



# COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

## DENVER GROUP

### Mile High Mountaineer

July 2026



### Denver Group Council End of Summer Party!

Denver Group Council is proud to host an end-of-summer party for members! We will have food and drink provided. The climbing wall will be open, with some competitions and prizes!

**THIS FRIDAY, July 31, 2026**

**[Register HERE!](#)**

Chair CMCF Fellowship Committee: Paula E. Cushing, Ph.D.

*Senior Curator, Invertebrate Zoology; Secretary, American Arachnological Society; Press Officer, American Arachnological Society*

The Colorado Mountain Club Foundation (CMCF) is pleased to announce its 2026 Fellowship

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stewardship, conservation, education, and other programs of the CMC and similar organizations. Each year, the Foundation solicits applications from undergraduate and graduate students whose research is focused on the Rocky Mountain region and supports the CMCF mission.

This year CMCF received 29 applications and presented 12 awards. The top four outstanding applicants were awarded a named fellowship of \$2,000; other worthy applicants received grants of \$500.

Congratulations to the recipients of CMCF Fellowships and Grants:

Complete list is at <https://cmcfoundationco.org/2026-fellowship-award-recipients/>.

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Peter Billman, PhD student at the University of Connecticut, received a \$2,000 Gerstle Fellowship for his project, “Community-level responses of two iconic Rocky Mountain mammals to an unprecedented snow drought.”

Charlie Oliver, PhD student at the University of Colorado-Boulder, received a \$2,000 Gehres Fellowship for his project, “Investigating the microbiome of disappearing alpine glaciers in the Front Range of Colorado.”

Samuel Pierce, PhD student at Stanford University, received a \$2,000 Kindig Fellowship for his project “Investigating the chemistry of beaver-engineered wetlands under extreme drought conditions.”

Jacob Watts, PhD student at the University of Colorado Boulder, received a \$2,000 Ossinger Fellowship for his project, “A Field Guide to the Lichens of the Colorado Front Range.”

Rachel Billings, PhD student at the University of Colorado Boulder, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Acoustic fingerprinting and genetic characterization of the American pika for individual identification.”

Canyon Bourque, Bachelor of Science student at Murray State University, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Evaluating restoration success of boreal toad populations in North Pole Basin, Gunnison County, Colorado.”

Katja Kochvar, PhD student at Princeton University, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Territories offer a window into the breeding dynamics of a hummingbird in decline.”

Ainsley Nystrom, PhD student at Montana State University, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Do higher carbohydrate levels increase environmental stress resistance in four Rocky Mountain conifers?”

Baylee Olds, PhD student at the University of Utah, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Informing location-specific forest management strategies by quantifying the spatial variability in snowpack vapor loss across vegetation and topography.”

Travis Rainey, PhD student at Colorado State University, received a \$500 grant for his project, “Mountains in motion: genetic connectivity of ecosystem-serving squirrels facing climate change in the Southern Rocky Mountains.”

Katie Riesberg, Master of Science student at Western Colorado University, received a \$500 grant for he project, “Assessing the effects of native plant seeding and soil amendments on plant community composition and biodiversity within subalpine ski ecosystems.”

Stavi Tennenbaum, PhD student at Princeton University, received a \$500 grant for her project, “Phenological shifts and physiological costs of seasonal climate change in yellow-bellied marmots (*Marmota flaviventer*).”

## Join the BPX Committee!

BPX is looking for that special member who not only loves backpacking but gets a kick out of volunteering. We are interviewing for Committee Chair, Trip Leader Coordinator and Events/Social Media Coordinator. The BPX Committee meets monthly via Zoom and holds 3-4 in-person events each year. Volunteer hours average less than eight hours a month. The BPX section is now in its 6th season delivering high-quality programming, and now the Committee needs "YOU" to keep it going and growing.

Please contact Louise Campbell-Blair, Chair, BPX Backpacking Committee to chat about these opportunities at [lcampbellblair@hotmail.com](mailto:lcampbellblair@hotmail.com). Join us and be part of a great team!

## Upcoming Trail Maintenance Days

Give back to the trails that give us so much! Our Trails and Conservation team has organized the following trail work days. Link to register included.

August 8th - [Guanella Pass](#)

August 22nd - [Guanella Pass](#)

September TBD



## Wilderness Trekking School Starts Sept. 8, 2026

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

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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 given to fitness level where possible.

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 August 31, \$190 on and after Tuesday, September 1. Registration opens Tuesday July 7.

For more information, including a complete schedule of lectures and field trips and enrollment instructions, please visit our website at [Wilderness Trekking School](https://www.wilderness-trekking-school.org), 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*



## 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



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

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.

## 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](#)

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## Call for Submissions

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

**The next deadline is the 3rd Friday 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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