

Keep up to date with local events and deals with the



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**28 May 2025**  
**Summer Edition**

*Our mission at ACS is to prepare and empower our Total Military Family to meet the challenges of military life by providing essential programs, resources, and services that enhance knowledge, life skills, well-being, quality of life, and retention.*

*No Fort Carson/Army Endorsement Implied*

Give us a call at (719) 526-4590  
Visit our webpage at: [carson.armymwr.com/ACS](http://carson.armymwr.com/ACS)

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### **Navigating the USCIS Website**

June 2, 2025 II 120 to 1230

Learn to utilize online tools to assist with immigration and naturalization

### **WIC Walk-ins**

June 2, 2025 II 1300 to 1530

"Empowering Families with Food, Nutrition, Education, and More"

### **Teen and Young Adult Employment & Apprenticeship Workshop**

June 3, 2025 II 1000 to 1300

Join us on June 3, 2025 for the **Military Youth Employment and Apprenticeship**

**Workshop!** We will provide various opportunities for Military Youth to build and hone skills!

This workshop includes information on application procedures, interview techniques, and employer presentations on employment, trades, volunteering, and apprenticeships!

### **Boot Camp for New Dads**

June 3, 2025 II 0900 to 1200

A lively discussion group that covers becoming a dad, caring for your new baby and caring for mom.

### **Financial Strength Budgeting 101**

June 3, 2025 II 0930 to 1100

Learn how to create your budget, meet your financial goals and save for emergencies.

Designed to ensure that each Soldier has a plan to better manage their money to create a sound financial plan for themselves and their Family.

### **Infant Massage & Baby Nurturing**

June 3, 2025

Infant Massage 0930 to 1015

Baby Nurturing 1015 to 1100

Pregnant moms and parents with babies are encouraged to attend.

Systematic infant massage strokes alleviate colic, create strong bonds, increase the communication between baby and parent and provide a foundation of unconditional love and attachment. Topics pertaining to infant development and health are discussed.

For more information about our lactation specialist, please contact (719) 960-6435.

### **Sponsorship Training**

June 3, 2025 II 0930 to 1030

This is the installation specific Army Community Service (ACS) Relocation Readiness Program Sponsorship Training. Participants learn about Fort Carson and local community resources.

Child Support Walk Ins

June 3, 2025 II 1300 to 1600



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### **Child Support Walk Ins**

June 3, 2025 II 1300 to 1600

Child support services include:

- Locating parents
- Initiating legal paperwork
- Establishing parentage
- Establishing child support order
- Enforcing child support order
- Modifying a child support order

Helping parents overcome barriers that prevent order compliance

Cost Free service provided by your ACS Community Information, Referral and Follow-up Program and El Paso County Child Support Services.

### **IDES & SRU Soldiers: SFAC Transition and Medical Retirement Brief**

June 11, 2025 II 1000 to 1230

This briefing helps Soldiers transition due to medical separation or retirement covering timelines, benefits and available services.

### **Boot Camp for New Moms**

June 17, 2025 II 0900 to 1200

For expecting Moms, this class provides support on infant care, local resources, and confidence building. Offered every third Tuesday of the month.

### **Blended Family Parenting**

June 25, 2025 II 1200 to 1330

Join this class to learn more about parenting in blended families. Complete one or all six modules.

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fort carson **employment readiness program**

# Military Youth Employment & Apprenticeship Workshop

Let's discuss:

- resumes
- applications
- interviews
- trades &
- employers

Scan to Register!



June 3, 2025, 10am-1pm  
6303 Wetzel Avenue, Bldg 1526  
Fort Carson, CO  
*\*lunch is provided*



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## Financial Milestone

### **Disabling Sickness or Condition**

This course will focus on the financial implications of dealing with a disabling sickness or condition – and help you manage your finances more efficiently as you work through it. Being informed improves your understanding of the challenges your family might face. It will help you make more knowledgeable health and financial decisions.



SECURING THE  
FINANCIAL  
FRONTLINE



Fort Carson ACS  
(719) 526-4590



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### *Peer Support for Survivors of Suicide Loss*

**6:15pm the 2nd Tuesday of each month**

**Heartbeat Care and Share, a time for Heartbeat families and friends affected by suicide to connect.**

**Virtual ZOOM Meeting or In-person**

**6990 Mekong Bldg. 6215 Fort Carson**

#### **Contact for more information:**

**Angelika McShan**

**Paul McShan**

**719-338-1796**

**202-441-8580**

**gsdfriend2@gmail.com**

**paulmcshan@gmail.com**



**HEARTBEAT Survivors After Suicide, Inc.**

[www.heartbeaturvivorsaftersuicide.org](http://www.heartbeaturvivorsaftersuicide.org) is a international non-profit organization affiliated with

**Program and Event Fliers**

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## PCS 101

Get empowered for your upcoming move with tips for OCONUS/CONUS PCS!

- Clearing Fort Carson
- Traveling with kids
- Preparing your pets for the move
- Entitlements, housing, and more

First Wednesday each month

12-12:30pm

Main ACS Bldg. 1526

### PCS 101

June 4 II 1200—1230

"Helping You Move & Clear Fort Carson"



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FORT CARSON EMPLOYMENT READINESS



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

**THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS**



**8:00am - 4:00pm**

**Feb 25 Apr 29**

**Jun 17 Aug 26**

# **Introduction to Entrepreneurship: Building Your Business from the Ground Up**



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# FREEDOM FEST

★ SAVE THE DATE! ★

The graphic for Freedom Fest features a dark blue background with a pattern of white stars. A stylized American flag with red and white stripes is visible behind the text. The words "FREEDOM FEST" are written in large, bold, red-outlined letters. Below it, "SAVE THE DATE!" is written in white, flanked by two white stars.

June 28, 2025

Iron Horse Park

For more information visit the [Freedom Fest event page](#)

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### Mountain Post Magazine

Updated quarterly, **Mountain Post Magazine** features a comprehensive summary of all community programs, events, & leisure opportunities Fort Carson MWR has to offer – including a complete directory of facilities and a quarterly calendar of upcoming events!

### Recognize Retreat Report

Following the 3 R's (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of Explosives Safety will save your life. [Click here](#) to find out how to protect yourself, your family, and your community.



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From **May 7-August 6**, kids can play TWO free games every Wednesday & Thursday at [Thunder Alley!](#)

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**Magic: The Gathering with BOSS**

May 29, 2025 II 6pm to 9pm

BOSS Lounge

Join BOSS for an exclusive gaming experience every Thursday! Sign up at the BOSS Lounge, through Discord or Google forms. Open to all single Soldiers.



**BOSS Theme Saturdays**

May 31, 2025 II 1pm to 8pm

BOSS Lounge

- May 31 – *Andor*

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Interested in learning more about how to become a certified FCC Provider?

To become a certified FCC provider, you must complete a local background check; agree to have inspections conducted by the Fire, Safety and Preventive Medicine Offices; as well as attend a minimum of 38 hours of training. The training includes child abuse identification and prevention, first aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.

**Complete FCC Application (DA Form 5219).** Submit application to the local FCC office for processing.



ChildCare Aware of America

Army Fee Assistance

Child Care Aware® of America is proud to partner with the United States Military and Department of Defense to serve and support their families through the Fee Assistance and Respite Child Care Programs. To date we have served more than 10 million families and have created a network of more than 10,000 licensed child care



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*Come Graduate  
with us!*

**2025 FORT CARSON  
EDUCATION CENTER  
GRADUATION  
RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY**

**McMahon  
Theater  
June 13, 2025  
1600-1800**

**Service Members,  
dependents,  
veterans, civilians,  
and contractors  
from ANY school  
can walk!**

CONTACT 719-526-8061 OR  
PAUL.R.KARCZEWSKI.CIV@ARMY.MIL  
TO PARTICIPATE!

GRADUATE IN  
BETWEEN  
SUMMER 2024  
AND  
DECEMBER  
2025?



719-526-2124  
1675 Long St., BLDG 1117  
[www.facebook.com/fortcarsonarmyed](http://www.facebook.com/fortcarsonarmyed)



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## FORT CARSON EDUCATION CENTER

**DID YOU KNOW  
YOU ALREADY  
HAVE A COLLEGE  
TRANSCRIPT?**

JST.DODED.M  
**JST EVALUATIONS**

The Joint Services Transcript (JST) has college credit recommendations for all of your military training. BCT could be worth more than 3 college classes!

Come find out how close you are to a degree with all of our schools!

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY -  
PUEBLO  
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
GLOBAL CAMPUS  
PIKES PEAK STATE COLLEGE**



**JUNE 18, 2022  
FROM 1100-1400**

### WHERE?

**Fort Carson Education Center  
1675 Long St., BLDG 1117  
Fort Carson, CO 80913  
[facebook.com/FortCarsonArmy](https://facebook.com/FortCarsonArmy)**



CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

**719-526-2124**



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HQ IMCOM

## BSEP & SELF-STUDY TRAINING RESOURCES

Looking to boost your GT score? Prepare for college entrance exams? Take your study sessions to the next level with these **FREE** online resources.

### MULTIPLE SUBJECTS

- **EBSCO Learning Express** (ebSCO.com)—Online test prep resource library with practice tests, tutorials, microlessons, e-books, & articles
- **March2Success** (march2success.com)—Wide array of self-paced study programs
- **ASVAB Test Bank** (asvabtestbank.com)—Study guides & practice tests for ASVAB, MOS, & line scores
- **ASVAB Practice Tests** (asvabpracticetests.com)—Wide variety of ASVAB practice tests
- **ASVAB Tutor** (asvabtutor.com)—AFCT comprehensive study guides & practice tests
- **Test Prep Review** (testprepreview.com)—Comprehensive test preparation covering various subjects including GED, NCLEX, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, & SAT
- **Union Test Prep** (uniontestprep.com)—Online preparation for exams in education, healthcare, & military technology
- **4Tests** (4tests.com)—Online practice exams for various subjects
- **24/7 Online Tutoring** (tutor.com/military)—Personalized tutoring from experts in over 150 subjects
- **Quizlet** (quizlet.com)—Platform with over 300 million study sets including interactive tools, games, & flashcards

### MATH

- **Brain Genie** (braingenie.ck12.org)—Interactive math problems
- **Grammar Hero** (youtube)—Math videos covering ASVAB & PICAT
- **Khan Academy** (khanacademy.org)—Over 3,200 videos on everything from arithmetic to physics
- **Math Antics** (mathantics.com)—Basic math videos & worksheets
- **Math with Mr. Jay** (youtube)—Instructional math videos
- **The Math Page** (themathpage.com)—Lessons in arithmetic, geometry, & algebra
- **Times Tables** (timestables.com)—Multiplication memorization
- **Xtramath** (xtramath.org)—Individualized math lessons based on progress assessment

### READING

- **Read Theory** (readtheory.org)—Personalized reading comprehension exercises

**Disclaimer:** This resource list is not inclusive of all available training materials and should not be interpreted as a government endorsement.

Last Updated: 04/09/2025



### VOCABULARY

- **Magoosh** (magoosh.com)—Vocabulary expansion
- **Vocab Test** (vocabtest.com)—Vocabulary practice tests & games

### COLLEGE PREP

- **DSST Exams** (getcollegedcredit.com)—Upper and lower-level college credit exams across subjects
- **Free CLEP Prep** (free-clep-prep.com)—Online resources & practice exercises for CLEP, DANTES, & Excelsior examinations
- **Modern States** (modernstates.org)—Online courses taught by college professors to prepare learners for CLEP exams

### ABOUT BSEP

The Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) is a comprehensive on-duty education program designed to support Soldier's job-related instruction, military duty performance, career progression, and lifelong learning. The class is designed to provide you with the academic skills necessary to raise your GT score and focuses on three key areas: math, reading, and vocabulary.

Raising your GT score can accelerate career progression, provide opportunities for promotion, and open doors for reclassification.

Ready to take the next step in your military career? Contact your Education Center today to find out if they offer an in-person BSEP opportunity and how the class can help you achieve your goals.



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### Story Time at Grant Library

May 30 2025, 10 am - 11 am

This super special Storytime features a local Colorado Author! Please welcome Laura Roettiger as she shares her enchanting story with us: *Aliana Reaches for the Moon*.

#### Registration required:

please call or visit Grant Library to sign up. Registration is FREE and the first 50 families to sign up will receive a copy of the book!

### Level Up at Your Library

May 31 2025, 11am—3 pm

This year's Summer Reading Program (Level Up!) begins with a game of kickball at **Ivy Field**. Remember to bring water and sunscreen! Open to all ages.

Reservations required: please contact or visit Grant Library.



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS

**PBS KIDS**

**FEST**

**COLORADO SPRINGS**

**Saturday/Sábado  
June/Junio 7**

**10 AM - 2 PM**

**PANORAMA PARK**  
4540 Fenton Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80916

VISIT [RMPBS.ORG/KIDS](http://RMPBS.ORG/KIDS) FOR MORE INFORMATION. | PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN VISITA [RMPBS.ORG/KIDS](http://RMPBS.ORG/KIDS).



### Colorado Springs Western Street Breakfast

**June 18, 2025 0530 am to 0900 am**  
**Downtown Colorado Springs intersection of Pikes Peak Avenue and Tejon Street**

- Delicious hot breakfast for just \$5 (kids 5 and under eat free)
- Pikes Peak Range Riders and Rangerettes depart on horseback at 8 a.m.
- Kids Western Dress-Up Contest
- Kids Corral with a petting zoo, roping the hay bale, gunslinger and trick roper
- Appearance by *Girl of the West*

Performances by Exit West, Flying W Wranglers and Sweetwater Native American Hoop Dancers

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### United States Air Force Academy Sports Camps 2025

Welcome to Air Force Sports Camps located in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado! We are excited that you are considering the Academy for your sports camp experience and are certain that our camps will not disappoint. For detailed information on the sports camps we offer please use the tabs above. This summer will once again be packed with great opportunities for athletes of all ages to hone their skills in their sport of choice. We will offer sports camps in the following sports: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, diving, fencing, golf, gymnastics, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track/cross country, volleyball and wrestling. We will also offer elite camps in certain sports which are featured on the elite tab above.

Our sports camps offer options for children ranging from ages 8-18 and are led by our very own AF head coaches! Our camps will be broken into three sessions. 2025 AF Sports Camps Session 1 will run from June 9-13, Session 2 will run from June 16-20 and Session 3 will run from June 23-24. Please refer to sport specific camp pages for details on age and session availability for that sport. Not all sports take place all three sessions.

Registration IS OPEN for the AF Sports Camps!



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### JOINT MILITARY TEEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**Dates of Camp:** August 11-16, 2025

**Number of Participants:** 45

**Primary Activities (i.e. camping, hiking, kayaking, etc.):** Bordering Rocky Mountain National Park, Cheley Colorado Camps is a family owned and operated summer camp. Daily adventures include hiking, intense mountain biking, horseback riding, horse colt training, arts & crafts, woodworking, technical climbing, and archery.

#### **Description:**

This 6-day, 5-night experience offers teens an opportunity to grow and develop not only in their own leadership abilities, but also as military youth. Military teens will experience high adventure elements including hikes in the Rocky Mountain National Park, climbing wall, horseback riding, mountain biking, and other high adventure activities. Youth participate in skill building activities like the Great Cheley Challenge, ceramics, woodworking, and more! Teens will have opportunities to meet other military youth from around the globe and share experiences while making new friends. The objective of this summit is to introduce military teens to not only their parent's military service branch, but also to the growing joint nature of their work.

**Registration:** <https://Teenleadershipsummit2025.4honline.com>

**Travel Information:** Travel Costs are included and will be arranged by Purdue and Cheley staff.

**Primary Contact Names:** Brad Myers

**Phone Number:** 765-494-8422

**Email:** [myers114@purdue.edu](mailto:myers114@purdue.edu) or [state4hleader@purdue.edu](mailto:state4hleader@purdue.edu)

YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region**2025 Summer Day Camp  
Registration is OPEN**

The Y's Summer Day Camp is one of the oldest and most trusted camping programs in the country. Our day camps provide fun, child-centered activities and opportunities for learning through discovery, and challenge children to grow in imagination, creativity, self-directed initiative and leadership.

**Summer Day Camps** offer enriching activities based on the weekly theme where friends are made through group games, sports & fitness, hands-on science activities, arts & crafts, and music! If you need assistance with registration, program changes, cancellation, financial assistance/discounts, or billing, please **submit a ticket** and our team will be happy to assist you! Otherwise you can contact us by calling **(719) 329-7289** or emailing [youthdevelopment@ppymca.org](mailto:youthdevelopment@ppymca.org).



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**Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Camps and Classes**

For kids of all ages, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offers unique, hands-on opportunities to play, explore and learn about the natural world and the animal kingdom.



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### YMCA Camp Shady Brook

Your child will never be lost in the crowd at Camp Shady Brook. We offer a personalized camp experience that sets us apart and brings campers back year after year to reconnect with this special place, mentors and friends. We know no camper is one size fits all, so we offer a range of different camp experiences to ensure that everyone can have a summer to remember.

Many people have come to know Camp Shady Brook as 'the world as it should be.' At Camp Shady Brook, campers make new friends, build their self-esteem, gain independence, learn responsible decision making and have an adventure! Campers will be able to enjoy themselves in a safe environment that is designed to foster growth through fun, safe and challenging programs.

Our overnight camp program is intentionally designed for campers to have fun while realizing their individual and collective potential. An overnight camp experience is a unique opportunity for children to gain a sense of independence with the freedom to be themselves. Our incredible variety of activities allows campers to build confidence, try new things and have fun, and a combination of personal choice activities and scheduled programming means that campers have the freedom to customize their experience.

### Financial Assistance Application

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At Project Sanctuary, our commitment is to stand by your family throughout the retreat application process. Once you've submitted your application, expect a swift response from our Family Support team. Our primary objective is to provide you with all the necessary information and assistance to schedule a retreat. Ideally, our goal is to schedule retreats within **3-4 months** upon receiving your application to ensure that you and your family are on your way to healing.

### Project Sanctuary

Our retreats & classes are designed for families to come together and gain tools and resources in three key areas: Relationship Reconnection, Family Communication, and navigating mental wellbeing. Parents experience workshops in these specific areas led by trained professionals & children experience fun age-appropriate activities around similar topics to ensure the family can come together and build stronger relationships. Throughout the week families will participate in fun indoor & outdoor recreational activities together, making memories guaranteed to last a lifetime. Families will complete their retreat by having professional family photographs taken.

We host retreats at various retreat centers across the country. While some of these centers may have religious affiliations, it is important to note that our retreats are secular and are welcoming to individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs.

#### **2025 FAMILY RETREATS**

June-June 20-25: Pagosa Springs, CO-

June 20-25: Epworth by the Sea, GA-

June 27-July 2: Pagosa Springs, CO

July-July 11-16: Pagosa Springs, CO

-July 18-23: Pagosa Springs, CO-

July 25-30: Epworth by the Sea, GA

August-Aug 1-6: Pagosa Springs, CO

September-Sept 5-10: Pagosa Springs, CO

October-October 10-15: Epworth by the Sea, GA

November-November 7-12: Banning Mills, GA

\*\*Couples Only-November 14-19: Lakeview, TX



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### OUTWARD BOUND

#### VETERANS EXPEDITIONS

Outward Bound for Veterans helps thousands of service members and veterans readjust to life at home through powerful wilderness courses that draw on the healing benefit of teamwork and challenge through use of the natural world.



#### **Outward Bound**

Outward Bound for Veterans helps thousands of service members and veterans readjust to life at home through powerful wilderness courses that draw on the healing benefit of teamwork and challenge through use of the natural world.

**Eligibility** Our veterans courses are open to active duty military and veterans. All applicants to our veterans courses will be asked to verify their service.

We welcome veterans back to take a second course after your first course has been completed, but ask that alumni not enroll on two courses in the same year. Veteran courses allow for an applicant to complete two courses total. Given the limited space available on our courses priority will always be given to those who have not attended a course with us previously. However, if you have been deployed since your last veterans' course, you are welcome to apply again and we will reserve a spot on course for you right away. Browse courses below, or [learn more about Veterans program here.](#)

To reduce an extremely high cancel rate for these fully funded courses, we now require applicants to submit a \$50 non-refundable Commitment Fee at time of enrollment. If this fee is a financial barrier, please call our National Admissions Office at [866-467-7651](tel:866-467-7651) to request a Commitment Fee Waiver. The waiver process includes submitting a Statement of Commitment confirming your intent to follow through with this program. Reducing revolving enrollments helps us keep our course inventory more accessible. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Department of Defense – The DOD offers a summer reading program for military families & children stationed worldwide. This year the theme is *Level Up at Your Library*. In partnership with iREAD Summer Reading, library programs will include activities, graphics, crafts, reading lists, incentives, and much more for children, teens, and adults.

Pikes Peak Library District– Summer Adventure

**Have an adventure this summer with PPLD's summer reading program, Summer Adventure presented by Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District! This year, anyone of any age can participate. All you have to do is spend 30 days reading, creating, and exploring to win prizes. To get started, read a book, participate in one of the Library's programs, or use one of our activity ideas!**

**The adventure runs from June 2 – July 31.**

**You can sign up for and start the program on Mon., June 2, 2025 on the Beanstack app or [ppld.beanstack.org](http://ppld.beanstack.org).**

Barnes and Noble

Participation is a fun and easy way for kids to earn free books. They simply read a designated number of books – library books, books borrowed from friends or books bought at Barnes & Noble – write about their favorite part in our Reading Journal, and bring a completed Reading Journal to a Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Children then choose their free book from the books listed on the Reading Journal and collect their free book from a store near them during July and August.

The Pizza Hut BOOK IT! Program

BOOK IT!® is a free reading incentive program for children in Pre-K through 6th grade.

Books-A-Million – Read 4 books from their list and write about each book on this logbook, then take the form in-store to get a **free Dog Man backpack**.

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[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) – If you have a local participating partner (use the link to search your area), then you your kids ages 1-5 can receive free books by mail every month

[New York Times](#) – This will be their 16th annual Summer Reading Contest. Every Friday from June 6 through August 15, any middle and high-school student can read one article in the NYT. Then, they can either submit a short written response or record a video up to 90 seconds to cover what they read and why they were interested in it.



## [Kids Bowl Free](#)

**Unlock a Summer of Fun, Laughter, and Lasting Memories - All at No Cost**  
[Colorado Springs Locations](#)

## [Blue Star Museums](#)

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve.

The 2025 program will begin on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, 2025, and run through Labor Day, September 1, 2025.





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## OPERATION PURPLE *Summer Challenge*

— Adventurers Around the World —

### Operation Purple Summer Challenge

Welcome to the Operation Purple Summer Challenge, NMFA's summer-long virtual program that brings the fun and excitement of camp to families, wherever military life takes them. Our 2025 Summer Challenge will bring us together as "Adventurers Around the World" with five amazing themes:

- Outdoor Adventures
- Service Expeditions
- STEM Discoveries
- Story Excursions
- Wellbeing Escapes

### What happens in the Operation Purple Summer Challenge?

The Operation Purple Summer Challenge is a FREE, eight-week virtual experience with self-paced challenges for military kids and their families, accompanied by live virtual gatherings to bring our community together. The Summer Challenge creates an environment where military kids can thrive in three ways:

1. **Exciting Activities for Anywhere:** Our 2025 Adventurer Kit will give you the resources you need to explore and try more than 40 challenges designed to engage kids ages 5 to 15 with the outdoors, service, STEM, stories, and wellbeing.
2. **Family Fun and Connection:** The Summer Challenge includes opportunities for your family to spend more meaningful time together. With 20+ family challenges and our Family Fun Pack, military families can explore, play, and celebrate together.

**Community Belonging and Friendships:** Our live virtual sessions called Adventure Clubs, are an amazing opportunity for military kids to have fun with peers who have shared experiences.

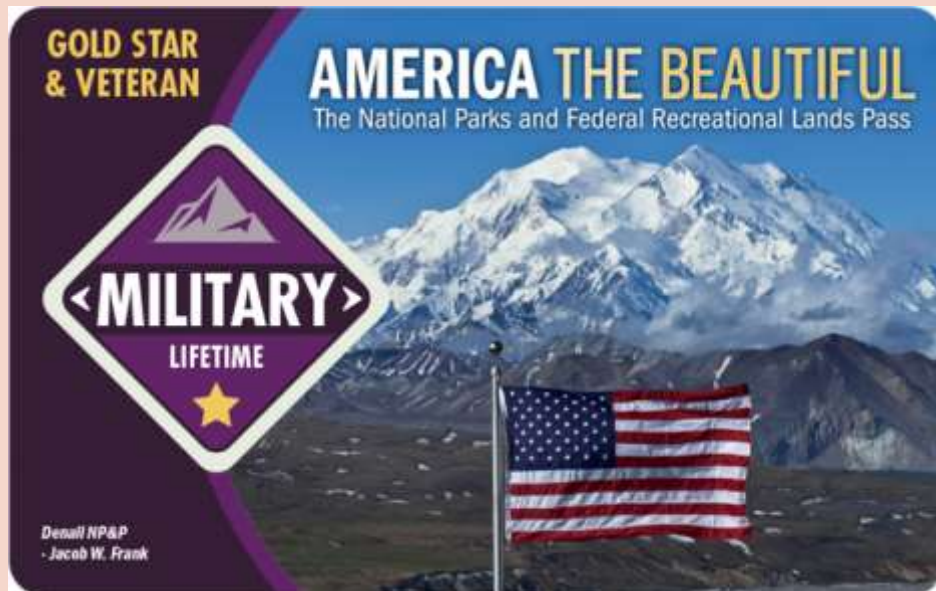
### Who Can Participate?

Every military kid whose parent or guardian completes registration is guaranteed a spot at NO COST! The materials and small group live sessions for the 2025 Operation Purple Summer Challenge are focused on adventurers ages 5 to 15. Kids outside of the age range and adult members of the household can join in for family challenges.

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## Free Entrance to National Parks for Current Military, Veterans, and Gold Star Families

The National Park Service in partnership with Operation Live Well would like to thank military personnel and their families for their service and invite them to enjoy their national parks.

### **Who Is Eligible for a Military Annual Pass**

Current members of the US Armed Forces and their dependents are eligible for a Military Annual Pass.

### **How to Get a Military Annual Pass**

#### **In Person**

You can pick up a Military Annual Pass for free at many national parks and federal recreation sites. You'll need to bring one of three valid forms of identification:

- Unexpired Common Access Card (CAC)
- Unexpired DD Form 1173
- Unexpired Next Generation Dependent ID (Replacement of DD Form 1173)

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From national parks to world-class museums, Colorado offers complimentary admission on regular dates throughout the season, every year. Get free entry on a select day(s) at the Denver Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Art Museum, Museum of Nature & Science, State Parks, and Colorado's four National Parks.



### 2025 Free Admission at Colorado National Parks:

These are good for [all National Park Service entrance fees](#), including national monuments, forest day-use areas, and the major four parks: Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, and Rocky Mountain National. Learn more about [Colorado's federal lands](#). It's the same across the country, in case you've been looking to check our Yellowstone or Glacier.

- June 19: Juneteenth National Independence Day
- August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act
- September 27: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day



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### Free Day at Colorado State Parks

There is free state park admission on Colorado Day – celebrate this special occasion (the first Monday in August) by visiting one of [Colorado's state parks](#) for free. Colorado is home to more than state parks, each of which offers something unique to see and experience.

### Free Second Tuesdays at Denver Art Museum

- Tuesday, June 10
- Tuesday, July 8
- Sunday, July 27
- Tuesday, August 12
- Saturday, September 6
- Tuesday, September 9
- Tuesday, October 14
- Saturday, November 8
- Tuesday, December 9
- The museum offers a free admission day on a [select day\(s\) of every month](#). With the museum's latest expansion of the Martin building and welcome center, plus its main exhibition hall, there's plenty to see here. Below are the free admission days in 2023. Learn more about the [Denver Art Museum](#).



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Free Days at Denver Botanic Gardens

**2025 Free Admission at the Denver Botanic Gardens – York Street and Chatfield Farms:**

1007 York St, [Denver](#), CO 80206 | 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Rd, [Littleton](#), CO 80128

- Tuesday, June 10
- Thursday, July 3
- Wednesday, Aug. 27
- Friday, Nov. 28 (day after Thanksgiving)



### **Denver Zoo**

Free Day tickets are only available online. Walk-ups will not be accepted on Free Days.

2025 Free Days:

- Friday, November 7 (tickets released on October 27)
- Saturday, November 15 (tickets released on November 4)
- Sunday, November 23 (tickets released on November 12)

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### VBS Programs in Colorado Springs:

#### June 2-6

Vanguard Church || 3950 N Academy Blvd || \$15 per child || 8:45am – 12pm || Ages 3-12 completing 5th grade (3-4 year olds must be potty-trained || Theme: Call of the King: The Journey to Milele \*Only three days. Starts on June 3rd.

Cross Fellowship Church || Black Forest Campus: 10915 Black Forest Rd from 9AM – 12PM and Palmer Park Campus: 4808 Palmer Park Blvd from 5:30PM – 8:30PM || \$7 donation with a \$25 max per family || Going into Kinder Fall 2025- Finished 6th Grade || Theme: Magnified: Psalm 34:3

The Road at Chapel Hills || 2025 Parliament Dr. || 9am – 12:00pm || Ages 5-11 || Theme: Agents of the Kingdom

Vista Grande Baptist Church || 5680 Stetson Hills Blvd || Free || 9am – 12:15 pm || Completed K – 6th grade in 2024-2025 School Year || Theme: Magnified Psalm 34:3

Lighthouse Baptist Church || 4280 Hopeful Drive || Free || 6:15pm – 8:15pm || Ages 3 – 6th grade || Theme: Heroes of Faith

#### June 9-13

Colorado Springs Christian Church || 5080 List Drive || Free || 9am – 12:00pm || Incoming K – 6th grade, must be completely potty trained || Theme: Fruit of the Spirit

International Anglican Church || 1305 N Union Blvd, 80909 || Free, T-shirts (Optional) available for \$5 || 8:30am – 11:30am || 4-year-olds through kids entering 6th grade || Theme: True North

Bethel Lutheran Church || 4925 Farmingdale Drive || \$40 per child || 9am-12pm || Entering K – 5th grade || Theme: True North

#### June 16-20

Heart of the Springs || 2726 N. Union Blvd || Free || 9am – 12pm || 4 years through going into 6th grade || Theme: True North

Rustic Hills Baptist Church || 1927 N Murray Blvd. || Free || 9:30am – 12:00pm || 4-year-old – 6th grade || Theme: Rocket Racers

Front Range Alliance Church || 5210 Centennial Blvd || Free || 6pm – 8pm || 5 years – 12 years of age || Theme: True North

Discovery Church || 2324 Shawnee Dr || Free || 9am – 12pm || 5 years – 11 years of age || Theme: Wild Life



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### VBS Programs in Colorado Springs:

#### **June 23 – June 27**

Mountain Springs Church || 7345 Adventure Way || \$50 per child || 8:45am – 12:30pm || K – 6th grade || Theme: Summer Adventure

New Life North || 11025 Voyager Parkway || \$65 || 9am – 12:30pm || 5yrs (by Oct 1) – 6th grade (next school year 25/26) || The Great Adventure—An Epic Journey Through the Gospels

Village 7 || 4040 S. Nonchalant Cir. || Free || 9am – 12:30pm || 4 years – entering into 6th Grade || Theme: Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

Rocky Mountain Calvary || 4285 N Academy Blvd || Free || 9am – 12pm || K-5th || Theme: Magnified Psalm 34:3

Trace Church || 4330 Mark Dabbling Blvd || \$90 || 5:30pm – 7:30pm || 3 year olds (potty trained) up to 5th grade || Theme: Adventure Camp

St. Michael's Episcopal Church || 7400 Tudor Rd. || \$85 || 5pm – 7:30pm || Pre-K through rising 6th graders (Children must be four years old by 8/31/2025) || Theme: Egypt: Joseph's Journey from prison to palace

#### **July 7-11**

Forestgate Presbyterian Church || 970 Northgate Blvd. || \$85 for K-6th Graders/\$50 for rising 7th-12th Grade Group Leaders || 9am-12pm || Theme: Summer Funner Theater

#### **July 14-18**

First Pres || 219 E. Bijou St. || \$20 per child || 9am – 12pm || Pre-K to Incoming 5th graders || Theme: True North

Tri-Lakes UMC || 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument || \$15 per child with a cap of \$40 per family || Pre-K through entering 6th || 9am-12:00pm || Theme: True North

Springs Community Church || 7290 Lexington Drive || \$45 for the first child, \$35 for each additional child || Ages 3 (potty-trained) through incoming 5th Grade || 9am-12:00pm || Theme: True North

Covenant Presbyterian Church || 2845 Parliament Drive || \$25 || Pre-K (must be potty-trained) – entering 6th grade || 9am-12:00pm || Theme: True North

Calvary Fellowship Fountain Valley || 4945 Cable Lane || Ages 4-11 || 9am-12:30pm || Theme: Ocean Commotion

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### **Children's Hospital Colorado**

The Pediatric Rehabilitation program at Children's Hospital Colorado is excited to offer patients the opportunity to experience the mountains of Colorado and connect with other kids just like them at camp this summer.

New this year, patients with cerebral palsy or who have sustained traumatic brain injuries, are invited to attend Roundup River Ranch, a longtime partner of Children's Colorado that specifically serves kids with physical disabilities or serious medical conditions. All accepted campers will attend free of charge. Patients with cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injuries are invited to apply for session three (June 26 – July 1) of Roundup River Ranch's summer schedule.

What are the details of this year's camp?

Session three of Roundup River Ranch is open to children between the ages of 7 and 17 with neurological, behavioral health and genetic conditions. Patients with cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injuries are invited to apply for session three (June 26 – July 1) of Roundup River Ranch's summer schedule.

**Dates:** June 26 – July 1

**Location:** Roundup River Ranch, Gypsum, Colorado

For more information about Roundup River Ranch, please contact Bethany Rippe, Camp Coordinator, at [Bethany.Rippe@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Bethany.Rippe@childrenscolorado.org) or 720-777-8831.