

Ella Mahon
Grade 6
Leshar Middle School
Mr. Swann

What Makes my Family special

All families, and the people within them are different, making everyone, including their families, unique and special. In this big world I can tell you that there is not one family that is quite like us.

My dad's family has six generations of Coloradoans, including me. My family settled in Colorado back in the late 1800's because talk of "The Gold Rush" in Colorado had travelled their way. The Mahon family (my family) came from Missouri in search of gold. So they packed up all of their things, got in their wagon, and travelled west towards Colorado. After days and nights had passed, trudging along through the pounding heat of the sun, they had finally made it to their destination. Once they arrived, they settled at the base of Mt. Princeton and called their homestead Mahonville (after my family's last name). Later, Mahonville changed its name to Buena Vista and became the county seat of Chaffee County. Granite was originally the county seat and Granite's residents did not want the county seat documents to be taken from their town. So my great, great, great, grandfather and grandmother (James and Martha Mahon) along with a few Buena Vista residents became impatient, stole a railroad car, and huffed themselves along to Granite in the middle of the night. They kicked down the Granite courthouse door, stole the records and all the furniture that wasn't secured to the ground out of rage. They then nailed the paperwork to the board at the Buena Vista courthouse. Ever since

then, my family has stayed in Colorado up to my present generation, with the exception of moving out of state for a little while from time to time.

My family values Colorado in many ways, but we really love all of the natural environment it has to share. Some things we love to do in nature is to backpack, or hiking. We love backpacking and hiking because it provides an opportunity to get out in nature and to be in peace and quiet with only the sounds of the outdoors. My family and I have gone camping multiple times, usually around five times each year, but I have only gone backpacking twice. Even though that sounds like it may just be a short amount of time, but, I loved every second of it, and so did my family. One out of the two times we went backpacking really stands out in my mind. It started off as a normal trip to Crested Butte but then, we decided to go backpacking. So we loaded up my dad's truck with all of the supplies that were necessary, and drove to the mountain. We got to the mountain that we were planning to backpack at, loaded everything into our backpack that was needed, and started the trek up the trail. We travelled alongside the famous slate River. As we hiked up the trail, my dog kept a steady pace and kept bounding ahead of us through the lush field of flowers. When we arrived at our campsite, we unloaded our backpacking gear, and went to sleep. We woke early the next morning and hiked our way up to a lake that was our original destination. Crystalline water surrounded by beautiful evergreen trees. Then we made our way back down the mountain, where our trip ended. Nature is one thing that my family values but another thing we value is spending time together. We love doing this r because it is an opportunity to get to know each other better and is ideal for a healthy relationship in a family.

My family loves Colorado and everything it has to offer. All of its scenery, views, and beautiful mountains, and we've had many generations that think the same! For that reason, that is what makes my family special.