



## Mile High Mountaineer

April 2026

### CMC Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Each year, the CMC proudly presents several awards to members of our community who go above and beyond to give back to our wild places, mentor the next generation of mountaineers, or volunteer their time to make the CMC even better in the future.

Join us on the patio from 5 pm-6 pm for light beverages, food, music, fire pits, and mingling. Catering by Campfire Cuisine with live cooking over a firebox is something to look forward to!

The ceremony will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Make sure to submit your nomination here for the 2026 Carl Blaurock and 2026 Gudy Gaskill awards. [Submit Nominations Here!](#)



### Wilderness Survival School - 2026

Wilderness Survival School is developed to give you the essential skills, self-confidence, and hands-on experience enabling you to stay safe and dramatically improve your chances of survival during an unexpected night or unplanned stay in the wilderness.

#### Course Objectives:

Build foundational survival competence by teaching core skills such as shelter construction, fire starting, hypothermia prevention, navigation awareness, and managing survival-related emergencies.

Develop sound judgment and proactive decision-making through instruction in planning, preparation, risk reduction, and maintaining a resilient psychological state during unexpected wilderness challenges.

Enhance the ability to be found and rescued by practicing effective communication, signaling techniques, and strategies for increasing visibility and facilitating a successful rescue.

Utilize the latest technology for backcountry communications and navigation to decrease your chances of getting lost and to coordinate a rapid rescue in the event of an emergency.

Course Agenda:

Three lecture sessions held at the CMC Basecamp in Golden, CO from 7:00 PM to, no later than, 9:30 PM

May 14, 2026

May 21, 2026

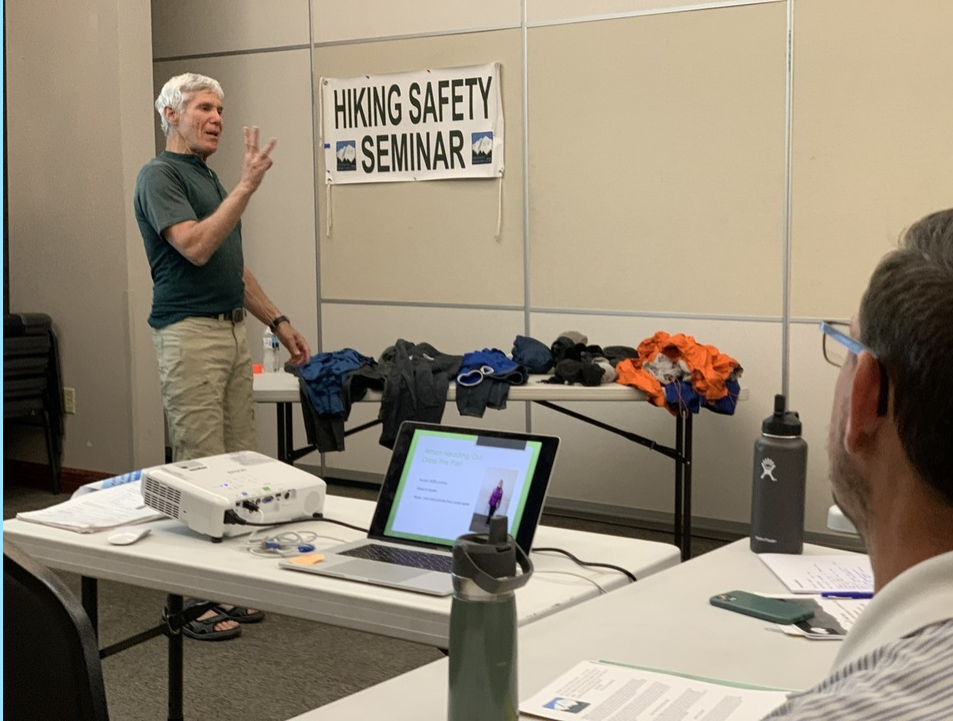
May 28, 2026

Overnight Field Event (all day Saturday and return Sunday after breakfast)

June 27 & 28, 2026

School registration opens March 23, 2026, at this weblink: [Wilderness Survival School - 2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club](#)

For more information or questions, please contact the school director, Ben Smith at [ben.smith.cmc@outlook.com](mailto:ben.smith.cmc@outlook.com)



## Hiking Safety Seminar

Recently, the Society for Academic Medicine reported a dramatic increase in backcountry Search and Rescue incidents. A landmark study by Colorado Parks and Wildlife confirms Colorado leads the nation in SAR rescues. Wilderness safety researchers increasingly call for all backcountry hikers to complete a hiking safety class.

This spring, the Denver Group of CMC celebrates the tenth anniversary of offering intensive hiking safety seminars. These one-night classes will be offered on March 25, April 29, May 27, or June 24 at the CMC Basecamp building. Course material has been deeply researched and contains up to date cutting edge material. The classes are taught by welcoming instructors with years of backcountry experience. The classes receive excellent participant reviews.

Content includes wild animal encounters, avoiding getting lost (and how to survive if you do), dangerous mountain weather and lightning, escaping forest fires, safety gear to carry, communicating with SAR, etc. The ten essentials required for CMC hikes will be demonstrated.

Classes are \$10 for members. Guests are welcome for \$15.

For more detail and to register, go to [CMC.org](http://CMC.org) then to Calendar.

## Backcountry Incident Management School

Backcountry incidents and emergencies often unfold amid



stress, confusion, and disorder, and can escalate rapidly without clear decision-making and coordinated action; the CMC's Backcountry Incident Management School (BIMS) helps participants develop and refine the skills needed to effectively respond in these situations. Open to all CMC members, the school is especially vital for CMC Trip Leaders, who carry additional responsibilities for leadership, coordination, and the safety of their groups.



This year, Backcountry Incident Management School is being offered in three locations: CMC Basecamp (Golden), Fort Collins, and Boulder. Please select the class that works best for your schedule and location. Registration for each class opens 3 months before the class date.

**Denver Group Classes:**

May 30, 2026 [Backcountry Incident Management School](#) - Denver - May

2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club

August 8, 2026 [Backcountry Incident Management School](#) - Denver - August 2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club

September 12, 2026 [Backcountry Incident Management School](#) - Denver - September 2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club

**NoCo Group Class:**

July 25, 2026 [Backcountry Incident Management School](#) - Northern Colorado - July 2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club

**Boulder Group Class:**

August 29, 2026 [Backcountry Incident Management School](#) - Boulder - August 2026 — The Colorado Mountain Club

An incident or emergency in the backcountry can be a stressful, confusing, and chaotic situation that can become worse when questionable decisions are taken, or activities are not coordinated and controlled.

Trip Leaders carry a special responsibility to provide guidance and leadership in our groups. When the unexpected happens, a Trip Leader needs to be ready to step up, organize and execute group actions to help ensure the best possible outcome. A key requirement in leading trips is Wilderness First Aid, which is extremely valuable, yet limited in knowing and practicing the full set of skills to manage an incident.

For anyone seeking an opportunity to review, practice, and strengthen the skills required to effectively manage an unexpected backcountry incident, Backcountry Incident Management School is designed to meet those needs.

This one-day course provides you with the opportunity to learn and understand the key roles necessary to effectively organize and manage a backcountry incident. More importantly, it will provide a realistic, hands-on Backcountry Incident Management experience, intended to minimize any unintended consequences of a medical or other backcountry emergency by employing specific skills and techniques. Throughout the day you will become more comfortable with the end-to-end incident management process. Lastly, with some effort and a desire to learn, you'll leave the class more knowledgeable and confident in leading a group during a chaotic, confusing, and stressful situation.

This class is open to all CMC members, with a prerequisite requirement being a current Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification.

Please consider spending a day to develop and practice a set of skills and techniques that can make a major positive impact in a backcountry incident.

## Rich McAdams Schools Fund

**Rich McAdams was an acclaimed Colorado mountaineer, a longtime CMC volunteer educator, and a past director of multiple CMC schools.**

Financial endowment available for CMC schools: The Colorado Mountain Club Foundation has received a multi-year endowment from Rich McAdams to be used for CMC schools, courses, and seminars.

The money from this fund is to be used for the needs of CMC courses, instructors, and students.

The Fund will be replenished annually, and each year's allocation will be given to schools with an effort to ensure all schools statewide receive equal consideration.

Is your school in need of new gear? Do you have a wish list of equipment you wish you had? Would you like to honor your instructors with top-notch gifts or a celebratory gathering? Would you like to provide training to your instructors that otherwise might not fit into your budget? Although the annual endowment is limited, all CMC Schools statewide are eligible, and any reasonable request will be considered.

**Please send requests to: [info@cmcfoundation.net](mailto:info@cmcfoundation.net)**

## Join The Denver Group Council

What the Denver Group Council Does — and Why You Should Join!

The Denver Group Council is the leadership team that supports and guides the Colorado Mountain Club's Denver Group, the largest and most active group in the CMC. We connect members with opportunities to explore, learn, and lead in the outdoors, while making sure courses, trips, and community programs thrive. The Council works closely with committees, volunteers, and the state organization to keep things running smoothly—from approving new

classes and supporting instructors, to fostering inclusivity, conservation, and a strong member community.

Serving on the Council is a rewarding way to give back to the outdoor community while shaping the future of the CMC. You'll gain leadership experience, meet passionate outdoor enthusiasts, and have a direct impact on the experiences members enjoy every season. Whether your strengths are in communication, event planning, DEI, or big-picture strategy, there's a place for you on the Council.

If you care about the outdoors, want to build community, and are looking for a meaningful way to contribute, consider joining the Denver Group Council—we'd love to have your voice at the table!

If interested, email: [cmcdgcc@gmail.com](mailto:cmcdgcc@gmail.com)

## Denver Group Contacts

### COUNCIL

Denver Group Council  
*Meets Monthly, 2nd Tuesday (usually)*

### COMMITTEES

Leadership Committee

Schools Committee

Conservation & Trails Committee

Member Initiatives Committee

### SECTIONS

Adventure Travel

Ascending Hikes

Backpacking

Bobcats

Fly Fishing

Over the Hill Gang (RMOTHG)

Photography

## Call for Submissions

Have an item you'd like included in a future Mile High Mountaineer newsletter?

**The next deadline is the first Sunday of the month.** Guidelines:

- Articles should be 200 words or less, **OR** submitted as a PDF
- MHM editor reserves the right to determine what's included in the newsletter and edit submissions for clarity and length
- Photo submissions are welcome, but please include a photo credit and caption
- Submissions must be relevant to the Denver Group of the CMC and/or its members; paid advertisements are not accepted.

Please send submissions to: [cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com).

Questions, comments, or submissions? E-mail [cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com).

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