

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

RHYMIN' AND RAPPIN' IN THE ROCKIES (AGES 7-14)

JULY 19, 2008 COURSE #: 08-070
FEE: \$15



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INSTRUCTOR: MARY TAYLOR YOUNG

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: How do we capture our experience of nature and the outdoors in words? This seminars will give children and adolescents the chance to explore the woodlands and meadows of Rocky Mountain National Park, then write about it. Students will expand their observation skills and learn some basic tools of nature writing and nature journaling, then incorporate the day's discoveries and experiences in their writing. A notebook, pencil or pen, a willingness to look and the desire to write about what you find are all that's required. Poetry is a great way to capture what you see, discover, and show how you feel when you spend time in Rocky Mountain National Park. Discover how to write nature poems in the style of the great poets.

COURSE LEVEL: I

Short-distance walks on accessible trails and/or indoor classroom sessions in accessible buildings.
Short-distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org): Mary's love of nature began with childhood summers spent exploring the Rocky Mountains from her grandparents' cabin in Estes Park, where elk peered in the windows and hummingbirds buzzed around the feeders. Her attachment to the natural world led to a degree in zoology from Colorado State University and a life devoted to nature, wildlife and the environment. Mary lives in Castle Rock, Colorado with her husband, nine-year-old daughter and many feathered and four-legged neighbors. Award-winning and best-selling nature writer Mary Taylor Young has taught with Rocky Mountain Field Seminars since 1990. She is the author of nine books including *Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey*, *The Guide to Colorado Birds*, and *On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids*. She writes a monthly bird-watching column for the *Rocky Mountain News* called "Words on Birds." Mary has published hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles and written many brochures, video and slide scripts, interpretive signs and exhibits, and other nature-oriented material.

INSTRUCTOR'S WEBSITE: www.MaryTaylorYoung.com

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Field seminars utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE: The session will begin with some work on observation skills, then introduction of nature writing techniques. The latter part of the class students will explore a woodland community in Rocky Mountain National Park, record their observations and work on a piece of creative writing about their discoveries.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER**
- Pen, pencils
- Sturdy hiking boots/shoes

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

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| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map & compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses & sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | ▪ Extra layers of clothing |
| ▪ Sack lunch, snacks, & water | | |

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

THIS COURSE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CSU CREDIT.