

Roaring Fork Conservancy's
WATER
Education Programs



Our Education Vision

*Our vision is that students in the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond, will gain a **connection** to our watershed. Through hands on experiences, students will learn about their rivers creating **value** and **awareness** through **exploration**.*



*Bringing People Together
to Protect Our Rivers®*

Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. We bring people together to protect our rivers and work hard to keep water in local streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat.

As one of the largest watershed organizations in Colorado, Roaring Fork Conservancy serves residents and visitors throughout the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community-based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Science and Policy Projects including regional watershed planning, water resource policy initiatives, stream management, and restoration.

Visit www.roaringfork.org to learn more.

Funding for this brochure was generously provided by



Outdoor Field Trips



Discover the wonders of the Roaring Fork Watershed on a field trip with Roaring Fork Conservancy! With over 30 potential field trip destinations, our educators take your students directly to the water, fostering exploration and connection to our valley's rivers. Ruedi Reservoir, the Crystal River Valley, and the Roaring Fork River itself are just a few of our favorite field trip destinations – many of which are within walking distance of local schools.



Classroom Programs



Let us bring the fun to you! Many of our education programs can be taught in the convenience of your own classroom. Roaring Fork Conservancy educators bring the river to you with all of the necessary program materials, water samples, and enthusiasm for exploratory learning.



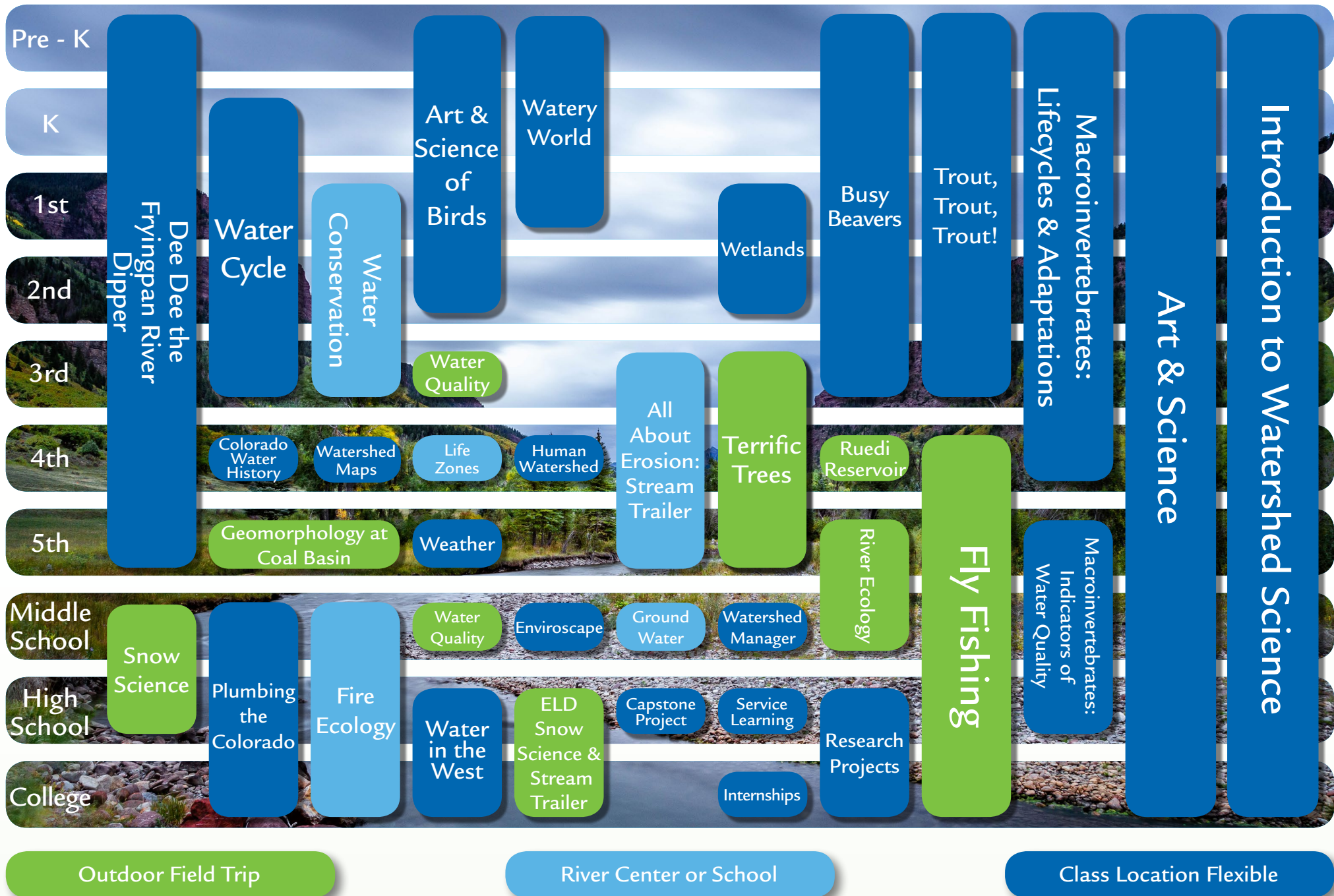
River Center



Make Roaring Fork Conservancy's River Center your next education destination! Old Pond Park and the Roaring Fork River are just outside our classroom's back door, providing indoor and outdoor experiences with flexibility and convenience. With river access, public parks, and the Basalt Regional Library just a few blocks away, it's easy to plan additional activities in conjunction with your trip to The River Center.



Roaring Fork Conservancy Water Education Programs by Grade



Many RFC programs can be adapted for different grade levels or core subjects. Please contact RFC's education staff if you are interested in custom water education programs.

Descriptions of Popular Programs

All About Erosion: Stream Trailer

How does water move sediment from one place to another? What impacts can this have on our rivers? Students learn about erosion through a true story about a farmer who straightened a river. Afterward, students experiment by building river models in the Natural Resources Conservation Service Stream Trailer. Hypotheses are evaluated when the faucet is turned on and rivers models are put to the test!

Dee Dee the Fryingpan River Dipper

What is so special about that small, gray bird you see by the river? Discover the life history of the American Dipper through a reading of RFC's children's book, *Dee Dee the Fryingpan River Dipper*. A lucky student then transforms into a dipper, donning a costume featuring adaptations that allow dippers to thrive in mountain streams. Learn more about advocacy through art and habitat with a hands-on, outdoor art project.

Introduction to Watersheds

What exactly is a watershed? Students experiment with water, relief maps, and build watershed models with sand to observe how water moves across a landscape. This place-based program leads to deeper understanding by focusing on how local rivers, land formations, and communities shape the Roaring Fork Watershed.

Macroinvertebrates

How can you tell if a river is healthy? By studying the aquatic macroinvertebrates (water-dwelling bugs) that call it home! Students collect, observe, and identify live macroinvertebrates from rivers and streams in their community. Younger students learn about life cycles, adaptations, and habitat requirements. Middle and high school programs focus on assessing stream health, riparian ecosystems, and learning how to use dichotomous keys.

River Ecology

Students evaluate the health of the Roaring Fork River - while rafting on top of it! By making observations of the river's physical features and conducting water quality tests, students learn how these factors are

connected. By observing real-life examples of riparian habitat, water diversions, and restoration projects, students identify healthy sections of the river and sections that could use some help.

Snow Science

How do water managers predict summer river flows? By studying snow! Learn about local snow conditions via hands-on data collection to calculate snow water equivalent and snow density. Students use the same techniques used by snow scientists to learn how much water is stored in this year's snowpack.

Water Conservation

Students collaborate to learn how different groups use water with props, water, and sponges to create a map of our valley and its water use. As water is used, students watch the level of the town reservoir drop. After discussing impacts this has on their community and the natural world, students are guided in identifying steps they can take to conserve water.

Water in the West

Why is water management so complicated in the western United States - and how did we get here? Students will learn about our rivers' natural processes, the history of water in the west, and the basics of Colorado Water Law. With this knowledge, students will understand how current water policies came to be and put current water issues into context.

What is water?

Students experiment with and buoyancy, liquid water, ice, and water vapor. How can these different substances all be made of water? Where do we find water in our homes and communities? Through story time and hands-on exploration of the three states of water, students understand how water is all around us and essential for life.

Internships

A limited number of internships are available to motivated college students. Gain experience conducting fieldwork, helping with outreach events, testing water quality samples, and more. Inquire about potential internships in early Spring.

How to Schedule an Education Program



Our education schedule fills up quickly, so request your program early! To ensure high-quality education programs, class sizes are typically limited to 20-25 students per lesson. Some lessons are weather dependent and only available at specific times of year.

We conduct field trips rain-or-shine, so please ensure your students are prepared.

Scholarship rates for schools are \$50/hour for an education series, or \$75/hour for stand-alone programs. In the case we can fulfill last-minute requests (two weeks or less), a rush fee may apply. Custom education programs requiring additional preparation may cost more depending on your needs. Your school may qualify for financial assistance through one of our education grants - just ask us!



Photo by Jaspen Mackin

To schedule a program, download an Education Program Request Form available at www.roaringfork.org/education-and-outreach/watershed-education/school-programs. Email completed forms to Education Programs Coordinator, Megan Dean, at megan@roaringfork.org. Please email Megan or give us a call at (970) 927-1290 with any questions.