



Mile High Mountaineer

May 2026



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.

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

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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