



COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

DENVER GROUP

Mile High Mountaineer

February 2026

FLY FISHING SCHOOL

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Equipment: rod, reel, line, leader, flies, waders
- Fly casting, knots, and rigging
- Fish behavior and reading the water
- Aquatic bugs and choosing the right flies

**DATES: APRIL 13
TO MAY 9, 2026**

**REGISTER NOW
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**





ACS 2026 SCHEDULE

Class	Location	Session A	Session B	Session C
Orientation / Risk Management Lecture	CMC Auditorium, Golden, 6-9pm	Mar-4	Mar-4	Mar-4
Nav 2 Lecture / Trip Planning / Gear and Packing / Caltop	Zoom, 6-9pm	Mar-18	Mar-18	Mar-18
Nav 2 Field Day	Decker's Area	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-22
Int Snow Lecture / Winter Backcountry Travel / Mountain Weather	Zoom, 6-9pm	Apr-1	Apr-1	Apr-1
Int Snow Field	St Mary's Glacier	Apr-4	Apr-11	Apr-11
Int Rock/Rescue 1/Anchors Lecture 1	CMC Wall & Lobby + Conf A, Golden, 6-9pm	Apr-14	Apr-20	Apr-21
Int Rock/Rescue 1/Anchors Lecture 2	CMC Wall & Lobby + Conf A, Golden, 6-9pm	Apr-16	Apr-22	Apr-23
Int Rock/Anchors/Rescue Field Day 1 (A & B)	Castlewood Canyon, Grocery Store Wall	Apr-18	Apr-25	
Int Rock/Anchors/Rescue Field Day 2 (A & B)	Castlewood Canyon, Grocery Store Wall	Apr-19	Apr-26	
Int Rock/Anchors/Rescue Field Day 1 (C)	Boulder Canyon, Nip & Tuck			Apr-25
Int Rock/Anchors/Rescue Field Day 2 (C)	Boulder Canyon, Nip & Tuck			Apr-26
Adv Snow Lecture, SAR	Zoom, 6-9pm	Apr-29	Apr-29	Apr-29
Adv Snow Field Day	Winter Park	May-2	May-2	May-2

Plus team trips: Ridge Climb, Couloir Climb, High Peak Grad Climb, Rock Climb

Alpine Climbing School

As a recent graduate of Wilderness Trekking School, you are well-positioned to continue your mountain education. Registration for Alpine Climbing School can be found [here](#).

The prerequisites for taking Alpine Climbing School are:

Proven backcountry experience
Wilderness Trekking School or Waiver
Day Hiker School
Backpacking School
Navigation 1 (or completion of Wilderness Trekking School)
Basic Rock or Waiver (next class is March 26)

The program will include the following classes:

Navigation 2 (Intermediate Map & Compass)
Intermediate Rock
Basic Anchors
Rock Rescue Level 1
Intermediate Snow (basic snow travel using ice axe and crampons, self-arrest)
Advanced Snow (snow anchors, int/adv snow travel techniques)

In addition to the classes above, students will complete the following trips/graduation climbs to demonstrate the skills learned.

Ridge Climb
Couloir Climb
High Peak Grad Climb
Rock Climbing day

We'll be offering 3 sessions of our Team Track this year, including a Womens+ team. Please see the calendar below for dates.

Alpine Climbing School

One of the largest membership draws for the CMC is the reliable and affordable education we offer each year in mountain safety and technical climbing skills. The Alpine Climbing School (ASC) is a prime example. One of our biggest and most classic technical climbing education programs, the Alpine Climbing School, has served more than 1000 students over its 40+ year history in the CMC.

Though it has changed over the years and is regularly updated to stay current, the goals of the course remain the same - to familiarize climbers with the skills and experience necessary to plan and execute snow and rock climbing trips safely in Colorado's beautiful and varied mountains.

What we teach:

The Alpine Climbing School is both tremendous fun and an important course for anyone interested in technical climbing in the mountains. True alpine climbs are rarely single-trick events and are often unpredictable. **Having a varied skill set is essential to safety and success in the alpine.**

For that reason, ACS covers a broader curriculum than many programs and provides an opportunity to see how skills like navigation, trip planning, snow travel, rope management,

anchor building, and team dynamics come together when tackling an alpine objective.

Whether you take the extremely fun **Team Track** or complete the course as a series of **independent modules**, you will have opportunities to broaden your experience, meet climbers with similar interests, and develop the skills necessary to take more advanced courses offered by the CMC.

ACS students come into the course with varied backgrounds, experience levels, and expectations. Though the curriculum is structured and standardized, we shape each team's ACS experience around the strengths and personal development goals of the students.

Technical Climbing Schools

For more information on other classes we offer in the Technical Climbing Schools program, visit our [Mountaineering & Alpinism](#) and [Rock Climbing](#) pages.

Feel free to reach out to sheryl.lampert@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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 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:

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.



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

Telemark Ski School

The Telemark Ski School - Denver Group has over 40 years of providing quality instruction to hundreds of students from all over Colorado and beyond! We help beginner, intermediate, and advanced-level telemark skiers learn and/or improve their telemark skiing skills. The 2026 Telemark Ski School (TSS) offers 3 separate Sunday sessions, one in January and two in February; all sessions are at Loveland Ski Area. We begin each session by grouping you with others of like ability and assigning you your instructor for the day. The second and third TSS sessions in February may find you in a higher-level class, dependent on your practice and improvement from session to session. The best way to use the School is to take at least two of the Sunday sessions and practice in between. But taking all three is even better! This is YOUR year for telemark skiing—come join the fun! For more information or questions answered, contact Marilyn Choske, Co-Director, at 303-905-8510 before 9 pm or mjchoske@gmail.com.



Wilderness Trekking School - Starts April 7

Hiking may not be as easy as it looks! Do you know all you need for staying found, for braving Colorado's rapidly changing weather, for handling an emergency? Wilderness Trekking School (WTS) is for all – whether you want to bag a few 14ers – OR – want to enjoy the scenery. WTS is a comprehensive course on day hiking in the mountains, with no prerequisites. If you're new to hiking, WTS provides the opportunity to learn how to travel safely and confidently in the backcountry. If you're an experienced hiker, WTS gives you a chance to review and enhance your skills, and possibly to fill in some gaps. It is also a great introduction to the Colorado Mountain Club and a place to meet new friends. Student ages range from 18 to 80, with about half under 40. WTS is a prerequisite for Backpacking School, Alpine Scrambling Course, and Technical Climbing Schools.

The course consists of streaming videos on your own, five Tuesday night in-person small group meetings (with a possible Zoom option), five field days, and weekly homework (yes, really!). Students are divided into groups of 8-11 people, based on preferred field day, with consideration as possible for fitness level.

The curriculum includes safe backcountry travel techniques and opportunity to practice them in a supportive environment. Students plan and complete a graduation hike with their field group. WTS is a great place to learn and practice new skills, make new friends, and become a safer, more confident backcountry traveler. Tuition is \$170 until 1 week before class, \$190 on and after Tuesday, March 31. Registration opens Tuesday, January 13.

For more information, including a complete schedule of lectures and field trips and enrollment instructions, please visit our website at [Wilderness Trekking School](#), or search “wts denver” on CMC.org. Information is also available by calling the CMC office at 303-279-3080.

“This course is way beyond what I thought it was going to be - it has challenged me physically and emotionally (I have overcome many fears).” –WTS Student

“I thought I came into the class with a lot of knowledge, but I learned far more than I expected!” –WTS Student

Sign
Up
Now!

CMC + AIARE

The Club is part of the American Avalanche Association (A3) Recognized Provider Network. This means that The Colorado Mountain Club meets A3 Risk Management Standards for inclusion in the A3 Recognized Provider Network. This approval reflects a mature, well-documented, and consistently applied approach to avalanche education risk management that aligns with industry best practices and A3 expectations.

Looking to take an avalanche education course with CMC? Register for one of the upcoming courses:

AIARE L1, January 13-15, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$595)

AIARE L1, January 16-18, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$595)

AIARE L1, February 6-8, 2026 (Berthoud Pass)(\$595)

AIARE L1, March 6-8, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$595)

AIARE L1 , March 13-15, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$595)

AIARE L1, April 10-12, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$595)

AIARE Avalanche Rescue January 31, 2026 (Berthoud Pass) (\$165)

[Learn More & Register Here!](#)

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

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.

Questions, comments, or submissions? E-mail cmcdgnewsletter@gmail.com.

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