

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

WRITING IN THE WOODS:
NATURE JOURNALING FOR KIDS

OCTOBER 10, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: I COURSE #: 08-077

FEE: \$15

INSTRUCTOR: MARY TAYLOR YOUNG

LOCATION: Arrive at Hidden Valley Lodge

TIME: 9:00 AM - Noon

COURSE DESCRIPTION: How do we capture our experiences in nature and the outdoors in words? *Writing in the Woods* will give student—elementary through high school—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. Work produced in this workshop will be compiled and published by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. The majority of this course will be conducted at the Hidden Valley Lodge.

COURSE LEVEL: I

The seminar will include short-distance walks on maintained trails and/or indoor classroom sessions in accessible buildings.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org):

Award-winning and best-selling nature writer Mary Taylor Young has been writing about the wildlife, plants and landscape of the West for more than 20 years. 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 has published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, and many readers know her “Words on Birds” column, running in the *Rocky Mountain News* since 1993. This is Mary’s twentieth year teaching with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. 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.



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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:

Friday 9:00 AM Arrive at Hidden Valley Lodge. We'll meet by the ranger station then explore the surrounding area, working on observation skills, recording observations, and writing creatively about our time in nature.

WHAT TO BRING:

Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER**

Binoculars (optional)

Notebook

Pen/pencil

Camera (optional)

Wear comfortable clothing and good walking shoes

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.