



PLAY LEARN EXPLORE PROTECT YOUTH RENEW



"BACKCOUNTRY CACHE"

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

March 2020

Issue 06-2020

KICKOFF SUCCESS

Within 18 hours of the 2020 Season BPX Trips Rollout

55% were "sold out"

Trips over-subscribed - 23%

Trips with 1 eligible sign-up spot left - 13%

Trips with 2-3 eligible sign-up spots left, (trip is likely 50% or more full) - 18%

Trips with more than 3 eligible sign-up spots left - 14%

Statistics compiled by Uwe Sartori

THANK YOU BPX LEADERS AND MEMBERS FOR
ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACING THESE OFFERINGS

"JOIN THE PACK"

TRIPS WITH REMAINING OPENINGS:

May

23 - Lost Creek Wilderness 3 Day Loop - 4 Slots

June

2 - Lost Creek Wilderness Goose Creek - 1 Slot

10 - Sandbeach Lake Fly Fishing & Hiking - 2 Slots

24 - Ute Trail Gunnison Gorge Wilderness - 1 Slot

July

11 - Commanche Venable Lakes Sangre de Cristo Wilderness - 3 Slots

23 - Avalanche Lake MaroonBells Wilderness - 2 Slots

27 - Devils Causeway Flattops Wilderness - 1 Slot

28 - Rogers Pass Lake James Peak Wilderness - 5 Slots

29 - Nolan Lake Holy Cross Wilderness - 2 Slots

August

3 - Turquoise Lake Holy Cross Wilderness - 5 Slots

5 - Upper Cataract Lake Eagles Nest Wilderness - 5 Slots

10 - Spring Creek LaGarita Wilderness - 4 Slots

12 - Half Moon Pass Collegiate Peaks Wilderness - 3 Slots

25 - Powderhorn Lakes Powderhorn Wilderness - 4 Slots

25 - McCurdy Park Lost Creek Wilderness- 6 Slots

September

3 - Blue Lakes San Juan Wilderness - 4 Slots

4 - Lost Lake Rocky Mountain National Park - 2 Slots

5 - Devils Causeway Flattops Wilderness - 2 Slots

8 - Trappers Traverse Flattops Wilderness - 2 Slots

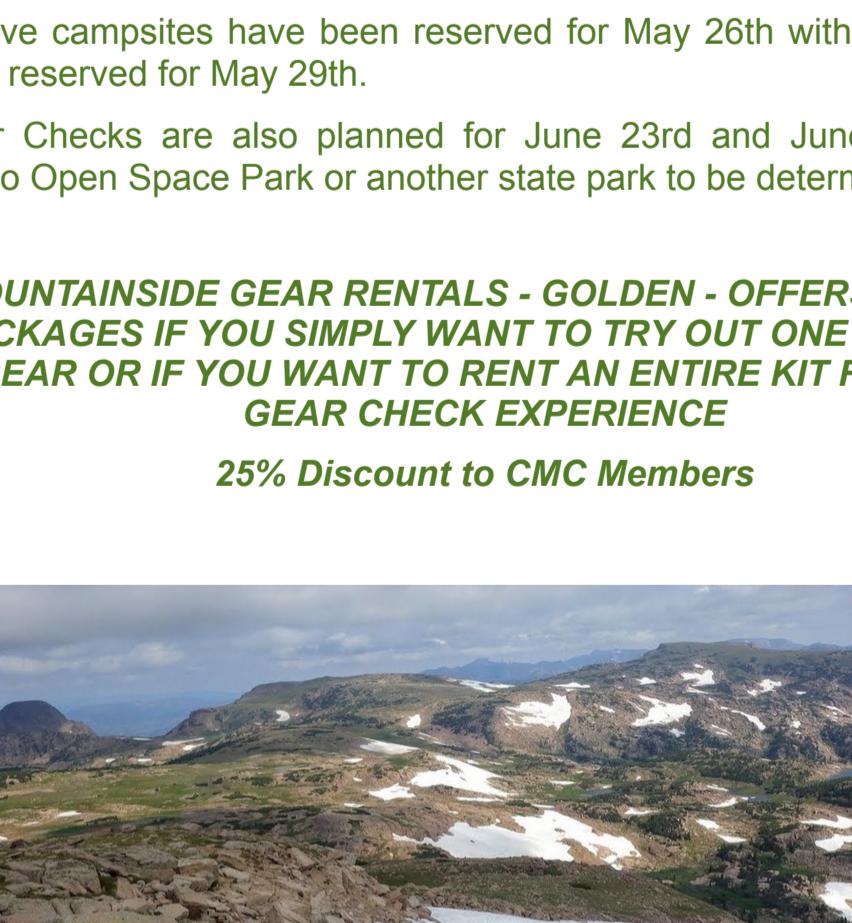
16 - Willow & Salmon Lakes Eagles Nest Wilderness - 4 Slots

Coming Soon

Grover Cleveland, Trails Committee Chair, is joining with BPX to offer three Conservation Mapping trips in Lost Creek Wilderness. All are one-night or two-night trips. Work will include measurement of existing and proposed camping sites, primitive camp site assessment, GPS marking of social trails, use of USFS Field Phone App. Contact Uwe Sartori at CMCBPXTLC@gmail.com if you are interested in leading one of these trips.

Over 950 MEMBERS heeded our slogan "Join the Pack" as of March 16, 2020

THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A BPX MEMBER



Avalanche Lake

Photo Credit: Bob Watkins

BPX GEAR CHECKS

How many months has it been since you've seen your tent or your filtration device?

Did you read Backpacker Magazine's Gear Issue and want to try one of their recommendations?

Or, are you new to backpacking and want to see what gear others use?

Think a Gear Check is unnecessary? Read Cheryl Harmel's tale of...

It was a dark and stormy night....

Gear shakedowns (or Gear Checks if you prefer) are an easy and low risk opportunity to test your backpacking equipment, and they are FUN, or so I thought until "it was a dark and stormy night".

Our CMC group of seven arrived at White Ranch in the early afternoon and hiked a few miles in to some beautiful treed campsites. My goal for this Gear Shakedown was to go as light as possible by trying a bivy sack with trash bags as a tarp, replacing my six-pound, double tent from days gone by. The skies remained clear as group members started dinner prep offering a buffet of new backpacking foods. My trash bag bivy tarp was more than enough "new" for me so I stayed with my boring couscous.

The clouds came rolling in about dusk. I was excited about trying out my light weight, cozy bivy sack. All was well until the rain started pouring down. Thunder, Lightning, Wind - my black trash bag tarp collapsed in a wet heap onto my bivy sack.

Whoops...

Then hail started, and the storm lasted for what seemed like hours and hours. My legs felt every hail stone. I was thinking of rushing into my friend's tent or even trying to put the tarp back up, but then I realized that opening the bivy sack in the rain would result in a rain soaked sleeping bag.

So, I spent one miserable night in the trash bag covered bivy sack, then had a short hike out in the morning with my wet equipment on my hail-bruised legs.

I am so happy I did not try out the bivy sack on a multi-day backpack. Others in the group found that their tents kept them dry, but one camper's zipper malfunctioned and she spent the dark and stormy night holding her tent fly shut with cold, cramped hands. Another camper broke a tent pole when setting up a new tent for the first time.

I backpacked the rest of the year with my old seven-pound tent, then bought a new 2.5 pound Quarter Dome tent. I tested the Quarter Dome tent at the next year's Gear Shakedown where it withstood the elements.

Sign me up for the gear shakedown next year and every year - especially if it is going to be a dark and stormy night.

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Cheryl Harmel is a CMC Denver member who revels in hiking, skiing, backpacking, and Adventure Travel trips since joining in 2013. If she's not on the trail, she's cycling.

BPX Gear Checks are open for registration. Two Gear Checks to be held at Cherry Creek State Park midweek May 26th and on the weekend May 29th. Each Gear Check is real - or as real as it can be at a busy state park. At least you'll get a new air mattress or a chance to try out something new. Said to be a great time for a new backpacking gear purchase.

Twelve campsites have been reserved for May 26th with twenty-four sites reserved for May 29th.

Gear Checks are also planned for June 23rd and June 26th at a Jeffco Open Space Park or another state park to be determined.

MOUNTAINSIDE GEAR RENTALS - GOLDEN OFFERS PLENTY OF GEAR OR IF YOU WANT TO RENT AN ENTIRE KIT FOR THE GEAR CHECK EXPERIENCE

25% Discount to CMC Members

Photo credit: Annie LeGrand

Mount Ethel

All CMC Events, including schools, have been canceled until further notice as a result of the Corona Virus pandemic. There are a few BPX trips scheduled in May; we hope by then the moratorium on travel and gatherings will be lifted.

Want your great backpacking photo featured? Send it to CMCBPXTLC@gmail.com with your name, location and date. We will feature it in our Backcountry Cache Newsletter.

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually. Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, events and more.

JOIN

Photo credit: Annie LeGrand

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