

## **Northern Colorado Group Permit Process Guide**

### **November 2024**

Courses and clinics offered for a fee to students by the Northern Colorado Group shall adhere to the Group Policy and Procedures document, which states (as of November 2024):

Student fees can be assessed for NoCo Courses and Clinics when either 1) required field trip(s) are on land that does not require a permit 2) required field trip(s) are on public land and a permit is in place or in process of being in place prior to its start.

For field trips on public land that are part of a CMC fee-based course or clinic - contact the NoCo Education Director for guidance or questions. When you are prepared to move forward with the permit application process, contact Ashley Kramer, CMC Education & Permitting Specialist, 303.996.2744, [ashley@cmc.org](mailto:ashley@cmc.org) She will handle the application process with the public land management agency based on the information you share with her.

The goal is to continue to provide an effective outdoor education platform that is safe in all possible regards for our members, students, instructors, directors, and our CMC organization with recognition that there are inherent risks in mountaineering. Thank you, course directors, for organizing and directing courses for the benefit of our NoCo members and the outdoor oriented community.

### **Public Land Reference Details**

Reference details below compiled by the NoCo Education Director as of July 2024 to help guide your planning for the public land(s) you will utilize and for information to submit to Ashley. Submit all non-USFS permit requests to the State office by Oct 15 for the following year, when possible.

**City of Fort Collins Natural Areas** - Permit required if commercial group (any fee charged to participants) or if the number of total participants exceeds 15. Permit fee: \$25 - 75 for 1-15 participants; \$125 - 175 for over 16 participants. They appreciate an organization such as CMC, which teaches LNT, safety; note such in permit application. Allow 15 business days for online application. Questions 970-416-2815.

- Soapstone Prairie
- Bobcat Ridge
- Pineridge – includes Piano Boulders
- Reservoir Ridge
- Coyote Ridge
- Arapaho Bend
- Riverbend Ponds

Larimer County Open Space - Express written consent of the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is required for commercial use...in which a business or individual receives any financial compensation or if heartbeats exceed 12. The County appreciates the volunteer instruction offered by the CMC to educate club members (students) and asks that we reach out through what they call Request a Date via the County website search bar. Complete the Request a Date application and form a minimum of two weeks ahead and preferably a couple of months ahead. This allows them to consider

potential heavy volume usage (races, events, etc.) in their review process for such conflicts before communicating acceptance of CMC's use. Info from Julie Enderby, Education and Volunteer Coordinator (further contact not necessary - submit request to the County as described).

- Horsetooth Mountain
- Redstone Mountain
- Horsetooth Reservoir County Park
- Rotary Park Climbing
- Duncan's Ridge Climbing

**Colorado State Parks** - In Denver Group's area, those parks require AMGA single pitch instructor certification for climbing instruction.

- Lory State Park

**Boulder Open Space** – Commercial permit is required if fees are charged to participants. Go to [OSMPPermits.org](http://OSMPPermits.org). If over 16 participants, an annual permit is required. Only WFA is required for climbing instructor. Allow 14 days in advance.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Flatiron
- Front Porch
- Hillbilly Rock (S of NCAR)

**Rocky Mountain National Park – Guided Hiking** (Based on fee paid by client/student)

- Leader certified in standard first aid, CPR, LNT
- Remain on established trails and walkways, and on designated routes in tundra areas
- Provide clients with orientation prior to the trip to include what to expect, park regulations, travel in the park, wildlife encounters, safety, weather, and LNT.
- Ropes & ice axes not authorized
- RMNP Ranger will be permitted to travel with the permit holder once per year to evaluate the program
- If Off Trail: Maximum group size of 12; with guide to client ratio of 1:5; one guide with WFR certification, all others with minimum standard first aid & CPR.
- Entrance fees must be paid by each member of the trip (car fee or show relevant park pass); guide/instructor must have copy of permit in possession of guide; cannot use fast pass lane
- RMNP permit application fee of \$350 whether approved or denied - per guided activity (winter activities, hiking, climbing)
- RMNP permit application due 60 days+ in advance

**RMNP - Guided Climbing / Mountaineering** (Based on fee paid by client/student)

- Permit authorizes up to 3 trips not to exceed 9 calendar days total
- Use is encouraged to be mid-week (to avoid heavy weekend usage)
- Overnight backcountry use is authorized in conjunction with coordination with Wilderness Permit from Wilderness Office
- One guide with WFR certification, all others with minimum standard first aid & CPR, LNT

- Entrance fees must be paid by each member of the trip (car fee or show relevant park pass); guide/instructor must have copy of permit in possession; cannot use fast pass lane
- Specialized conditions – see document (printed)
- Wilderness permits - see document (printed)
- Permit in place for Denver Group: Commercial Use Authorization. Denver communicated that AIARE certification is required for the instructor of field trip on snowfields
- RMNP permit application fee of \$350 whether approved or denied- per guided activity (winter activities, hiking, climbing). Up to 3 similar activities can be combined on one permit
- RMNP permit application due 60 days+ in advance

**USFS** – Note that any use of Forest Service land for paid course field work is in negotiation with the State office, USFS, and our NoCo Group. Below is for informational purposes.

- Contact State office for potential use of existing CMC Priority Permits
- Submit Summer permit application (Jun – Oct) to State office by Feb 1
- Submit Winter permit application (Nov – May) to State office by Aug 1
- Fees:
  - o Priority Permit:
    - Application/pre-season use:  $\frac{1}{3}$  of estimated use (credit towards post use)
    - Post Use: 3% of gross
  - o Temporary Permit:
    - Application: \$150 per 50 service days
    - No post use fee
- Required certifications: Wilderness First Aid for all guides in the field. AIARE or AMGA when applicable for the terrain.
- USFS Winter Request Permit Planning Sessions – State (Aug)

Relevant Note: Per Denver Group, AMGA certification for public lands in Colorado does not exceed Single Pitch Instructor (SPI) for educational non-profit groups such as the CMC.