Super-Hiker Activity

Hiking out to the Bluebird Mine site makes the day’s trip 4.2 miles, but a chance to see the old Bluebird Mine can be rewarding for detectives. Imagine the year is 1907. You are an artist for the Denver Post, hired to draw a picture of life at the Bluebird Mine. Draw what you imagine this mine looked like 100 years ago. Feel free to draw some miners too!

A Squirrel’s Kitchen

A midden is a squirrel’s kitchen. It is where squirrels go to pick apart conifer cones, eat the seeds from inside the cones, and drop the pieces on the ground. Look for a midden at the base of a tree or rock and mark it with an X on the map.

Life on the Ranch

Sit on the front porch of the DeLonde house. Imagine that your family works this ranch, and this is your home. Write three lines about what it’s like growing up at Caribou Ranch. Make the first letter of each line fit with the letters below so they form the word ELK, one of this meadow’s frequent visitors!

E
L
K

Make a Sound Map

Find a nice spot to sit. Listen carefully and quietly, and mark sounds you hear on your sound map below with a word or drawing that describes the sound. Try to get four or more sounds on your map!
**MYSTERY GUIDE**

- Take this Mystery Guide and a pen or pencil with you as you explore. To complete your Nature Detective training at this park, complete at least 3 of the 6 activities.

- Inside you will find a map of the park, which will serve as a guide. Some activities correspond to locations on the map 📍 and some activities can be done anywhere.

- Feel free to get help from grown-ups on this, but remember, these activities are for you! You can write or draw anywhere in this mystery guide. The more thoughtful and artistic, the better!

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**YOUR CASE: CARIBOU RANCH**

This land is home to elk, moose, black bears, squirrels, foxes, coyotes, and other animals. Surprisingly, there are no caribou at Caribou Ranch. This area is named after the Caribou mountain range in Canada. Caribou Ranch has a long ranching and mining history. Look closely to find old ranch buildings and mine debris!

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**Nature Detectives Club**

Mystery Guides can be found at:
1. Agricultural Heritage Center
2. Bald Mountain Scenics Area
3. Betasso Preserve
4. Caribou Ranch Open Space
5. Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
6. Heil Valley Ranch
7. Mud Lake Open Space
8. Pella Crossing
9. Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

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**CARIBOU RANCH OPEN SPACE**

A mystery awaits in this county park full of clues!

- **Your mission** is to become a young Nature Detective, collecting clues from the world around you, and solving mysteries of the forest, prairie, wetlands, and mountains.

- **After completing a mystery guide** we will send you a useful tool for your future outdoor adventures.

- All right detective, let's go!

*Intended for ages 4-11*