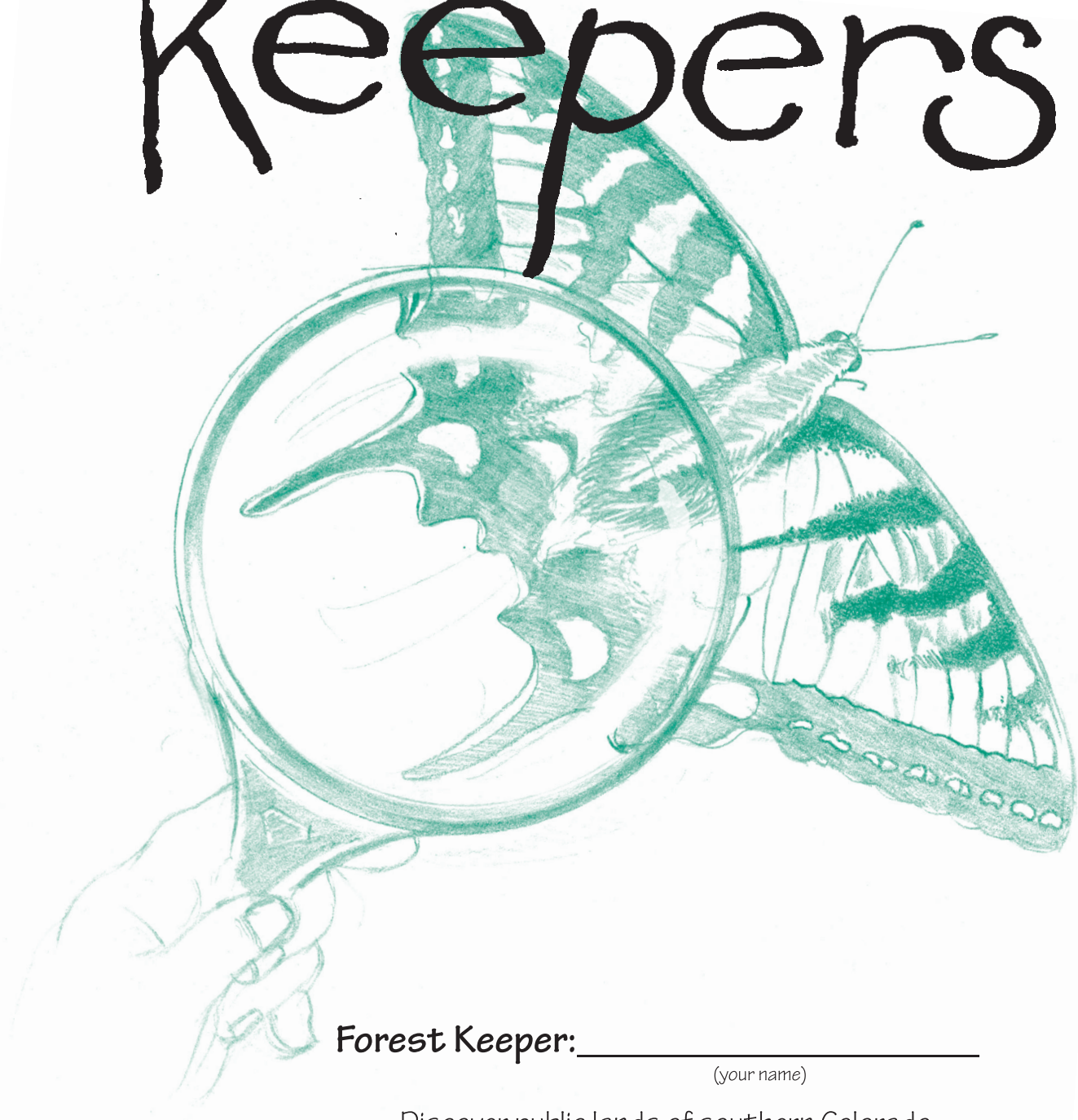


# forest Keepers



Forest Keeper: \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name)

Discover public lands of southern Colorado  
and become a Forest Keeper.

# HOW CAN I BECOME A FOREST KEEPER?

Forest Keepers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. A Forest Keeper enjoys visiting and learning about public lands. To become a Forest Keeper, pick up a Forest Keeper Booklet at a Forest Service/BLM office listed below.



*“The support we offer our children in sorting out their relationship with the natural world is crucial to the recovery of a dignified human relationship with the Earth.”*

— Barry Lopez, author

Dear Parents,

You can help your child explore the public lands of southern Colorado. Join them as they investigate the outdoor world and learn about the history of this rich land. To become a Forest Keeper, your child must finish the activities within his or her age group.

**Ages 6 and under**

**Ages 7 to 9**

**Ages 10 and up**

When finished, stop by a Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office listed below and pick up your child's Forest Keeper pin.

The future of public lands depends on you and your child. Thank you for encouraging your child to become a Forest Keeper and a steward of public land.

Forest Keepers is only the beginning. Here are additional ideas to help experience nature with your children.

- Take a walk in the rain.
- Lie on your back and describe cloud shapes.
- Start a nature journal.
- Guide your blindfolded child on a nature walk.
- Take a “silent walk” through a forest.
- Bury your toes in the cool sand at the edge of a creek.
- Study a star book and enjoy an evening of stargazing.
- Watch bats at dusk as they feed on insects.

Continue caring about the environment once you return home.

- Set an example ... walk, ride a bicycle, catch a bus, or carpool.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.

To pick up your Forest Keeper pin, bring your completed workbook to one of the offices listed below.

**Durango Office:**

15 Burnett Court  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 247-4874

**Columbine Office:**

1367 Pearl St.  
Bayfield, CO 81122  
(970) 884-2512

**Pagosa Springs Office:**

180 Second St.  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(970) 264-2268

**Mancos-Dolores Office:**

29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
(970) 882-7296

**Monte Vista Office:**

1803 W. US Hwy. 160  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
(719) 852-5941

**Del Norte Office:**

13308 W. US Hwy. 160  
Del Norte, CO 81132  
(719) 657-3321

**Saguache Office:**

46525 Colorado Highway 114  
Saguache, CO 81149  
(719) 655-2547

**Creede Office:**

2nd and Creede Ave.  
Creede, CO 81130  
(719) 658-2556

**Conejos Peak Office:**

15571 Cty Rd. T-5  
La Jara, CO 81140  
(719) 274-8971

For more information, write:  
Forest Keepers  
San Juan Mountains Association  
P.O. Box 2261  
Durango, CO 81301  
or e-mail: [education@SJMA.org](mailto:education@SJMA.org)



# LEAVE NO TRACE

(Ages 7 and up)

Do you like to go camping? You can help protect the earth by practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Share these seven pointers with your family and friends.



1) **Know before you go** - be prepared, bring a map, and learn about the area before you arrive.

2) **Camp and travel on hard surfaces** - stay on the established trail, don't cut switchbacks, and use existing campsites.

3) **Dispose of waste properly** - carry out your trash, pick up trash others have left behind. Store food and garbage properly to protect wildlife and your food. Do not put soap, food, or human waste in water. Even biodegradable soap is poisonous to insects and fish. If an outhouse is not available, bury human waste and toilet paper in a "cat hole" 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water.

4) **Leave it as you find it** - leave plants, rocks, and artifacts so that others might also enjoy them.

5) **Be careful with fire** - use a portable stove for cooking instead of building a fire. If you do have a campfire — use existing fire rings.

6) **Respect wildlife** - observe wildlife from a distance, use binoculars, and keep your dog on a leash.

7) **Respect others** - be courteous to other visitors.

Find and circle  these words in the puzzle below.

TRASH LEAVE NO TRACE TRAIL DAMAGE CLEAN CAMPSITE STOVE WATER  
RESPONSIBLE LEARN ENVIRONMENT CAT HOLE GARBAGE FIRERING WILDLIFE

T L S T O V E T N O T R  
R E S P O N S I B L E L  
L A A X L L A X G L T E  
P V L W T R A I L Z I F  
L E A R N I E R W N S I  
C N L L E G A M A D P R  
L O T R A S H R T A M E  
E T A B A H T B E A A R  
A R R R E E R R R E C I  
N A N W I L D L I F E N  
G C A T H O L E G H H G  
X E N V I R O N M E N T

# MAGIC WINDOWS (Ages 6 and under)

Forest Keepers use their  
eyes, nose, ears, and  
fingers while visiting the  
forest.



First: Raise both hands.

Second: Touch your pointer fingers to each other.

Third: Touch your thumbs to each other.

This is your Magic Window! It will help you explore the natural world.

Look through your Magic Window at eye level. Draw three things you see.

Look through your Magic Window toward the ground. Draw three things you see.