



2026 CLUB NEWSLETTER

Hello Hikers! We had a whirlwind of a time last year celebrating our 10th anniversary, so let me start by thanking everyone for making it truly memorable. Our end-of-year celebration dinner was a lot of fun and gave everyone a chance to relive some of the fun times we've enjoyed together. During that dinner, I mentioned that we might see some major changes to the club coming up. Without getting into specifics, I'll say those plans to expand the club are still on, but I've decided to postpone those changes until next year. No worries, we've got a great year planned for 2026!

While it may seem impossible to top last year's epic schedule, let's try it anyway :) This year, we're breaking our record for number of hikes by having 42 of them on the schedule! That's almost one every weekend from February through November. Even more exciting is the fact that over 20 of them are brand-new to the club, so there are lots of new places coming up for us to explore. I've made sure to include plenty of shorter hike so as to provide opportunities for hikers of all levels to participate throughout the year.

As for our challenging hikes, this year's lineup should intrigue our experienced hikers. I've scheduled something I've wanted to do for years, and that is a series of hikes which begin at the top of Colorado's most popular passes. This series of seven hikes all begin along the Continental Divide and go up from there! Some of these are shorter hikes, while others take us to some challenging summits (like Golden Bear and North Star Peaks, both over 13,000' in elevation). You can read all about it, and even see the hikes plotted on the state map, on Page 4 of this newsletter. I hope our club members who can hike at this level will join us for as many of these as possible!

Did I mention we're climbing Pikes Peak again? This time, we're doing it from the western side, meaning we start at the Crags trailhead and hike one-way to the top. We did this once before in 2018 and had a great time, so make plans to join us if you're able to take on this challenging route.

Please review this newsletter for information on hiking rules, weather conditions, privacy policies and required waivers. I've included articles about our Mountain Passes hikes, Ute Tribe Prayer Trees (culturally-modified trees) which we first printed in 2021, and even a nice page dedicated to some of Colorado's wild birds we encounter on our hikes. I welcome your questions or suggestions...just drop me a line. Thank you to everyone who supports this club and I'll see you on the trail!

Rob Jackson
Club Organizer
robert@mountaintrailshiking.com



Club Website
<https://www.mountaintrailshiking.com>



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Basic Rules of Hiking

While hiking itself is little more than walking in nature, participating in an organized group involves a few considerations. Please note the hiking rules below and do your part whenever you participate with the club:

- Do not leave anything on the trail...if you bring it with you, take it out again. This includes food waste. Also, do not remove anything natural you find on the trail. If you find a rock or leaf fascinating, leave it alone so that others may enjoy it as well. Want to do something extra? Picking up trash you do come across would be going the extra mile to improve the trail for others.
- Keep at least one other hiker within sight at all times. This will avoid halting the entire group while we locate a lost hiker.
- Be courteous to other hikers, especially those in our group. Not everyone enjoys hiking the same way; some want to socialize while others may prefer the peace and quiet of the forest. Partner with like-minded members so that everyone can enjoy the hike. Also, try not to tailgate...spread out and share the trail with others. This is not a race, so enjoy the pace!
- Don't take unnecessary risks. Watch your step and stay away from ledges and overhangs. Injuries are possible, but you can minimize the risks by being smart.
- Be responsible with your dog. Most of our hikes are dog-friendly, but remember that some club members may be allergic or otherwise not fond of barking dogs. When bringing a dog, keep them on a leash and give ample space between you and others in our group.
- Come prepared with comfortable clothes and appropriate supplies. Healthy snacks are encouraged for most hikes, but may not be necessary for shorter outings. However, you should always have water or similar beverage as dehydration occurs quickly on the trail.
- Do not attempt any hike for which you are not prepared to do. While it can be fun test your limits, if you cannot complete a hike, you risk cancelling the trip for others (we do not allow hikers to return alone). Start with easier hikes and gradually work your way up.
- Leave wildlife alone. We will frequently see deer, rabbits, squirrels, and birds. Take photos, but please give them space, we are in their home. Encounters with more dangerous wildlife (snakes, mountain lions, black bears) are rare, but if it happens, do not panic, but rather understand how to handle such encounters.
- Be on time. Whether you meet at the designated carpool location or drive straight to the hike site, please be considerate, plan ahead and be on time for hike starts.



Meeting Strange New Friends
(Little Grouse Mountain - August 2025)

Weather Conditions

Hikes are scheduled months in advance, so there is no way to predict what the weather will be like when that day comes around. We live in a location which enjoys year-round sunshine, so you can expect Mother Nature to be cooperative most of the time. However, there will be occasions where the weather will affect our club activities. It's important you understand our policies regarding weather.

All of our hikes begin fairly early in the morning, which not only beats the crowds, but also beats the heat and/or afternoon thunderstorms. My goal is that (for most hikes), we are done before noon. There will be some hikes which are longer and may push into afternoon, but most hikes will be done by midday. For those rare days which have rain in the morning, we will generally still hike. You can make a personal choice if you want to stay home because of rain or snow. There are times where I will postpone if we are planning a high-elevation hike which receives unexpected snow. I will be scheduling hikes for all seasons, but our winter hikes will be at lower elevations and will be more susceptible to schedule changes.

Make no mistake...where I do not mess around is thunder and lightning. Overcast and rain is one thing, but once we have thunder and lightning, I will cancel the hike (if it has not yet started) or return to the vehicles by the most direct route (for hikes in progress). This could mean we do not reach the destination of some of our summer hikes. Set aside your pride, the mountain will still be there for next time. I need you to know and accept that I will never compromise the safety of anyone on our hikes, and I expect club members to fully cooperate should the occasion arise in which I cancel or terminate a hike due to potentially dangerous weather.

2026 Snowshoeing Events

Snowshoeing offers low-impact, aerobic exercise that helps you stay in shape during the winter. This year, we are offering three winter hikes designed to be snowshoeing events. Two of these walks are outside of the Pikes Peak region, so half the adventure is in the journey. Flyers will be sent prior to each event, advising which type of hike to expect.

Some of our members have snowshoeing experience, but most have not tried it. Here are some basics:

SELECTING SNOWSHOES: Whether renting or buying, select the type of snowshoe based on usage. The length, angle, crampons (metal teeth), and strap placement will vary for flat, rolling, or mountain terrain. The events we schedule are usually flat, meaning entry-level snowshoes will be fine.

FOOTWEAR: Ideally, you should wear insulated, waterproof boots; however, leather hiking boots work well, too, especially if they are waterproof. Wool or synthetic socks with wicking liners are recommended. Also, consider gaiters to keep snow out of your boots.

CLOTHING: Wear breathable layers which can be added and removed as needed. Avoid cotton, as they retain moisture, which can lead to hypothermia in winter conditions. Plan for three layers: a BASE layer (synthetics and wool) that dries quickly, an INSULATING layer (i.e. polyester fleece) that retains heat when wet and breathes as you exercise, and an OUTER layer (waterproof, breathable shell jacket and pants) that keep you dry and fend off wind. Also, don't forget good gloves or mittens and a hat; adjust the materials and layers as needed to match the conditions. Finally, wear sunglasses, sunscreen on exposed areas, and lip balm.

HYDRATION: As in summer, you must drink during cold-weather exercise to keep your muscles functioning and help your body fend off hypothermia. Pouches with drinking tubes (i.e. Camelbaks) are not a good idea in winter as the water can sometimes freeze in the tube. Keep your water from freezing by using an insulating cover for your water bottle.



Weekend Fun at Snow Mountain Ranch
(March 2025)

BASICS OF SNOWSHOEING: Walking on flat or rolling ground is fairly intuitive when you first start out. Most snowshoes have simple bindings that fit a wide range of boot styles and sizes. Your stance should be wider than normal when you're on snowshoes, to keep from stepping on the insides of the frames. Use the crampons for traction, especially going up or downhill. Also, hiking poles can be very helpful for balance as well as working out the upper body.

Snowshoeing can be very fun and rewarding. This activity extends the hiking season through the winter months, and provides access over deep snow terrain. You should understand that the pace will be slower than standard hiking, and the exertion will be higher. Rest assured that our routes are neither long nor difficult, which should provide a beginner-friendly experience.

For more information about snowshoeing:
<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/snowshoeing-first-steps.html>
For FREE classes on snowshoeing basics:
<https://www.rei.com/events/a/snow-sports-snowshoeing>

In addition to useful information and classes, REI also provides snowshoe rentals and sales. Please visit them or any comparable outdoor activities store.



Dawson Butte
February 7



Mueller State Park
February 15



Breckenridge
February 28



Mountain Pass Hikes

A Challenging Hike Series for 2026

This year, we are doing a series of hikes which **start** at the top of Colorado's most famous mountain passes along the Continental Divide. These hikes range in distance and difficulty, but all of them involve hiking at high elevation (most are above tree line). This is something I've wanted to do for years, and I've selected a good range of hikes which will allow many of our club members to participate. All of these are all-day hikes with a very early start; one (Wolf Creek Pass) will involve an overnight stay. **All of them will be incredibly epic!**



1 Monarch Pass

Hike: **Old Monarch Pass Loop**

Date: **June 13, 2026**

Rating: **5**

Distance: **3.2 miles**

Elevation Gain: **469 feet**

Highest Point: **11,523 feet**

2 Cottonwood Pass

Hike: **Cottonwood South #1978**

Date: **July 11, 2026**

Rating: **6**

Distance: **3.2 miles**

Elevation Gain: **718 feet**

Highest Point: **12,617 feet**

3 Wolf Creek Pass

Hike: **Alberta Peak (National Scenic Trail)**

Date: **July 25, 2026**

Rating: **7**

Distance: **5.9 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1,181 feet**

Highest Point: **11,955 feet**

4 Berthoud Pass

Hike: **Colorado Mines Peak Trail**

Date: **August 8, 2026**

Rating: **8**

Distance: **4.0 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1,141 feet**

Highest Point: **12,613 feet**

5 Loveland Pass

Hike: **Upper Straight Creek w/Golden Bear Summit**

Date: **August 29, 2026**

Rating: **9**

Distance: **6.6 miles**

Elevation Gain: **2,028 feet**

Highest Point: **13,009 feet**

6 Independence Pass

Hike: **Independence Pass Ridgeline Trail**

Date: **September 5, 2026**

Rating: **8**

Distance: **4.7 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1,197 feet**

Highest Point: **13,060 feet**

7 Hoosier Pass

Hike: **North Star Mountain**

Date: **October 3, 2026**

Rating: **9**

Distance: **5.1 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1,945 feet**

Highest Point: **13,501 feet**

Ute Indian Prayer Trees

“A work of art created from nature”

Article by **Michelle Post**

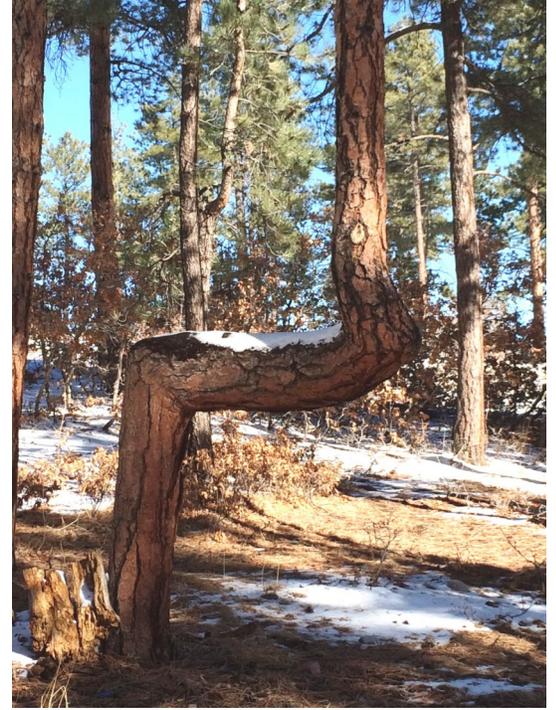
Reprinted from “The Castle Pines Connection” - <https://www.castlepinesconnection.com/ute-indian-prayer-trees/>

I live in Monument and love the forests and mountains that surround me. I was surprised to learn that many of the places that I have hiked just miles from my home were home to Ute Indian Prayer Trees.

The definition of a Ute Indian Prayer Tree is, “a culturally modified tree.” What this means is that the Ute would take care to modify the tree by peeling its bark or bending it in places using hemp ropes created from Yucca plants or horse hair. The most common trees used by the Ute were ponderosa pines and Aspen.

According to John Wesley Anderson, author of *Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region*, “All trees modified by the Ute were sacred and prayers to recognize the tree’s consent and permission in the modification were made along with gratitude to the Creator.”

In the Pikes Peak region, all of five types of prayers trees can be found: 1. Trailmarker Trees, 2. Medicine Trees, 3. Burial Trees, 4. Story Trees, and 5. Prophecy Trees. The trees are listed in the frequency they are found. The Prophecy Trees are the rarest; however, one does exist in Fox Run Park in Monument.



A Trailmarker Tree’s distinction is having a 30-degree bend to the trunk before it extends upward. These trees were culturally modified from the time they were a sapling by using hemp ropes attached to a stake. These trees always point toward a geographical or navigational reference point.

A Medicine Tree is distinctive by its scarred bark that has been pulled away from the tree trunk by a Ute medicine man. The bark is peeled from the top down to the bottom in one section.

A Burial Tree is distinctive and contains two 90-degree bends in the tree which point to where the Ute tribal leader is buried or a cedar tree to mark the possible site of the tribal leader.

A Story Tree or Message Tree’s distinction is that a short-story or message is carved into an Aspen tree. These carvings are called Aspen Carvings or Arborglyphs and can be compared to Petroglyphs (rock art). These arborglyphs provide specific messages to other Ute Indians, such as the location of fresh water or good camping grounds.

The Prophecy Tree is also referred to as the Providence Tree or the Intertwined Tree because it is two trees that have been culturally modified to grow together. The Prophecy Tree is the rarest of all Ute Prayer Trees. The purpose of this tree is to tell of a future event, of someone or something. These trees could have required generations of Ute to cultivate them.

The best opportunity to see the most trees in one location is Fox Run Regional Park in Monument.

Membership Form / Waiver

As many of you know, I require all members to complete a membership form with waiver each year. Read below for the purpose and use of this information:

The waiver portion of this form is for you to acknowledge that hiking, as with any outdoor activity, contains some element of risk and that you accept responsibility for incidents arising from participating in these activities. Hiking is low-risk compared to many other outdoor activities, but it is important that you understand your role. I will only lead you on hikes in which I have already completed and know the route, unless otherwise indicated. I have first aid training and a healthy respect for foul weather and other dangers, so you are in good hands. Still, no one knows your limitations and physical condition better than you, so it is vital that you never undertake a hike that you are not fully prepared to accomplish.

Privacy Notice: Although I request your contact information, you can be confident that only the member's name and those listed as additional members within their household may be shared as part of Club business; sample uses may include hike participant lists and member identification in club photographs. No other information will be shared with anyone, either within or outside the Club.

I will ask you to complete this form on your first hike with the club each year. When you receive the form, I encourage you contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(one form per household)

PART 1: MEMBER INFORMATION

Disclaimer on Information Sharing: Only the member's name and those listed as additional members within their household may be shared as part of Club business; sample uses may include hike participant lists and member identification in club photographs. No other information will be shared with anyone, either within or outside the Club.

Primary Member Name (Last, First) List Additional Household Members Below

Mailing Address (Line 1)

Mailing Address (Line 2)

City State Zip

Email (you may list additional email addresses on the reverse side)

Telephone

PART 2: WAIVER AND RELEASE

I acknowledge and agree that hiking activities carry inherent risks associated with my participation therein, of which I am fully aware. I voluntarily assume the risks associated therewith, which may include health risks and/or bodily injuries, including but not limited to death, whether they occur or arise during or after my participation in hiking events.

In consideration for being allowed to participate in hikes organized by the Mountain Trails Hiking Club, I hereby release, waive, indemnify, covenant not to sue and hold harmless the Mountain Trails Hiking Club and its organizers, members, participants, and volunteers.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY AGREEING TO THIS RELEASE I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL THE TERMS CONTAINED HEREIN AND AM GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS THAT I OTHERWISE HAVE FOR INJURIES OR DAMAGES INCURRED DURING AND AFTER MY PARTICIPATION IN MOUNTAIN TRAILS HIKING CLUB EVENTS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TERMS OF THIS RELEASE SHALL SURVIVE THE CONCLUSION OF HIKE ACTIVITIES SUCH THAT I AM RELEASING THE RELEASEES FROM ALL CLAIMS THAT MIGHT ARISE AFTER THE EVENTS TAKE PLACE, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN AT THE TIME I PARTICIPATED IN HIKE ACTIVITIES.

I warrant and represent that I am at least 18 years of age, or if I am signing this Release on behalf of someone under 18 years of age I am that person's legal guardian and have legal authority to execute this Release on his/her behalf.

I agree to the terms and conditions set forth above as it applies to myself and each household member listed on this form.

PART 3: SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE DATE

CLUB USE ONLY:

RECEIVED BY DATE

NEW

Hike Club Store!

<https://mountaintrailshiking.printful.me/>



We have an all-new club store established at Printful; the link is shown on the left - check it out!

Now we have an even larger selection of colors and products. Best of all, the prices are low, thanks to setting the mark-up profit to zero!

Show your Club Pride today!

Hiking is a great way to see a variety of wildlife in their own habitat; more than anything else, we see lots of birds! Bird sightings and sounds can enhance the enjoyment of a hike, but can be especially rewarding once you learn how to identify (both sight and sound) the birds we encounter.

Colorado boasts over 400 species of birds, but here we list 20 of the more common ones we see on our hikes. Needless to say, we see many more varieties than this, but we've selected a few to show the beauty and diversity of our winged friends. How many of these will you see on our hikes this year?



BIRD ENCOUNTERS



Black-Capped Chickadee



Turkey Vulture



House Wren



Red-Winged Blackbird



Western Meadowlark



Cliff Swallow



Bald Eagle



Lark Bunting



American Kestrel



Stellar's Jay



Downy Woodpecker



Spotted Towhee



Northern Flicker



Red-Tailed Hawk



Broad-Tailed Hummingbird



House Sparrow



Black-Billed Magpie



American Goldfinch



Mountain Bluebird



Clark's Nutcracker

Pikes Peak Ascent

September 19, 2026



This year, we're once again taking on a climb of Pikes Peak from the west side, which is less popular than the Barr Trail route. We did this once before back in 2018 and it was a great experience with quite a bit of solitude.

This route begins at the Craggs trailhead, which is near Highway 67 between Divide and Cripple Creek. About a mile or so up the trail, hikers will see a split, with the left side going to the Craggs (what most people do) and the right side heading up the hill and eventually all the way to Pikes Peak summit. In fact, we'll be offering this as two hikes, where participants can choose between hiking round-trip to the Craggs and back, or taking the one-way hike all the way to the summit of Pikes Peak.

The hike to the summit is shorter than the Barr Trail version, and with less elevation gain, but the trail is a bit rougher in places due to this being a less-popular route. We still rate this a 10 for difficulty, as we do all 14ers.

One of the more interesting parts of the hike is the abrupt change at Devil's Playground around 13,000', where hikers actually walk across the Pikes Peak Highway and continue the last 3 miles somewhat close to the road. Like the Barr Trail side, the final stretch is long and difficult.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is logistics; whereas the Barr Trail side gives options for going back to the start (train, highway, etc.), we have to plan ahead for doing the west-side ascent. As we did in 2018, we'll rent a high-capacity passenger van with a volunteer driver. The van will pick us up from Old Colorado City and take us to the Craggs; then the van and driver will be at the summit to bring us back to our cars. Participants split the cost of the van rental. This worked well last time, and we'll do it again.



Approaching Devil's Playground at ~12,500'
(October 20, 2018)



~ Hike Ratings ~ How Are They Determined?

Several of you have asked about the mystery surrounding my hike rating system. As you know, every hike is rated 1-10 based on overall difficulty. But what goes into this number? Well, it's a combination of several factors. The most prominent factors are overall hike length and amount of climbing involved. However, there are other factors as well, such as altitude and terrain difficulty. For example, let's look at two hikes which are both rated a "7". The Mount Rosa climb is rated 7 because of the length of the hike (7+ miles) and high altitude (over 11,000 feet). The Mount Herman climb is also rated a 7, but it is shorter (6 miles) and takes place at lower elevation (7,000-9,000 feet). However, the climb is much steeper and more difficult. Both hikes balance out to an overall "7".

As you come out on hikes, you should get to know which ratings you can accomplish and set your schedule and goals appropriately. If you have issues with specific types of terrain (i.e. bad knees for going downhill), I encourage you to read the hike description in addition to the rating. Hike ratings are not set in stone, so let me know if you feel a hike has been underrated or overrated for difficulty.

RATINGS

Hikes are rated for difficulty based on overall distance, altitude, climbing involved, and terrain difficulty.

1-3: EASY - casual walks, can be attempted by most members

4-6: MODERATE - longer routes or with difficult terrain; for more experienced hikers

7-10: DIFFICULT - long hikes, usually involving lots of climbing; for fit and experienced hikers only

Hike Flyers

Each hike is advertised to club members in a standard flyer. This format has everything you need on one page. Here's how to navigate:

- 1. HEADING:** Hike name, date, and difficulty rating
- 2. PHOTOS:** Some preview photos of what you can expect to see
- 3. NARRATIVE:** Description, weather forecast, and if dogs are permitted
- 4. HIKE LINK:** Website to learn more about this hike or location
- 5. MEETING PLACE & TIME:** Where to meet (with map), usually with opportunity to carpool; depending on the location, some hikes have no designated meet-up point and everyone meets at the hike location. The bottom section includes directions if you decide to drive directly to the hike location.
- 6. WHAT TO BRING:** A simple checklist appropriate for this hike

Occasionally (not very often), the flyer may have a second page to provide additional directions or maps which may be helpful for that particular event.



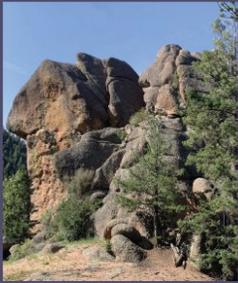
Mountain Trails Hiking Club

1 Lizard Rock Trail

Saturday, November 2, 2024

6

Rating





3

This will be a first-time hike for our club; I have heard about this trail for years, but never scheduled it until now. This is a nice 5.5-mile roundtrip hike up to the top of Lizard Rock and back down. The overall elevation gain is about 800 feet, and the hike includes a good mix of forests and great views. Please note that I didn't have a chance to preview this, so I will use the AllTrails app as our guide.

The weather will be good: sunny and temps in the 40s and 50s. Bring a jacket and maybe light gloves; dress in layers so you can be comfortable as you warm up. This should be a great hike to a new location, so don't miss it...see you Saturday!

Dog-Friendly? Yes

4

Location Details:
<https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7041197/lizard-rock-trail-628>

5

Meeting Place & Time

November 2 – 8:00 a.m.

**Woodman Park-and-Ride
Corner of Woodman & I-25**

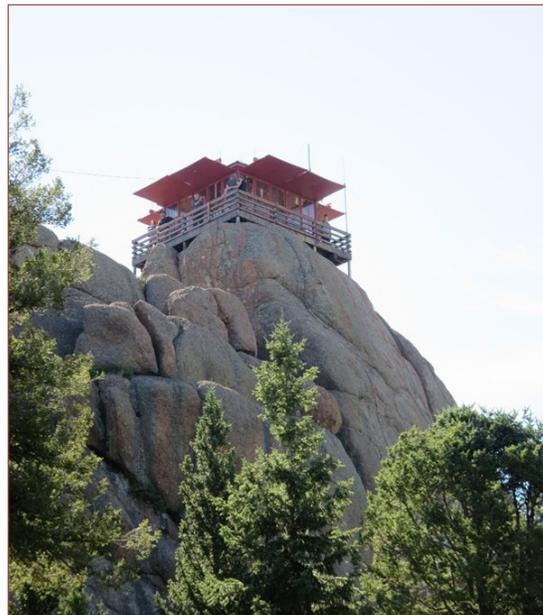
Meet in car pool lot, shown below:



6

If you drive directly to the hike:

From I-25, drive west on Highway 24 for 46 miles, going past Woodland Park and Divide. Just past Lake George, turn right on Tarryall Rd (Hwy 77). Drive about 13 miles and turn right at Spruce Grove Campground. Use the parking lot on the right immediately after making this turn. **Please be in place and ready to hike by 9:30 a.m.**



Non-Emergency Contact Information

AGENCY	CONTACT INFORMATION
Colorado Springs Police Department	Phone: (719) 444-7000 Web Site: http://www.springsgov.com
El Paso County Sheriff's Office	Phone: (719) 390-5555 Web Site: http://shr.elpasoco.com
Fountain Communications	Phone: (719) 382-8555 Web Site: http://www.ci.fountain.co.us
Fort Carson Military Police/Fire	Phone: (719) 526-5615 Web Site: http://www.carson.army.mil
Teller County Sheriff's Office	Phone: (719) 687-9652 Web Site: http://www.co.teller.co.us
Woodland Park Police Dept	Phone: (719) 687-9262 Web Site: http://www.city-woodlandpark.org
Cripple Creek Police Department	Phone: (719) 689-2655 Web Site: http://www.cripplecreekgov.com
Peterson AFB Security Police/Fire	Phone: (719) 556-4000 Web Site: http://www.peterson.af.mil



2026 HIKE SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- 07 (Sat) Dawson Butte - Manger Meadow Loop (Snowshoeing) [4]
- 15 (Sun) Mueller State Park - Elk View Loop (Snowshoeing) [5]
- 21 (Sat) Denver - Barr Lake State Park (Bald Eagle Nature Hike) [2]
- 28 (Sat) Breckenridge - Boreas Pass Road & Baker's Tank Trail* (Snowshoeing) [7]

MARCH

- 07 (Sat) Fountain Creek Nature Center + Willow Springs Pond Loop (Afternoon) [2]
- 14 (Sat) Canon City - Schepp Ridge Open Space [3]
- 29 (Sun) Stratton Open Space - Gold Camp & South Reservoir Loops (Afternoon) [4]

APRIL

- 04 (Sat) Lake Pueblo State Park - Voodoo Loop Trail [7]
- 11 (Sat) Great Sand Dunes National Park - Dunes Overlook + Zapata Falls* [4]
- 19 (Sun) Paint Mines Interpretive Trail (Afternoon) [3]
- 25 (Sat) Palmer Lake - Chautauqua Mountain + Balanced Rock Loop [7]

MAY

- 02 (Sat) Columbine Open Space - North and South Loops [2]
- 09 (Sat) Castle Rock - Gateway Mesa Open Space - Chuck's Loop & Legacy Trail [4]
- 16 (Sat) Stauton State Park - Elk Falls* [U-Lead-It] [7]
- 24 (Sun) High Chaparral Open Space [2]
- 30 (Sat) Pinerias Open Space [6]

JUNE

- 07 (Sun) Walsenburg - Lathrop State Park - Martin Lake + Hogback Nature Trail* [4]
- 13 (Sat) Monarch Pass - Old Monarch Pass Loop* [5]
- 20 (Sat) [U-Lead-It] [TBD]
- 27 (Sat) Monument Rock Trail [3]

JULY

- 05 (Sun) Castlewood Canyon State Park - East Canyon Preservation Trail [4]
- 11 (Sat) Cottonwood Pass - Cottonwood South Trail* [6]
- 19 (Sun) [U-Lead-It] [TBD]
- 25 (Sat) Wolf Creek Pass - Alberta Peak* [7]

AUGUST

- 01 (Sat) Bear Creek Nature Center + Mountain Scrub/Yellow Jacket Loop [5]
- 08 (Sat) Berthoud Pass - Colorado Mines Peak Trail* [8]
- 15 (Sat) Palmer Divide Trail [3]
- 29 (Sat) Eisenhower Tunnel Pass - Upper Straight Creek w/Golden Bear Summit* [9]

SEPTEMBER

- 05 (Sat) Independence Pass - Ridgeline Trail* [9]
- 13 (Sun) Cheyenne Mountain State Park - Cougar's Shadow [5]
- 19 (Sat) Pikes Peak Summit (from the Craggs Trail) [10]
- 26 (Sat) Grayback Peak [6]

OCTOBER

- 03 (Sat) Hoosier Pass - North Star Peak* [9]
- 11 (Sun) Horsethief Falls + Pancake Rocks [5/8]
- 17 (Sat) [U-Lead-It] [TBD]
- 24 (Sat) Cheesman Reservoir - Upper Cheesman Canyon Trail [6]
- 31 (Sat) Pueblo - Phelps Creek + Runyon Lake [3]

NOVEMBER

- 07 (Sat) Bennett Mountain [5]
- 14 (Sat) [U-Lead-It] (Afternoon) [TBD]
- 22 (Sun) Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Afternoon) [5]
- 28 (Sat) Aiken Canyon (Afternoon) [5]

DECEMBER

- 05 (Sat) Palmer Park - Palmer Park Ramble (Afternoon) [4]

KEY

BLACK indicates a standard hike.

BLUE indicates a Snowshoeing event.

RED indicates a Mountain-Climbing or Difficult High-Elevation event; no special gear required, but these are the more difficult hikes.

[U-Lead-It] hikes are placeholder dates for other club members to volunteer a location and lead a group hike; flyers/advertisement provided by club organizer.

* indicates a hike outside of the Pikes Peak region which may involve an early start and/or overnight stay (participants arrange their own travel and lodging)

NOTES

Schedule subject to change, especially for weather.

All hikes begin in the morning, except where noted on the schedule

Details of each hike, including meeting times and locations, will be sent a few days prior to each hike.

Dogs permitted on most hikes, exceptions noted on hike details--please keep dogs on leash at all times.

Please read Hiking Club Rules found in the club newsletter; know your own limits for hike difficulty.

Respect nature and each other--Have Fun!

RATINGS

Hike ratings are shown in brackets [] on each event. Hikes are rated for difficulty based on overall distance, altitude, climbing involved, and terrain difficulty.

1-3: EASY - casual walks, can be attempted by most members

4-6: MODERATE - longer routes or with difficult terrain; for more experienced hikers

7-10: DIFFICULT - long hikes, usually involving lots of climbing; for fit and experienced hikers only

FALL
COLORS!

Current as of: 1/31/2026