



Flagstaff Academy 2026

DRAGON DISCOVERY

Where science and imagination take flight...outdoors.



Dear Middle School Students and Families,

It's never too early to begin preparing for the annual...

Dragon Discovery trip to Soule Park: September 16-18, 2026!

This packet gives you all the information and forms you will need, including:

1. Overview of the trip: schedule, lodging, and packing information, etc.
2. **LINK TO FLAGSTAFF REGISTRATION PORTAL-** <https://flagstaff-academy.bloomily.app/> (required for registration, parent permission and payment)
 1. Fee information: The trip fee is **\$250**. A sibling from the same household can receive a reduced fee for the second and subsequent children of \$125. All payments will be collected **at the time of registration**. We want as many of our middle school students to benefit from this experience. Financial assistance will be available to all families that qualify for the district's Free and Reduced Education Benefit program. Please note: families must [apply for the district's Free and Reduced program](#) AND receive confirmation of benefits from the district PRIOR to completing the Dragon Discovery registration.
3. **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION FOR FIELD TRIP** (required *if* bringing **any** prescription or if in need of over-the-counter (OTC) medication to be **signed by a medical provider**.)
4. **CSU MOUNTAIN CAMPUS ROPES COURSE** (required liability release form – **7th grade only**) Electronic signature form to be provided to families in August 2026.
5. **COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB FORM** (required liability release form – **6th grade only**)- Hard copy form to be sent home with students in August 2026 to be returned to Middle School Assistant Principal.

All required forms are due to the Middle School Assistant Principal, and all completed registrations and payments must be done in the [FLAGSTAFF REGISTRATION PORTAL](#) before or on Friday, August 28th. All middle-school students and teachers will head to Soule Park (CSU Mountain Campus or Sky Ranch camp) and participate in a custom-designed program aligned with our educational and community-building goals. Full of engaging activities and opportunities for fun and team building, this program is aligned with state standards for science. Each grade has a different program focus, learning with their peers at grade-level, but also enjoying opportunities to mix grade-levels.

How can you support the trip?

- **Parent chaperones are needed** - please consider joining us! You can indicate your interest on the [Flagstaff Academy Volunteer Portal](#) beginning the first week of August. There will be no financial assistance for chaperones. After you have been selected to chaperone, you will be invited to pay the **\$250** fee that will be added to your account in the [FLAGSTAFF REGISTRATION PORTAL](#). Your payment is due by **Friday, August 28th**. Background checks will be conducted on all parent volunteers attending, and you will be invited to attend a chaperone information meeting before the trip.
- **Donations for financial assistance** – each year, we try to assist students who might not otherwise be able to afford the trip by offering financial assistance. If you'd like to make a donation, you can go to the Donations link in the [Flagstaff Webstore](#) (<https://flagstaffacademy.revtrak.net/>) and make a donation to the Adam J. Burton Memorial Fund.
- **Equipment donations** – we've added some significant backcountry hiking experiences to this trip, which may require some help to properly outfit our students. If you think you could help, please give us a call or email!

We welcome any questions you may have about this trip! Please contact us by email or phone (below). Let's make this a memorable and meaningful trip!

Kate Salgado

Middle School Assistant Principal

Dragon Discovery Action Items:

- ✓ Please read this informational packet fully
- ✓ **Complete and submit all required forms by Friday, August 28th.**
 - o **Register and complete payment online via [FLAGSTAFF REGISTRATION PORTAL](#)**
 - o Complete the **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION FOR FIELD TRIP FORM (required if bringing any prescription or in need of over-the-counter (OTC) medication)**
 - o **CSU MOUNTAIN CAMPUS ROPES COURSE (7th grade)** Electronic signature form to be provided to families in August 2026.
 - o **COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB FORM (6th grade)** A hard copy form will be sent home with students in August 2026 and must be returned to the Middle School Assistant Principal.
- ✓ Attend the **virtual parent information meeting (optional) on Monday, August 24th @ 6:00** or visit the leadership team on **Tuesday, August 25th @ Middle School - Back to School Night.**
- ✓ Chaperone information meeting (required for chaperones) on September 3rd @5:15 pm in the Commons.
- ✓ Review the packing list and prepare your stuff!
- ✓ Ask questions, and go for it!



Program Overview:

6th and 7th Grade Students:

Colorado State University Mountain Campus
16321 North County Road 63E
Bellvue, CO 80512-8605
<https://mountaincampus.colostate.edu/>



Communication to/from CSU Mountain Campus:

Phone: 970-881-2150; Fax: 970-881-2013

Our office is open from 7:00am – 7:00pm for incoming/outgoing calls. A courtesy phone is provided in the office for local calls. Our store is also open most nights from 7:15-9:00pm for incoming calls. Emergency-only calls can be made/received 24 hours per day. Cell service is inconsistent at best, or non-existent in most places. When in the field, staff and leaders typically have radio contact with the office.

Nestled in the beautiful, secluded mountain valley named Soule Park, at an elevation of 9,000 feet (2750m) lies Colorado State University's 1,200-acre mountain campus and conference center. Modern conference facilities make this a safe and comfortable place to stay, play, and learn! We will be the *only* group staying on the campus during our time, and will utilize both the dorms and the conference cabins, with between 4 and 12 people in bunk-style rooms, depending on the space. Chaperones will be staying in each building with students, though not in student-rooms. A nurse and medical staff are on-call 24hrs. a day, and field staff are trained in wilderness first-aid. The dining hall provides nutritious and tasty meals, and is great at meeting diverse dietary needs.

6th Grade Program Highlights:

- **Stream & Streamside Ecology** - Learn about the ecology of the Poudre running through the valley in stream ecology sessions led by our own teachers. Students will don waders and search for macro invertebrates in the stream. We will use microscopes to identify them and learn how different species may be used to indicate water quality.
- **Adventure/Initiative Games** - Focus on the skills necessary to effectively work in a group. Covers the concepts of logical thinking, cooperation, communication and trust. The class involves activities that require group cohesion and teamwork.
- **Astronomy** – (weather permitting) an evening of stargazing, stories, science, and celestial landmarks.

7th Grade Program Highlights:

- **Challenge Ropes Course (high and low elements)** - The CSU Ropes Course offers students opportunities to develop self-confidence in a safe setting. Each child wears a harness and helmet when climbing up off the ground. They are safety belayed by trained facilitators. Examples of high elements used in the program are the Cat-Walk, Leap of Faith, Climbing Wall and Giant Swing. During the program we stress the value of stepping outside of our “comfort-zones.” We follow the “challenge by choice” concept. No one is forced into activities. Ground support (encouraging words from classmates) is a big part of the activity. The kids leave with a feeling of accomplishment and a renewed sense of self-confidence.
- **Adventure/Initiative Games** - Focus on the skills necessary to effectively work in a group. Covers the concepts of logical thinking, cooperation, communication and trust. The class involves activities that require group cohesion and teamwork.
- **Astronomy** – (weather permitting) an evening of stargazing, stories, science, and celestial landmarks.

8th Grade Students:

Sky Ranch Camp
Forest Service Rd 145
Bellvue, CO 80512-8605
www.skyranchcolorado.org



Communication to/from Sky Ranch Camp:

Phone: 970-881-2113 (limited office availability after August)

Emergency-only calls can be made/received 24 hours per day. Cell service is inconsistent at best, or non-existent in most places. When in the field, staff and leaders typically have radio contact with the office, and a satellite phone for emergency use.

Located just about a mile hike from the CSU Mountain Campus, Sky Ranch offers rustic, but comfortable, facilities for guests, including lodges and cabins, the Lodgepole Campground, a newly renovated shower house, beautiful outdoor gathering spaces, and activities such as hiking, low ropes, recreation, arts and crafts, and Frisbee golf.

8th Grade Program Highlights:

- **Low Ropes Course** – Team building initiatives are located around camp and culminate in one of our student's favorite parts of the experience.
- **Backcountry Hiking Excursion** – head out into the wilderness, get up high above treeline, and learn about the fragile ecosystem at altitude. Special permission to hike in a protected area not typically open to the public.
- **Orienteering & Survival Skills** – Use a compass and map to plan your movement in the backcountry, and get some basic skills of outdoor survival along the way.
- **Astronomy** – (weather permitting) an evening of stargazing, stories, science, and celestial landmarks.



Dragon Discovery Outdoor Education Field Trip: Recommended Packing Guidelines

Soule Park is 9,000 feet high, so temperatures can change dramatically, and it can get very cold and snowy early in the winter. Students need to be ready for these conditions. Please pack the necessary gear to keep them safe, healthy, and comfortable. If they aren't dressed properly, they can't join in activities for their own safety and the safety of others. Try to pack light by choosing items that do more than one job (like a jacket that is both warm and waterproof). Each child will need to carry their own luggage about 250 yards on a bumpy trail from the bus to the lodge, so avoid wheeled suitcases.

Although there are many items on this list, please try to pack lightly .

- **ONE** piece of main luggage, **labeled with your name** (duffel bag or backpack strongly preferred over suitcases)
- **ONE** smaller daypack for hiking, **labeled with your name**
- Sleeping bag (preferred), or bedroll with a sheet and blanket(s) for use on provided mattress
- **Pillow with pillowcase** from home, pillows are no longer provided by the camp
- Warm pajamas or other sleepwear
- Shoes: sturdy **waterproof** boots or **2 pairs** of sneakers (a backup pair for when they get soaked and cold)
- **3 pairs** of socks (synthetic or wool socks provide great insulation even in wet, cold weather...**avoid cotton!**)
- **2 pairs** of jeans or heavy and durable pants
- 1 warm **jacket** (preferably waterproof too, but if not, be sure to bring additional raingear as stated below)
- 2 warm shirts
- 2 sets of underwear
- Handkerchiefs/bandanas
- Toiletry kit: comb, shampoo, soap, 1 bath towel, 1 washcloth, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant.
Leave perfumes and cologne at home!
- **Raingear:** waterproof jacket and pants are best, ponchos will work if necessary
- Pencils/pen
- Warm knit hat (baseball cap doesn't count)
- Cap with brim (baseball cap is fine)
- **TWO** 32 oz sized water bottles or one 64 oz size water bottle, camelbacks are welcome: make sure they are lightweight and leak-proof (avoid bike-style and pop-top bottles, a leak in a pack will cause major problems)
- Lip balm
- Flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries

Optional items:

- A book to read
- Shorts
- Sunglasses
- Deck of cards
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Extra towel
- Insect repellent
- Field guides

DO NOT BRING the following items (they will be confiscated if seen):

- **Electronics** – phones, speakers, gaming devices
- **Weapons or fire items** – knives, multi-tools, matches, lighters
- **Unhealthy or excess snacks** – junk food, candy
- **Shared/bulk food** – including non-packaged trail mix (germ risk)

Flagstaff Dragon Discovery Standing Orders

The school staff who have been trained and delegated to by the school nurse may give the following **CHECKED** medications according to manufacturer's guidelines with this signed consent by parent and primary physician. **Parent must alert staff if child has been given any of the listed medications prior to leaving the school on the day of 9/16/26.**

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 325 mg by mouth for students less than 90 pounds every 4 hours - no more than 3250mg per day.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) 650 mg by mouth for students greater than 90 pounds every 4 hours - no more than 3250mg per day.

OR

Ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) 200mg by mouth for students less than 90 pounds every 6 hours – no more than 1200mg per day.

Ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) 400mg by mouth for students greater than 90 pounds every 6 hours – no more than 1200mg per day.

Pain related to:

- Mild headache not due to a head injury
- Fever greater than 100.4 F
- Menstrual cramps
- Mild muscular pain

Antacid/calcium carbonate 3 – 1000mg chewable tablets by mouth every 12 hours – no more than 6 tablets in 24 hours for upset stomach or heartburn.

- Cetirizine (Zyrtec)** 1 – 10mg tablet by mouth one time daily for runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes/nose/throat.
- Cough Drop** 1 drop by mouth every 2 hours for sore throat or cough. No more than 10 drops per 24 hour period.
- Dramamine** 1 - 25mg chewable tablet by mouth every 6 hours for motion sickness/nausea. No more than 3 tabs in a 24 hour period.
- Pedialyte Electrolyte Powder** – Mix 1 packet with 8 oz of water for symptoms of dehydration. (May give up to 4 packets in 32oz of water per 24 hour period.
 - Headache
 - Dizziness
 - Loss of appetite
 - Elevated heart rate > greater than 100 BPM
 - Decreased urine < less than 6 times in 24 hours

Physician: _____ Date: _____

Print Name : _____

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Orders Effective for Dragon Discovery ONLY 9/16-18/26