5 Hours)*

Face off against some of Colorado's top predators in the Colorado Cat Olympics. While learning about the mountain lion, lynx and bobcat, you'll find out if you have what it takes to care for our ecosystems.

## Fledgling Birders

*Family Guided Hike or Youth Day Camp Program (2 hours)*

Discover how birds differ from other creatures while sneaking through the forest, listening to their calls and watching them take to the sky.

## Nature's FBI

*Family Guided Hike or Youth Day Camp Program (2 Hours)*

Investigate how nature's F.B.I (Fungus, Bacteria and Invertebrates) quietly sneak about the forest ensuring that everyone is being looked after. These critters are truly public servants!

## Starry Nights

*Family Evening Program (1.5 Hours)*

Become part of our solar system while discovering how the sun, moon and stars continually change depending on where you are standing in the universe. This is an interactive astronomy program that includes star-gazing.

## Wildlife Detectives

*Family Guided Hike or Youth Day Camp Program (2 hours)*

Pick up your hand lens and hunt for clues with a Gore Range Natural Science School Naturalist. See how tracks, trails and scat tell the stories of Rocky Mountain Wildlife in their natural communities.

*Contact Dale Versteegen*

*970-827-9725 ext 15*

*dalev@walkingmountains.org  
for additional info and to  
schedule your program.*

