



Phenomena in the Field Course Information

Course Description

Get your hands dirty as you conserve local habitats and connect with nature! Work alongside experts at a Denver Zoo field site, exploring local conservation issues you can integrate into existing lessons. Join us as we explore innovative ways to frame environmental issues—so students feel hopeful and empowered.

Course Objectives

1. Teachers will gain first-hand experience participating in conservation actions in the field.
2. Teachers will explore phenomena occurring at Daniels Park and brainstorm classroom connections.
3. Teachers will feel empowered to teach through a conservation lens and have hopeful conversations with students.

Course Outline

8:00 – 8:45	Arrival, Introduction to the Course
8:45 – 10:00	Park History and Ecology Walk with Denver Zoo Conservationists Classroom Connections: Linking Phenomena to Learning Goals
10:00 – 12:00	Conservation Action: Grassland Restoration with Field Conservation Experts Classroom Connections: Engaging in Conservation in Your Local Community
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch Break
12:30 – 2:00	Conservation Action: Grassland Restoration Classroom Connections: New Perspectives for Familiar Lessons
2:00 – 3:00	Framing Conservation Conversations with Students
3:00 – 3:45	Site Exploration and Inspiration
3:45 – 4:00	Wrap up and Survey

Course Logistics

- **Location and Navigation:** Participants will meet at one of our local field conservation sites at Daniels Park. Exact location will be provided upon registration. We will be exploring prairie habitats in Daniels Park, part of the Denver Mountain Park system, located southwest of Denver in the Castle Pines/Sedalia area.
- **Consideration for Included Activities:** In order to safely participate in the day’s agenda, please consider your ability and willingness to
 - Walk short distances (could be 1 to 2 miles cumulatively over the course of the day).
 - Walk alongside public roads, on trails, and off trails in prairie grasslands.
 - Bend, Kneel, and Lift up to 15 lbs.
 - Spend time in areas with little shade and limited facilities: There is an enclosed pit toilet (similar to campground facilities) at the site.
 - **Should you require accommodation to participate in any of the listed activities, please contact us at dzeducation@denverzoo.org or call 720-337-1670 to discuss.**



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- **Dress for Success:** This program will be held entirely outdoors, so please prepare for the day's predicted weather conditions. Daniels Park is a grassland and so shade is infrequent. Please consider wearing/bringing:
 - Sturdy close-toed shoes
 - Layers to accommodate heat and wind
 - Sunscreen
 - Sunglasses
 - 2 full bottles of water
 - Hat
 - Small backpack
- **Lunch Break:** We will provide a boxed lunch for participants and extra water. It is always a good idea to bring along extra snacks to fuel yourself for hot days and field work!
- **Classroom Connections:** We will spend a significant amount of time throughout the day looking at past lessons with new perspectives. It would be helpful to come prepared with district/school specific knowledge of your content and standards to refer to, if needed. As always, bring something to write with!