

Stepping Stones to a Career in Natural Resources

Natural Resource Youth Programs, Volunteer Opportunities, Professional Associations & Youth Employment Opportunities

YOUTH PROGRAMS: There are a number of programs in Colorado that help youth experience and explore the outdoors, natural resources and careers in those fields. Here is a list of some of the many opportunities throughout Colorado:

- Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
- Avid 4 Adventure
- Big City Mountaineers
- Boulder County Open Space Left Hand Outdoor Challenge
- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Camp Rocky
- CityWild
- Colorado Mountain Club
- CSU Pre-College Summer Sustainability Program
- CU Mountain Research Experience
- CU Science Discovery Camp
- Denver Zoo Teen Program
- Environmental Learning for Kids
- National Center for Atmospheric Research
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Nature Centers (find one near you!)
- Rocky Mountain Conservancy
- Thorne Nature Experience
- Walking Mountains Science Center

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteering is a great way to get to know more about an organization, its staff and if you like the type of work they do there. There are a number of natural resource agencies and organizations where you can volunteer, including the following:

- Colorado Department of Natural Resources - Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado RiverWatch
- Denver Parks and Recreation
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- ReTree Steamboat
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute
- US Forest Service
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Cairn Program
- Volunteer.gov
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers Youth Program

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES: Professional societies exist for just about every field, including those in the natural resources. They are composed of professionals in the field and typically offer benefits including meeting people in your field, networking events, a jobs board, mentorship and professional development opportunities. Some that might interest you include:

- American Water Resources Association
- Association for Experiential Education

- Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
- Colorado Mining Association
- Ecological Society of America
- Geological Society of America
- National Association for Interpretation
- National Recreation and Parks Association
- Outdoor Industry Association
- River Management Society
- Society for Conservation Biology
- Society for Ecological Restoration
- Society for Rangeland Management
- Society of American Foresters
- Soil Science Society of America
- The American Zoo and Aquatic Association
- Weed Science Society of America
- Wilderness Education Association
- Wildlife Society

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: Youth as young as 14 can find paid jobs at some natural resource agencies and organizations. These opportunities are a great way to get your career started while earning money! Each agency/organization varies in its age and educational requirements. Here are a few that might interest you:

- Colorado Youth Corps Association
BLM Internship Program
- Colorado Youth Corps (10 Corps are located across Colorado)
- Student Conservation Association
- Environmental Learning for Kids
- Groundwork Denver
- The Greenway Foundation SPREE
River Ranger Summer Program
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Internship Program
- Federal Government Pathways
Program – Internship Program
- AmeriCorps National Civilian
Community Corps (NCCC)
- AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to
America (VISTA)
- Lincoln Hills TeamWorks
- Public Land Corps
- Youth Conservation Corps
- The Latino Heritage Internship
Program
- The Nature Conservancy LEAF
Program
- US Forest Service Resource
Assistants Program
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
Directorate Resource Assistant
Fellowship Program
- National Park Service Historic
Preservation Internship Training
Program
- Teen Science Scholars – Denver
Museum of Nature and Science
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute