

## **2003 Flatirons Outdoor Classroom Workshop**

The National Science Foundation has funded a summer, 2003 workshop at the Flatirons Outdoor Classroom, for selected teachers within the Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, Colorado. Sixteen teachers (drawn from elementary, middle, and high schools in the district) will spend two weeks at the Flatirons Outdoor Classroom. In the mornings, teachers would participate in lectures and discussion on topics in geology, hydrology, botany, biology, geography, water politics, and ethics, led by local experts in these respective fields. In the afternoon, teachers will work in teams to devise curricular materials for primary and secondary school students that relate the material covered in the mornings to the distinctive interdisciplinary capacities of this outdoor space.

The goals of the workshop are: 1) to provide district teachers with training in the Earth and environmental sciences, social science and science policy, and selected areas of the humanities so that they could design curricular materials that make effective use of the Flatirons Outdoor Classroom. 2) Through doing so, to create pedagogical materials on interdisciplinary educational education that can be disseminated regionally and nationally in a variety of formats (such as publications, conference presentations, museum exhibits, and the internet). 3) To disseminate accounts of the pedagogical possibilities of the Flatirons Outdoor Classroom, so that this model may be adapted and adopted by communities nationwide.

### **Goals of the Flatirons Outdoor Classroom**

1. To serve as a model for better integrating the Earth/environmental sciences within K-12 science education.
2. To draw out the contrast between laboratory science and field science, helping students better understand the potentialities of different types of science, both in terms of their intrinsic logical capacities, and in terms of their ability to address various kinds of societal challenges.
3. Within the context of K-12 education, to demonstrate the relevance of the social sciences and the humanities for providing a context for Earth/environmental science education.
4. In partnership with educational programs with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado, to make the classroom into a resource for the entire Denver region.
5. To create curriculum materials that can be adapted nationwide.
6. To create a pedagogical model (i.e., the outdoor classroom) for primary and secondary education that has application nationwide, and to disseminate this model.