



Mile High Mountaineer

March 2026



Thank You, 2026 Telemark Ski School Instructors!

The 2026 Telemark Ski School offered 3 instruction sessions in January and February, and we taught telemark skiing skills to over 40 students (again) this year! Our sincere appreciation goes out to these dedicated, talented, and

enthusiastic Volunteer Instructors who teach and encourage our students to higher levels of telemark skiing! Jim Kennedy Stephanie Porter Rob Scheinman Joel Sobol Matt Stevens Rick Tronvig Larry Utter John Davis (3rd-year) Rob Osterberg (2nd-year) Paul Doak, Co-Director Marilyn Choske, Co-Director



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

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!**





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:

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.



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



Alpine Scrambling School Applications Open!

Looking to expand your skills to class 3 and 4 scrambling? Apply for Denver's Alpine Scrambling Course (ASC)! Alpine scrambling is unroped climbing over rocky, mountainous, and exposed terrain. This exhilarating sport offers numerous rewards and comes with inherent risks. Throughout this course, students will learn how to plan, prepare for, and participate in scrambling while mitigating risk. After completing this course, students should feel confident in their ability to continue developing skills safely and competently.

The course consists of 2 in-person lectures and one online lecture, one snow skills field day, one scramble skills field day, and up to three scrambles, each progressing in difficulty (including some fun 14er routes). Prerequisites include completion of the Wilderness Trekking School or Backpacking School, or equivalent experience, and a high level of fitness to complete routes up to 10 miles with up to 3500ft of elevation gain, mostly off-trail.

The application process has two steps:

- Complete the Online Course Application
- Wait for confirmation of your acceptance into the course, then register for the course via the website (enroll/pay tuition).

Learn more: <https://www.cmc.org/groups-sections/front-range-groups/denver/course-templates/alpine-scrambling-school/alpine-scrambling-course-denver-2026>

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.

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