



Mile High Mountaineer

November 2025

Today is Colorado Gives Day!

Consider a donation to the [Colorado Mountain Club](#) or the [Colorado Mountain Club Foundation](#) to continue supporting our amazing staff and volunteers who provide amazing outdoor education!

Denver Group Information

Heading 9/30/2025 11/12/2025

Membership 3541

Revenue

A Event Revenue	\$ 4,659.56
A Membership Dues	\$ 11,413.00
A Other Income	\$ 5,489.37
A School Tuition	\$ 139,400.91
A Section Income - Dues	\$ 26,780.00
Total	\$ 187,742.84

Expenses

B Bank Fees	\$ 6,903.01
B Event Expense	\$ 23,275.79
B Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 578.57
B Permit Fees	\$ 733.88
B Room Expense	\$ 2,995.96
B Scholarship Expense	\$ 4,986.00
B School Expense	\$ 35,015.65
B Section Expense	\$ 2,472.68
B Staff Salaries	\$ 50,551.00
B Volunteer Recognition	\$ 17,282.54
B Website Expense	\$ 899.78
Total	\$ 145,694.86

Net cash flow \$ 42,047.98

Denver Group Council Year-End Financials

Per the DGC charter, we need to share the financials with the group annually. Please reach out if you have any questions about this data.

Denver Group

Outstanding Volunteer

Recognition 2025

Denver Group Council and Denver Group Leadership Committee want to give a special thank you and acknowledgment to a group of volunteers that contributed significant time and expertise to ensure the continued success of CMC Denver Group in 2024-2025.

The below list of these outstanding volunteers consist of trip leaders that led numerous trips exceeding averages by most trip leaders. Further, the list includes volunteers that may not have been recognized enough in the past yet without their on-going support "behind the scenes"

Denver Group and CMC would not have been as successful. These folks include School Directors, Mentor Leaders, Section Chairs, Denver Group Council members, as well as members of the various special Denver Group Committees.



Please give special thanks the next time you see any of the following

Denver Group 2025 Remarkable Leaders

Wayne Howell

Jose Pacheco

Tim Lane

Sheryl Lampert

Dorothea Frohner

Robbie Monsma

Jim Guerra

Gregory McVie

Michael McMahon

Marianne Curtis

Ed Cotgageorge

Nathan Neff

Michael O'Connor

Abbie Gentry

Suzanne Dysard

Louise Campbell-Blair

Joe Carbone

Stan Moore

Kirsten Tollefsen

Erika May

Linda Lawson

Tim Dodge

Urszula Tyl

Robert Barday

Rachel Miedema

Norm Arlt

Carroll Steger

Carol Munch

Jeanne Eiss

Annamari Dietrichson

Scott Kramer

Rachel Dobrotn

Jeffrey Speake

Jean Hart

Brian Le Blanc

Valerie Garrison

Russell Peterson

Patrick McKinley

Linda Jagger

Kimberly Thornberry

Jeff Roberts

Jason Orr

Ian Berkland

Cheryl Harmel

Suzanne Allexan McClain

Ken Ruiz

Danielle Piscatelli

Craig Townsend

Christopher Larson

Steve Bonowski

Roger J. Wendell

Kevin Schaal

Genna Morton

Frank Burzynski

Sandy Heise

Matt Leiphart

Gyorgy Kereszti

Steve Billig

Lisa Shroyer

Joe Kelly

Jerry Rowe

Martha Mustard

Kevin Galliers

Jennifer Bealer

David Swenson

Laurence Hoess

Kathy Crawford

Steve Wolf

Scott Johnson

Peter Torosian

LeAnn Donovan

Kirsten Polley

John Lindner

Joe Griffith

Jim Kennedy

Jeff Flax

Jamie Simpson

Eric Esswein

Brian Keleher

Art Hogling

Anna Liao

Brian LeBlanc

Nicholas Ibarluzea

Additionally, on October 18th a Denver Group Remarkable Leader Recognition event was held at CMC Base Camp where Outstanding Leadership lapel pins* were given to all Remarkable Leaders, and special Recognition Certificates were awarded to those that exceeded all expectations.

Wayne Howell

Jose Pacheco

Tim Lane

Sheryl Lampert

Dorothea Frohner

Robbie Monsma

Jim Guerra

Michael McMahon

Louise Campbell-Blair

Urszula Tyl

Rachel Miedema

Carroll Steger

* If you are on the above Denver Group 2025 Remarkable Leaders list, but have not received your Outstanding Volunteer lapel pin you can pick up your pin from Mary Bradley at CMC Base Camp.

A Reminder from CAIC & the CMC Avalanche Education Team: Responsible Trip Planning

Written by Krista Beyer, Colorado Avalanche Information Center

"Luck favors the prepared," echoes in the back of my mind as I survey the chaos of a poorly executed kitchen experiment. It's 10:30 PM, and my roommate is elbow-deep in a pot of homemade mole sauce for tomorrow's post-tour potluck. I know they're a fan of safety and preparation, so why are they asking how to rehydrate chiles instead of planning their backcountry tour?

It happens to everyone. Life gets busy. We run out of time. What happens next is a slow slide into cutting corners and skipping steps to save on time.

In the world of backcountry safety, cutting corners cannot happen. Backcountry accidents are rarely (if ever) the result of a single mistake but a series of actions to relax safety standards that unwittingly lead to calamity. The foundation of these safety standards begins in the planning phase with your group, reading the forecast, planning your route, and discussing emergency protocols.

Your Group

You can't know where you're going in the backcountry until you know who you're going with. Checking in with your group and encouraging honest and open conversations during the planning process lays the foundation for open communication throughout the tour. Critical things to discuss while planning your trip include individual and group goals, equipment and people's familiarity with their equipment, skill levels, rescue skills, and risk tolerance. If two people have different goals, risk tolerance, or experience levels, an honest conversation helps set expectations and prevent misunderstandings or confusion while on the tour.

Part of trip planning involves packing the appropriate gear for your trip. This includes rescue equipment, communication devices, first aid, warm clothing, and a map of the area.

The Forecast

Checking the forecast includes both the avalanche forecast and the weather forecast. Responsible planning involves digging below the surface and looking beyond the home pages of avalanche and weather service websites to understand both what's been happening and what's forecast for where you plan to travel. Review the avalanche problems, the avalanche discussion, and local observations. When looking at the weather, use local weather station observations to assess wind direction, temperatures, and recent snowfall amounts. In addition, hourly weather forecasts can help you anticipate weather and visibility changes that could affect avalanche conditions or navigation. All of these tools are designed to give you digestible information specific to your area so you can make informed decisions about your trip in both the planning phase and while in the field.

The avalanche forecast provides information in layers, starting with a map that displays the general danger level in a specific area. As you look closer, the forecast details will tell you the avalanche danger level by elevation, and what kind(s) of avalanches you can expect.

Digging deeper into the avalanche forecast can include looking at tools like the avalanche explorer map on the CAIC website. This image shows a particularly avalanche-prone week in February 2025. You can click on the map, bar chart, and pie charts to see more details about specific avalanches in your area.

Looking at the weather also includes weather station observations. This 24-hour wind-rose can be found on the CAIC website and used to visualize wind speed and direction over the past 24 hours. Here, on windy Niwot Ridge, the average wind speed is over 25 miles and primarily from the southwest.

Planning a Route

What is the best route today for the group and the conditions? Where are you headed and (sometimes more importantly) where are you NOT headed? Planning a route includes identifying decision-making points and terrain you plan to avoid. Decision-making points or "no-go" terrain can be very specific (if the conditions or complexity of terrain require it) or more general (if the avalanche danger is LOW or the terrain is simple). Regardless of the complexity of the day, everyone in the group should know and understand the route options, decision points, and areas to avoid. A visual aid, be it a map or a photo, will improve communication and set the team up for better understanding and discussion of the route.

Maps are an essential part of route planning. Online mapping tools like slope angle shading can help identify avalanche-prone terrain, overhead hazards, terrain traps, and escape routes. Everyone in the group should know and understand the route options, decision points, and areas to avoid before starting the tour. (Photo Credit: Julia Ordog, courtesy of AIARE)

Aerial imagery (left) and slope shading (right) can help with terrain visualization during the planning phase. Having a map downloaded on a phone or printed on paper, or a map with a drawn route shared with touring partners, can aid group communication. (map source: caltopo.com).

Emergency Protocol

"Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst." Responsible planners factor worst-case scenarios into the planning phase. Prepare by packing the appropriate gear to help in the event of an emergency, such as maps, radios, communications devices, warm clothing, functional gear, and repair kits. Know who has emergency communications devices, how to use them, and where they are located. In addition, always leave a description of your route plan, group members, and an estimated time of return with an outside person. This simple step can make a critical difference in a rescue situation.

Mole sauce is a complex flavor that doesn't leave much room for luck during the cooking process. Its success (like backcountry touring) is about preparation, time, and careful observation. As I ruminate on the sauce, the phrase, "luck favors the prepared," doesn't feel right in either cooking or backcountry travel. The British Army may have said it better: "Proper preparation prevents poor performance." Our performance is a direct result of our planning and preparation. Planning takes time, and time cannot simply be made up once lost. So, when you're strapped for time before a tour, that should be a warning signal to slow down and double-check instead of speeding up and skipping steps. Otherwise, your trip (and your mole sauce) might end up with the meal-ending spice of an Arbol pepper when you were really hoping for the mellow warmth of an Ancho.

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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