



Garden of the Gods Park
Contact: Bowen Gillings
City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Email: gog1909@live.com
P: (719) 219-0108

Garden of the Gods History Program

Welcome! We look forward to sharing the Garden of the Gods with you and your students. Here are a few things to bear in mind as you prepare for the field trip:

- Your field trip begins and ends at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, **1805 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.**
- This is a large group event intended for one class to participate together. Our posted maximum of 35 students is flexible. Details can be addressed at registration.
- All attending students should be prepared to walk roughly three miles on a mix of dirt, gravel, and paved surface during their visit. Students should carry water with them. Restroom facilities will be available at the beginning and end of your visit.
- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately! This is a two-hour, primarily outdoor experience. We will end your adventure early if students are improperly dressed for the weather conditions.
- Please, let us know in advance if you have any students with special needs (e.g. wheelchairs, crutches, medical conditions, etc.).
- Parent chaperones are welcome, but not required.
- Please, no pets or student siblings allowed.
- Students, chaperones and teachers are asked to silence cell phones during the field trip. Students should refrain from using any electronic device save to take pictures or videos. Taking photos is acceptable provided it is not distracting.
- Payment is due the day of your trip. Cash, credit card, and checks accepted. The cost is \$2 per student. No cost for adults, but donations are recommended. Please, make checks out to:

Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center

Garden of the Gods History Program Description

We align with the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards for middle and high school Social Studies: History and Social Studies: Geography.

Goals:

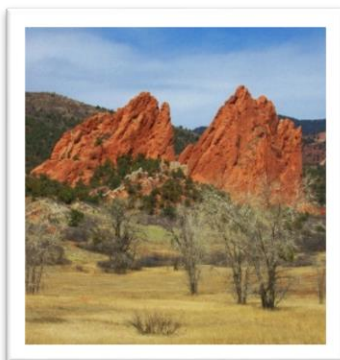
- Students become invested in understanding and caring for the exceptional wonder of the Garden of the Gods and the world around them
- Students gain an understanding of how humans use and shape natural surroundings
- Students understand responsible citizenship bolstered by knowledge of the region's history and how it shaped the world they've inherited

Schedule:

- Field trips run Tuesday thru Thursday from 9:30-11:30 AM or 12:00-2:00 PM. We will not start earlier or run later than scheduled times.
- Programs are available October 1, 2019 through May 14, 2020. Homeschool groups are welcome September 24-26, 2019.
- We follow Colorado Springs School District 11 schedule for Holiday and Spring Break closures. There are no programs offered in January and February.

Daily Agenda:

- Staff members greet you outside the Visitor & Nature Center near the flagpole at Bus Loading Zone #1. Teacher is escorted inside to complete payment for the program.
- After a brief orientation, your class explores the VNC at their pace for 30 minutes. Then you are guided into the Park where staff and volunteer docents will address the area's history and student questions. This is a walking tour.
- The format is very open, allowing students to engage at their interest level.
- If you need to depart the Garden earlier than your scheduled time, please let us know as soon as possible and we can adjust your program accordingly.



Garden of the Gods History: Overview

- Ideal for students in grades 6-12 engaged in History coursework
- We guide students in exploring the vast resource that is Garden of the Gods Park with its history of human use dating back 12,000 years, discussing Ancient Peoples, American Indian Nations, European/American Exploration, Prospectors and Pioneers, Growth of Colorado Springs, and Recent History
- The program takes place primarily outdoors. You will have approximately 30 minutes at the beginning of the program to explore the Visitor and Nature Center.
- Please call ahead if you need to cancel due to inclement weather. We will not cancel a scheduled program on our own unless the Visitor and Nature Center closes. District closures due to weather will result in cancellation of your trip.
- Should students prove inappropriately dressed for weather conditions, we reserve the right to end your visit early and return students to their bus/cars.

Teacher Reference Guide:

History of the Garden of the Gods

Archaeological evidence reveals 12,000 years of human use in the American Southwest including:

- Clovis People (9000-1100 BC)
- Folsom people (9000-7500 BC)
- Plano People (8200-5300 BC)

Following these Paleoindian groups, came cliff dwelling people. Archaeologists label them *Ancestral Puebloans*. Their culture has been identified by artifacts such as baskets, pottery, sandals, tools, and their incredible architecture on display in Mesa Verde National Park and other sites. There is little evidence of Ancestral Puebloan presence in our park. They lived in the area between 1500 BC and 1300 AD. Theories vary as to what happened to these people.

People of the Ute Nation have a long-standing association with the Garden of the Gods. Two bands in particular, the Tabeguache and Mouache, spent time here, typically wintering among the shelter of the rocks. Archaeological evidence shows that these people frequented the park up to 4,000 years ago. Ute history says they have always lived in central Colorado. The Tabeguache, which means “people of Sun Mountain”, held Pike’s Peak (called *tava*) sacred and offered gifts to spirits of the fountains in Manitou Springs.

Other American Indian nations frequented the Garden area, to include the Jicarilla Apache, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Comanche, Navajo, and Kiowa. Relations between these peoples changed at different times in history. At times they traded together, allied against common enemies, or fought for resources such as hunting grounds, horses, and firearms. Some nations, including the Kiowa, Arapaho, and Cheyenne considered the Garden a sacred place.

The first Europeans to arrive were Spanish explores in the mid-1600's. In the 1700's French explorers and fur trappers came through. In fact the oldest evidence of European visitation to the Garden is the signature of a Frenchman named Wll. Ketner whose name and "1731" are carved into one of the park's rocks. Both nations claimed the land until France and America concluded the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and Spain signed the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819.

Captain Zebulon Montgomery Pike led the first American expedition to the area in 1806. He did not visit the Garden nor did he climb Pike's Peak. He reached the summit of Mt. Rosa, west of Fort Carson, before adverse weather drove him back to his main camp near where Fountain Creek flows into the Arkansas River. The name Pike's Peak became commonplace after Dr. John H. Robinson, a member of Pike's expedition, published a map of the west in 1818. This was the first document to label the mountain Pike's Peak.

Other significant American expeditions came through this area in the following decades. Major Stephen Long's Expedition of 1820 followed Fountain Creek to the location of present day Manitou Springs. The bubbling springs earned the area the name *Fontaine qui Bouille*, French for "boiling fountain." This expedition recorded sightings of giant fins of rock along the Front Range and the first recorded ascent of Pike's Peak by Dr. Edwin James and three other men. Long named the mountain James Peak, but the name did not hold.

In the 1830's, American fur trappers were collecting pelts throughout the Colorado Rockies, following rivers like the South Platte, Arkansas, and Fountain Creek. They operated using a Rendezvous System which greatly improved logistics and set up several blockhouse-style forts for trade. A prime example of this is Bent's Fort near La Junta.

The 1840 expedition of Brevet Captain John C. Fremont started the migration of pioneers and homesteaders to Colorado. He wrote of the land's suitability for ranching and farming. He also discovered gold in several creeks along the Front Range.

The Lawrence Party of 1858 was a forerunner of the gold rush the following year. This group of 48 prospectors and their families came west to find gold. They camped along Camp Creek (thus the name) and many wrote their names in the soft sandstone of the Garden. Included in this party was suffragette Julia Archibald Homes (aka The Bloomer Girl), the first woman of European descent to summit Pike's Peak. After an unproductive month, most of the party moved elsewhere to find their fortunes.

The Pike's Peak or Bust Gold Rush of 1859 brought thousands of prospectors to the area. Most failed, coining the phrase, "Busted by God." That same year, two men surveying the area for the Colorado City Company gave the Garden its name. Rufus Cable and Melancthon Beach rode through the Garden. Beach told Cable that the area was an excellent site for a beer garden. To which Cable responded, "Beer garden? Why it is a fit place for the gods to assemble!" The area became referred to as Garden of the Gods from then on.

Homesteaders claimed land in and around the Garden starting in 1858. The Homestead Act of 1861 brought in fresh pioneers looking to make a life for themselves. Between 1858 and 1879 the land surrounding the Garden changed hands many times.

In 1871 Gen. William Jackson Palmer, owner of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad established Colorado Springs in conjunction with the founding of Manitou Springs by his close friend Dr. William Bell. The next year, Palmer completed his railroad line between Denver and Pueblo. This opened the Pike's Peak region to international tourism.

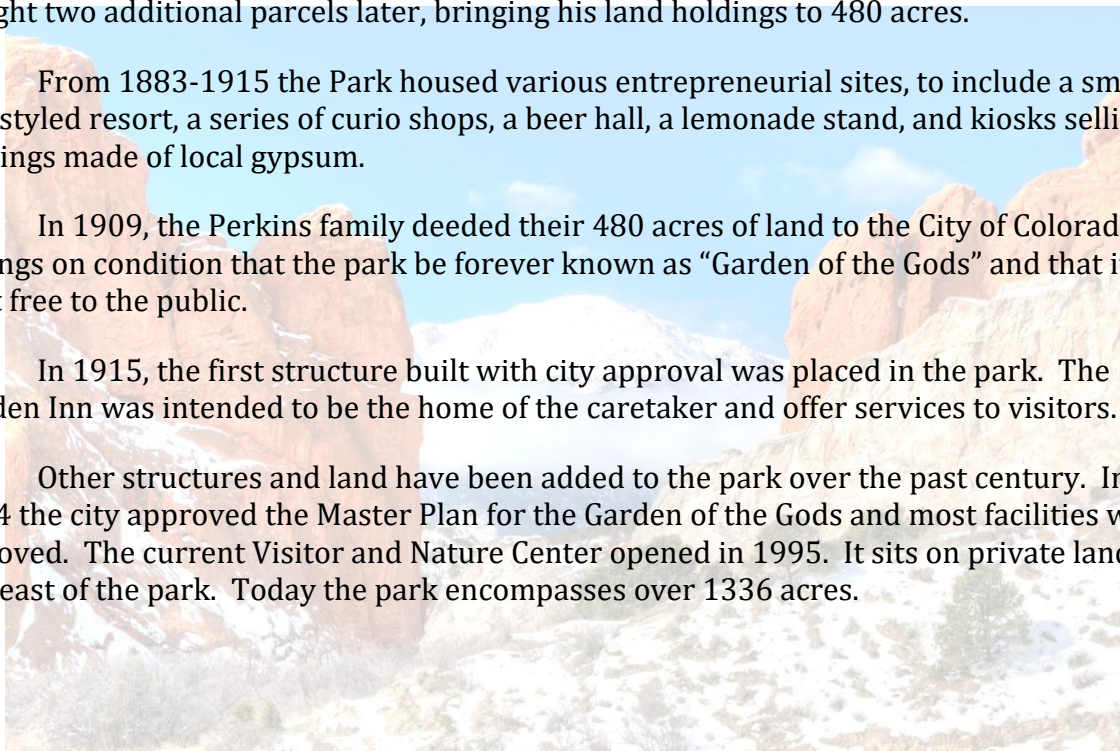
Palmer prompted his friend Charles E. Perkins to buy 240 acres of land encompassing much of the Central Garden in 1879. Perkins was the CEO of one of the nation's most prominent railroads, the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. Perkins hired a local real estate mogul to maintain his property and keep it open for public use. He bought two additional parcels later, bringing his land holdings to 480 acres.

From 1883-1915 the Park housed various entrepreneurial sites, to include a small, self-styled resort, a series of curio shops, a beer hall, a lemonade stand, and kiosks selling carvings made of local gypsum.

In 1909, the Perkins family deeded their 480 acres of land to the City of Colorado Springs on condition that the park be forever known as "Garden of the Gods" and that it be kept free to the public.

In 1915, the first structure built with city approval was placed in the park. The Hidden Inn was intended to be the home of the caretaker and offer services to visitors.

Other structures and land have been added to the park over the past century. In 1994 the city approved the Master Plan for the Garden of the Gods and most facilities were removed. The current Visitor and Nature Center opened in 1995. It sits on private land just east of the park. Today the park encompasses over 1336 acres.



Supplemental Activities:

- Create a historical timeline of the Pike's Peak region.
- Conduct greater research on a particular historical figure associated with the Garden and identify how the park might be different without that person's influence.
- Compare pictures taken on your field trip with historical photos of the Garden. Many historical images are available through the Pikes Peak Library District.
- Complete artwork or creative writing projects based on your experience in the Garden of the Gods.
- Write a thank you letter to the staff member or volunteer who led your adventure.
- Address letters to: Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center
ATTN: Bowen Gillings
1805 N. 30th St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Additional Resources:

Official Guide to Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site. 2012.

Pikes Peak Library District Digital Collections at:

<http://cdm15981.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/garden%20of%20the%20gods/order/nosort>

www.cspm.org/learn/regional-history/

Marsh, Charles S., [People of the Shining Mountains](#), Pruett Publishing Co.; Boulder, Colorado, 1982