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COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

THE LEAD



CMC staff at OMA Happy Hour February 2026

Graham Ottley, CMC's Adult Education Director bids a bittersweet farewell after 5 years

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you with an announcement that my last day as a CMC staff member will be this August. It has been an incredible 5 years and my appreciation for the amazing volunteers and members that make up this incredible organization has only increased during my tenure. Like climbing in the mountains, the bond that takes place between two people sharing a rope or sharing a project can be a catalyst to something greater than what they could accomplish as individuals.

Past the Peak

Read more from Graham on the CMC blog...

August 11: Sendoff Potluck

Join us for lunch on August 11th for an old fashioned Midwest-style potluck.

Leader Opportunities open for 2026-27!

Are you excited about backcountry skiing, AIARE education, backpacking, or helping others discover everything the CMC has to offer? Ready to share your skills, build community, and take your involvement to the next level?

If that sounds like you, now's the time to jump in! We have a range of new opportunities waiting for you. Explore what's available, find the right fit, and take the next step in your CMC journey:

AIARE Co-Director (2026-2027) - Deadline June 26

New and Prospective Member Hike – Trip Leader support - Respond ASAP

Instructor for Intro to Backcountry Ski and Split Board (2026-2027) - Deadline Aug 30

BPX Committee Volunteer - Respond ASAP

Activity Standards Committee (Biking, Backpacking, and Urban Walking) - Deadline June 28

VOLUNTEER LEADERBOARDS

TRIPS: JUNE

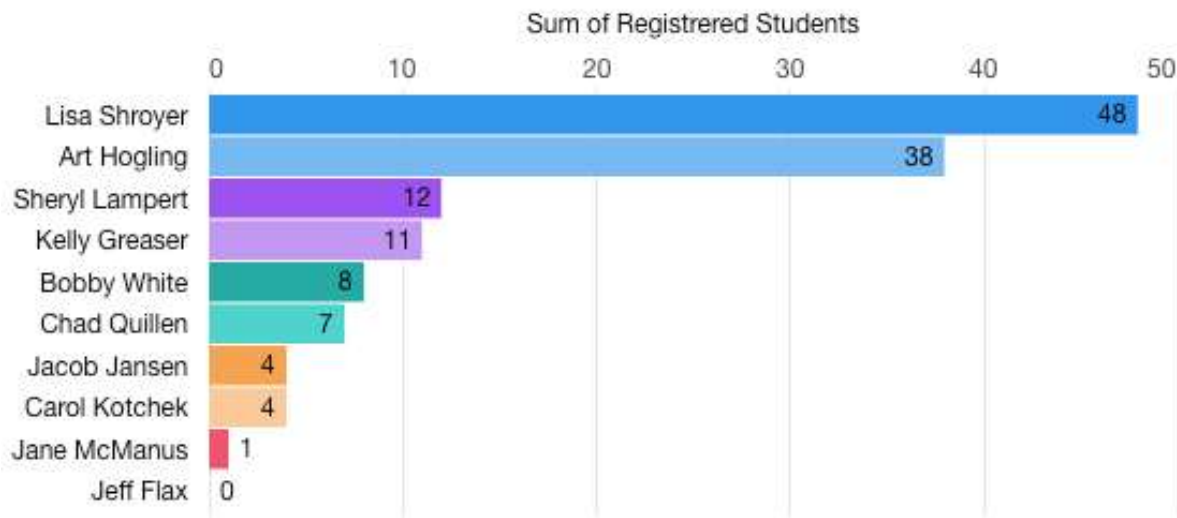
We got 915 people out on the trails in June during 167 trips!!!

Thank you to everyone that led and co-lead trips this past month. We are grateful to all of our talented and dedicated volunteers.



*Each color represents a trip leader

COURSES: JUNE



UPCOMING EVENTS



One day. Fifty-eight summits. One epic party.

On August 1st , 2026 (Colorado Day) teams will stand atop every single 14er in the state at the same time, marking 250 years of the nation and 150 years of Colorado in true peak-bagger fashion. And when the boots come off, the celebration begins.

ALPINE AFTER PARTY: Aug 1 (3-6p)

FREEHUB PRESENTS

Join us for pre-film festivities. Starting at 6:45pm we will have a "Bike and Body Connection Clinic" with Kinetic Flow coach, Chris Hall, and a SRAM clinic with Golden Bike Shop. Both clinics are free, with ticket purchase required.

We're going for super family friendly this year with games, prizes, and lots of fun before the films begin. We hope you'll join us in the backyard for another fun year of Freehub Presents.



FREEHUB: Aug 14 - Early Bird Tix

Mark your calendars, RSVP, and get ready for a day of learning (and great prizes!)



We hope you'll join us for another engaging Leadership Summit this fall. This event is for everyone! Instructors, directors, committee members, prospective leaders, and current trip leaders.

This year's annual summit will be held in Allenspark, CO at the Highlands Camp and Retreat Center. We have a cabin reserved for 15 people, first-come first-serve, as well as nearby camping options available for those traveling from farther away.

Registration is OPEN

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



CMC Staff Spotlight: July 2026 Elsa Heinze

Elsa is a Denver native and lifelong Colorado hiker with a passion for the mountains and the people who love them. This summer, she's supporting the coordination of 14er Climb – Summit 2026 as an intern with the CMC team, helping make this historic climb accessible and well-run for everyone involved.

CMC is lucky to have Elsa on our team for this project and we're grateful for how much she's been crushing her role this summer. [Thank you Elsa!](#)

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT



Miriam O'Brien Underhill and "manless climbing"

Miriam didn't just climb difficult mountains. She insisted on doing it on lead and in doing so, she changed what the world believed women were capable of in the high country.

[READ MORE](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER

How to share feedback or report a concern

Communication is one of the most important things we do as a Club. For leaders, one of the critical forms of communication is feedback from participants, both positive and not-so-positive.

*Shared by CMC volunteer and RM
Committee Chair Keith Stinebaugh*

A screenshot of a web-based feedback form. The form has a teal header bar on the left. The main content area is white. At the top, there are radio buttons for 'Somewhat' and 'No'. Below this is a text box labeled 'Please share why you chose the above answer.' The next section is titled 'Do you have any safety concerns about this course? (physical or emotional)' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'. A red hand-drawn outline highlights this section and the following text box. The text box contains the instruction: 'If yes, please describe your safety concerns. Otherwise leave blank. If you report a safety concern, we'll send a notification to our Safety Committee. It will contain only the information that you provide below. We may contact you if additional information is needed. Please leave this field blank if there were no safety concerns.' Below this is a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'not likely at all' and 10 is 'extremely likely'. The final section is 'Is there anything else that you'd like to share?' with a text box and a 'SUBMIT' button at the bottom.

[READ MORE](#)



Announcing:

Keith Steinbaugh as the Avalanche Aware School Director. Thank you to Linda Lawson for her many hours of dedication in the past years and we look forward to Keith guiding us into a snowy season!

As always, we are here to support you! Thank you for all that you do for CMC!

Kindly,

**ASHLEY
KRAMER**



Adult
Programs
Manager



**GRAHAM
OTTLEY**



Adult
Education
Director



Colorado Mountain Club

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