

CMC Policies Related to Trips

As of November 2022

Accident Report

The safety committee is encouraged, within the limits of good judgement concerning possible litigation, to report accidents in T&T for educational value, and to report them to the AAC. [Passed July 1973]

Anti-Harassment/Non-Discrimination

The Colorado Mountain Club does not discriminate in accepting individuals or families for membership based upon race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender, gender identity, gender variance, sexual orientation, age, physical handicap, veteran status, or political service or affiliation. [Passed October 2007]

All persons participating in CMC activities are expected to treat all other with respect and concern. The CMC will not tolerate abusive, sexually harassing, or discriminatory actions or communications. Anyone experiencing or witnessing such behavior is invited to submit a written complaint to the CMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR or President for investigation. Consequences of inappropriate behavior may include a verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or expulsion from the CMC. [passed January 2000]

Avalanche Transceivers

The CMC shall not rent avalanche transceivers. [Passed July 1996]

Climbing Helmets

Students and instructors in schools and all participants in CMC climbs rated 4 and above in the Yosemite system are required to wear helmets. [Passed April 1990]

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on most CMC hikes except when listed in the Activity Schedule as a "Doggie Hike." [Passed October 2002]

Drugs and Alcohol

The CMC does not permit the consumption of alcohol on single day trips. A trip begins at the trailhead and ends upon return to the trailhead. The CMC affirmatively disclaims any duty of care to anyone concerning the use of alcohol by its members or guests while those individuals are not on single day CMC trips.

Alcohol use on multi-day trips is based on the principle of personal responsibility. In cases where a trip leader believes that alcohol consumption is imprudent under the circumstances, the trip leader is authorized to prohibit its consumption during any portion of a CMC multi-day trip.

This policy is silent as to consumption of alcohol on CMC social activities not fitting into either category above, other than to leave such consumption as the sole responsibility of the consumer and to otherwise comply with applicable law. [passed July 2008]

There shall be no charge at any CMC event where alcohol is served, unless alcohol is served by an entity that has liquor license and liquor liability coverage. [passed July 2003]

Guest Fees

In order to assure continued compliance with Forest Service guidelines and to encourage new memberships, no CMC group shall assess and collect guest fees [passed July 1998]

Leave No Trace

Since the Colorado Mountain Club is the premier organized user of the Colorado back country, and the concept of "Leave No Trace/An Outdoor Ethic" parallels the basic concept which the Colorado Mountain Club needs to follow now and in the future. The Colorado Mountain Club wholeheartedly supports and pledges to carry out the concepts of Leave No Trace. [Passed April 1997]

Leader Qualification and Responsibility

Leaders will be assigned to trips on the basis of leadership skills demonstrated on CMC trips of a type similar to that of the type being led. [Passed October 1975]

Sufficient leader records will be maintained by each group to assure that only qualified leaders are assigned to trips. [Passed October 1975]

Each leader is responsible for the safety of his party and will have commensurate authority. [Passed October 1975]

All trips and leaders shall be approved by each group prior to submission for group schedules. [Passed October 2004]

Each group shall ensure that all leaders meet CMC requirements and are kept informed of current CMC policy for leaders. [Passed October 2004]

Current WFA training is required of all leaders statewide, no matter what trip classification is being led. [Passed February 2018]

Avalanche Terrain Avoidance (ATA) is recommended for all CMC leadership and required for leaders and instructors who travel in snow-covered areas but do not travel in avalanche prone terrain.

(Non-avalanche prone terrain – includes terrain with stable snowpack; slope angles not in the 25-45 degree range; that does not include terrain traps (e.g., stream beds, gullies, or steep road cuts) or snow pillows, roll-overs, cornices and subtle micro-terrain features; and that does not have avalanche prone terrain above the selected route.)

AIARE Level 1 (or equivalent) is required for all CMC leadership who travel in avalanche prone terrain.

(Avalanche prone terrain – includes terrain with unstable snowpack; slope angles of 25- 45 degrees; or which may have terrain traps, snow pillows, roll-overs, cornices, and subtle micro-terrain features; and routes below avalanche prone terrain.)

[Passed February 2018; Revised January 2020; ratified by the board November 2021]

Leader Suspension

Any leader named in a legitimate written complaint may be suspended until investigation is completed by the group or state safety committee. Investigations must be completed as promptly as possible. [Passed October 2004]

One or more verifiable complaints may result in permanent leader suspension within all CMC groups.

The CMC Chief Executive Officer (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, as of 2008) and CMC Safety & Leadership Chairman shall be notified by the group chairman of any leader suspended from that group. [Passed October 2004]

The leader of any CMC-scheduled trip on which there is a fatality or serious injury will be temporarily suspended from leading trips, pending a prompt investigation of the accident. [Passed October 2004]

Release of Liability Form

All trip participants must sign a liability waiver. [Passed October 2004]

Restricted Activities

The Colorado Mountain Club shall not engage in the following activities:
Power boating and water skiing; Flying, skydiving, parasailing, hang gliding, or any other activity involving any type of airplane or aircraft (the policy does not prohibit travel to or during CMC

activities via any form or commercial aircraft); Caving or spelunking; Hunting, archery or shooting; Snowmobiling with the exception of snow coaches; Motorcycling; ATV riding; bungee jumping; scuba diving; Any activity that in the opinion of the CMC's Legal and Risk Management Committee is not covered by the CMC's liability insurance policy; And any activity that the CMC's Board of Directors determines presents an unusual or excessive risk or injury, damage or liability. [Passed October 2002]

Additional Prohibited Activities: Dog Sledding; Swimming, snorkeling; and Rollerblading. [Passed April 2003]

Social Activities

The Colorado Mountain Club may engage in social activities that (1) take place in a restaurant, café, theater, arena, stadium, auditorium, classroom, home, condo, apartment, office, hotel, meeting room, the American Mountaineering Center, a Group's clubhouse or regular meeting place, or any other indoor location except a climbing gym; or (2) take place on any public playground, picnic area, volleyball court or athletic field. Activities satisfying the foregoing definition of 'social activities' are not required to have an approved CMC leader or comply with CMC's safety and leadership policies. Activities not satisfying the foregoing definition of 'social activities' must have an approved leader and comply with CMC's safety and leadership policies. [Passed October 2002]

Trips

The CMC policy recommends that the minimum trip size is four people. The rationale is that in case of injury or accident, one person can stay with the patient and two people can seek assistance.

Exceptions include: A minimum of three participants for trips or 2 participants for 5th class climbs with reliable communication (defined below).

- a. 2-way satellite communicator
- b. Verified* cell service coverage

***Verified** = knowledge that leaders' cellular device on leaders' current carrier maintains service throughout the trip. [January 2009; updated November 2021]*

Each trip must have a designated rear leader. [Passed October 2004]

Trip Planning, Descriptions, and Substitutions

Trips can be questioned by the group's safety chair if trip descriptions contain omissions or inaccurate information, if trips are unsafe, or are scheduled for too short a period of time. [Passed October 1974]

The following information is required in all trip descriptions: trip name, classification (either A-E, Yosemite Decimal System, or Easy-Difficult), general trip description, round trip distance to

be traveled, elevation gain, party size limit, trip leader name, trip leader's phone number, special participant requirements, special equipment requirements, name of the topographical map for the trip area, and any pre-trip meeting information. [Passed October 1974]

Last minute trip substitutions are acceptable, if equal to or less than the difficulty level of the original listed trip. Participants must be notified of these changes in advance. [Passed October 1974]

Exploratory trips are encouraged provided that their purpose is stated in the trip description with an estimate of what might be expected and that participants are carefully screened. [Passed October 1974]

The CMC shall coordinate the planning of the summer and winter schedules to avoid excessive numbers of people in an area. [Passed October 1972]

Vehicle-Supported Dispersed Camping on Forest Service Lands

Forest visitors must park a motor vehicle within one vehicle length from the edge of the road where it is safe to do so and without causing damage to the Forest Service resources.

Motor vehicles may access signed campsites via designated camp spur routes that are signed and demarcated on a travel management map. [Passed April 2007]