



Second Colorado State Park Receives Leave No Trace Gold Standard

Castlewood Canyon State Park is pleased to announce that on March 19th, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics notified the park that “Castlewood Canyon is our newest Gold Standard Site!”

Castlewood Canyon State Park is now the 12th park of any kind (national, state or local) in the US to receive this prestigious designation. In Colorado, Roxborough was the first state park to have this honor. The team of volunteers at Roxborough were instrumental in leading the way for Castlewood Canyon. Castlewood Canyon lead volunteer Beverly Finamore, and her team worked hand-in-hand with the Roxborough team to adapt their Leave No Trace experience and documentation for Castlewood and other parks in the future who desire the same recognition of Leave No Trace Gold Standard. Beverly emphasized this cooperative interaction by noting “It certainly was a team effort!”

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics states “Gold Standard Site designation is the highest level of recognition by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics for parks and protected areas. By receiving this highest standard of recognition, Gold Standard Sites become exemplary models, encouraging other public lands to ensure that Leave No Trace education is part of everyone’s experience when spending time outdoors.”

Castlewood Canyon Park Manager Brent Lounsbury is grateful to the CPW volunteers who made Castlewood’s Gold Standard Designation possible. “A huge thanks for this to volunteers Bev Finamore, Mike Thomas, and the Friends of Castlewood Canyon and volunteers at Roxborough for making this happen.”

Castlewood Canyon’s partnership with Roxborough State Park’s Leave No Trace cadre of volunteers has been instrumental in making this designation possible.



Roxborough and Castlewood Canyon volunteers demonstrating Partnership at the 2019 Partners in the Outdoors Conference

Leave No Trace Principles

- Know before you go - plan for your hike
- Stick to the trails – protect nature, plants and animals
- Trash your trash – pack it in and out
- Leave it as you find it – look, see, leave for others to enjoy
- Be careful with fire – no open flames
- Keep wildlife wild – look at a distance, don’t feed or follow
- Share the trail – Be considerate of others and nature



Mike Thomas, team Lead for the Roxborough Leave No Trace volunteers emphasized the value of this partnership. “Our teams from Roxborough State Park and Castlewood Canyon State Park formed a strong partnership and camaraderie and together we tested the programs developed at Roxborough to ensure they would be effective at Castlewood and have Castlewood earn Gold Standard status. However, the bottom line on what made it work was the strong dedication of each park's volunteers, their love of their parks, and their strong belief in the seven principles of Leave No Trace.”

In notifying the Park of the Gold Standard designation, Mitch Warnick, the Program Manager for Leave No Trace in Every Park stated “The work that you all have done in the past couple of years to elevate Leave No Trace implementation across Colorado’s state parks and beyond is truly spectacular and the tangible evidence supports that.”

Both Castlewood Canyon State Park and Roxborough State Park acknowledge that moving forward, the challenge will be to continue delivering the Leave No Trace message to the ever-increasing number of visitors to the respective parks, and to also continue to expand the message to even more Colorado state parks. Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park notes “we need to protect and preserve nature so that those who want to enjoy it - thrive in it - now and for future generations can do so. All the more reason why while we enjoy spending time in the natural world, we also need to leave no trace.” Thankfully, the ongoing partnership with Roxborough will make that ongoing expansion to other Colorado state parks possible.

For More Information Contact:

- Castlewood Canyon State Park at <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Parks/castlewoodcanyon>
- Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park via www.castlewoodfriends.org
- Friends of Roxborough State Park at <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Roxborough/Pages/FriendsOfRoxborough.aspx>
- Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics at <https://lnt.org/>