



*Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau  
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## **Oct. 1 & 2 Estes Park Elk Fest features Bugling, Archery, Seminars, Tours**

During the first weekend of October, elk in Estes Park will be regaled, imitated, watched and otherwise celebrated during the community's annual two-day Elk Fest. This festival celebrates the "wapiti," the American elk that is native here. The Elk Fest highlights most of the facets of human interaction with them.

Bond Park in the middle of downtown Estes Park will be festival headquarters from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 1 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2. Only the archery contest will be held in another location. There is no charge for the festival, but there are fees for Elk Viewing Tours and for contestants in both the archery and bugling contests.

Activities downtown on both days include entertainment, educational areas, exhibits, seminars by Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado Department of Wildlife experts, and the staging area for elk viewing tours which will occur both days from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday's lineup includes the archery contest while Sunday features both the archery and bugling contests. Native American music and story telling can be heard on the main stage along with musical entertainment by the Elk Tones folk band. In addition, Native American dancers will perform on both days.

Those attending Elk Fest also will see merchandise related to elk including items made from elk antlers, hand-made elk ivory jewelry, knives, archery equipment, clothes featuring elk emblems, as well as tables, lamps and dishes with an elk motif. In addition, there will be domestic elk ranches offering lean elk meat and information about how elk has become a powerful world-wide market.

### **Festival Events**

#### **Bugling Contest**

On Sunday, Oct. 2 there is a contest to see who can sound most like an elk bugling. Amateurs and professionals alike (there are contest classifications for adults and youth classes) are invited to try imitating the haunting call heard during the elk rut. Entrants can use a diaphragm, a horn or just vocal chords.

#### **Archery Contest**

All ages and skill levels are invited to participate in this event and the various targets will challenge even the most talented. For first timers, there will be archery accessories and targets to allow you the chance to try out this ancient sport. The contest will take place on Fish Hatchery Road, off U.S. Hwy. 34 west of town. Signs will direct people to the gated property where the contest takes place. Call Arrow Dynamics in Fort Collins at 970-484-4900 to register.

#### **Mountain Man Rendevous**

Mountain men from all over the country will gather to sell and to demonstrate their skills, such as arrowhead making.

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### **Educational Areas**

In this area, individuals will be able to see elk antlers up close. Representatives from the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program will be on hand with some of their magnificent rescued birds and there also will be representatives from the organization of "Wolves Offering Life and Friendship."

### **Seminars**

Speakers from the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Rocky Mountain National Park will present seminars over the weekend on Elk Management and Biology, and the Breeding Season – the Rut.

### **Elk Viewing Tours**

This is the easiest way to view elk around the Estes Valley. Afternoon tours from 1 to 5 p.m. each day will depart from Bond Park, taking people to the best places to view and hear the elk. An expert guide will accompany each tour to explain what viewers are looking at, and hearing, and answer questions. Fees are: adults - \$5; children ages 3 to 11-\$3; family rate for up to five-\$15 and an additional fee of \$2 for each additional person.

For additional information about the event contact the Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-44-ESTES (800-443-7837).

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