

Making the Most of Your **Group Program or Educational Activity**

To ensure the most enjoyable and safe experience possible for your group program or educational program, the following commonly asked questions have been answered for you. Prior to making a decision to lead a group event or program on one of the Jefferson County Open Space parks, please consider what is offered, what facilities are available to you, and whether the park you have chosen will accommodate the requirements of your activity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Q: How many people can I have in my group?

A: Group size is limited to the number of persons a specific Open Space area can accommodate. For trail-based activities such as guided hikes, mountain bike rides, or nature walks, groups of 15 or less are preferred.

Q: What types of activities are appropriate on Jefferson County Open Space?

A: Jefferson County Open Space is maintained for passive recreational activities such as hiking and mountain biking. Open Space also encourages nature study, as well as cultural and historical studies. Group sporting activities such as football, volleyball, softball, soccer and horseshoes are not permitted.

Q: Where in the park can I hold group activities?

A: Activities are allowed only in the developed areas of the parks including picnic areas and on trails. Off-trail use of Jefferson County Open Space is discouraged.

Q: Do Jefferson County Open Space parks provide parking for buses and/or horse trailers?

A: The availability of bus and trailer parking varies greatly throughout the Open Space park system. Many Open Space parks are not equipped to handle school buses or horse trailers. Please visit the location you wish to use prior to your visit to check if it meets your parking needs.

Q: Which Open Space areas are best for group activities?

A: Groups are welcome to visit any of the Open Space parks; however, some parks may be better suited for large groups due to the availability of parking spaces or picnic areas. Parks such as Mount Falcon, Lair o'the Bear, Alderfer/Three Sisters, Van Bibber, Crown Hill, White Ranch, Pine Valley Ranch, and Reynolds Parks are best suited for large groups. Please visit the location you wish to use prior to your application to check if it meets the needs of your group.

Q: When are Open Space parks open?

A: Unless otherwise posted, Open Space parks are open one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. After hours activities are not permitted.

Q: What types of outdoor gear should my group bring?

A: As with any outdoor experience, Jefferson County Open Space encourages park visitors to be prepared with water, sunscreen, warm clothing, appropriate hiking shoes, and first aid supplies.

Q: Is water available at all Open Space parks?

A: Water is not available at all Open Space parks. Please visit the location you wish to use prior to your application to check if water is available. Water availability may change without notice. Call the Open Space office at (303-271-5925) to check the status.

Q: May I reserve picnic areas for my group?

A: Unless otherwise indicated, all picnic tables and shelters are on a first-come, first-served basis. Shelters at Pine Valley Ranch Park may be reserved by calling the Open Space office (303-271-5925).

Q: May I put up a tent or canopy during my activity?

A: In order to maintain and protect the natural resources of Jefferson County Open Space for all park visitors, temporary structures (tents, canopies, etc.) are not allowed on any part of the park, except in designated campsites with a valid camping permit.

Other things to remember....

Occasionally, certain muddy trail conditions may prompt closure. If your event is trail based, please call the Open Space Trails Hotline (303-271-5975) prior to your activity to ensure the trails you plan to use will be open.

During the summer season, fire bans may be in effect on Open Space parks. Please call Open Space at 303-271-5925 before your event to ensure that no fire ban has been issued. Adhere to any signs that may be posted regarding fire restrictions.

It is recommended that large groups car pool to the park as parking is limited and vehicles may only be parked in designated areas. Pine Valley Ranch Facility Fees