

Hello, Colorado Open Space Alliance Rangers! First, I would like to thank rangers from Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and Douglas County for contributing their time to be members of the 2010 COSA Ranger Training Planning Committee. This is the Sixth Annual COSA Ranger Training, and it is going to be another fantastic compilation of trainings that will greatly benefit parks, open spaces, natural areas, and their rangers. The COSA Ranger Training is a five day opportunity from April 5th to April 9th for rangers to hone their wide variety of skills, recertify certificates, and network with other rangers.

The week will start with Wildland Fire Training. This session will be taught by Ranger Tom Welle who is a Fire Science and Park Ranger Instructor at Red Rocks Community College, the Senior Park Ranger for Douglas County, and is a former Structural and Wildland Fire Captain in California. He is also a member of Douglas County Incident Management Team. If you are Red Card Certified, this will act as a refresher. If you have not been through the Basic Wildland Firefighting class, this is a valuable training that can be applied to any area.

Day two will begin with Tactical Communications. Words and the way you use them can be one of the most effective tools that you have. Learning how to effectively communicate is key in de-escalating and negotiating situations. This is especially useful for rangers who may encounter potentially combative people on a daily basis. An extended lunch and discussion forum will follow. The second half of the day will be a chance to accumulate some experience in something that every ranger should have: an Introduction to Self Defense. The class will include officer safety practices for unarmed rangers and transitions to secondary weapons such as baton (asp) and pepper spray. This class will be taught by Larimer County Ranger Stephen Gibson who is a Defensive Tactics Instructor for the department and for the Sheriff's Office. Ranger Gibson is a Certified Ground Fighting Instructor, a PPCT instructor, and Krav Maga instructor. Ranger Gibson also taught martial arts for 6 years (19 years of total experience with two black belts).

Wilderness First Responder re-certification/ Wilderness First Aid certification will take place on April 7th and 8th. This class will be taught by NOLS/WMI, who always provides fantastic instructors. At a cost of \$140 for the two days including meals, this is MUCH cheaper than taking the class directly from NOLS/WMI. The cost of this class throughout Colorado per student (without meals) is usually between \$200 and \$300. WFR/WFA certifications are good for two years, so next year we will do something different. This may be specific medical training for rangers (which will not re-certify us), or something entirely different. For this reason, this will be the year to get your certifications up to date and on schedule. This way, we can all re-certify again in 2012.

Day five will start with five hours of Mountain Bike Trail Riding Skills. The instructor, Larimer County Ranger Jacob Wells, has been an avid technical cross country/freeride style mountain biker for many years, and has worked as a mechanic and sales associate at 2 bike stores in Fort Collins. The main focuses of this training are skills on the bike and bike maintenance. The skills section will teach beginning trails skills and will move into some intermediate skills. This class will be held at a mountain bike dirt park which will allow students to practice in a real trail riding environment. Whether riding for miles on backcountry trails, on paved city paths, or through multitudes of campgrounds, these skills are practical for any ranger. A social and networking lunch will follow this training and will conclude the week.

Students may choose to attend the whole week, or can just attend individual days (with the exception of the Wilderness Medicine Training which is 2 days). The cost for Monday and Tuesday is \$60 per day; Friday is \$40. Breakfast and lunch are included. Wednesday and Thursday are a package deal and cost \$140 for the two days (also includes breakfast and lunch). The cost for the entire week is \$300 per student (including all breakfast and lunches).

To register for the 2009 COSA Ranger Training, please contact Larimer County Ranger Jacob Wells with your agency's name, the names of attending rangers, the days you will be attending, and your contact information. The deadline for registration is March 30, 2010. Invoices will be sent to your agency after we receive your information.

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If you have any questions about the upcoming training, please feel free to contact:

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