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COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB
THE LEAD

Photos from the "123 End of Year Hurrito-dinner party"

Goodbye, 2025. Hello 2026! Giddy up!

What an incredible year we've had together! As we wrap up 2025, we're reflecting on all the amazing adventures we shared—**125 courses**, **1,600 trips**, over **9,000** CMC Members out on the trails and peaks, and more than **20,000 volunteer hours** given from the heart. Thank you for making this year so special. Every single one of you helped create these moments, and we couldn't be more grateful.

The energy is already building for what's ahead! Permits are coming in, winter courses are filling up, and our event calendar is looking fantastic. We can't wait to gather with you all for Backcountry Film Festival, BANFF, Freehub Mountain Bike Film Festival, and—new this year—the International Flyfishing Film Festival in May! Plus, Conservation Director Brian Bergler is cooking up something exciting with a new "Trail Crew Initiative" that we'll be sharing more about soon.

Here's to another year of adventure, community, and taking care of the places we love!

VOLUNTEER LEADERBOARDS

2025 IN REVIEW

This year we'd like to continue to recognize **all** of the work you put in as volunteers. We'd like to vamp up the volunteer hours log on the website. Log in to your profile, and log the administrative hours you put into app and course planning, website work and alike.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE EVENT - BUILD COMMUNITY

Feb 20th, 2026 12pm-5pm

Come watch the Olympics on the giant screen in the Lodge!
Drop in anytime, bring a friend, and feel free to bring the kiddos. We'll have drinks and snacks on hand. Don't forget your camp chair, Crazy Creek, or picnic blanket to get comfy.

More Info

Jan 29th - 5:30pm-8:30pm
Oriental Theater

Feb 6 - 6:30pm-8:30pm
Stockyard Event Center
(Keep an eye out for future offerings)

March 6-8, 2026
Stockyard Event Center

Check out this brilliant Blog article by Keith Stienbaugh about first aid after an Avalanche. [LINK]

Sign up for the new Avy Aware Course for Denver and Boulder Group Trip Leaders

Course Link

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE MONTH

This month we are giving a big shoutout to our front desk support volunteers! They have taken on the task of learning our website, answering phones, updating badge requests, and done a lot of heavy lifting on many projects!

SUSAN QUECHENBERGER

Joined CMC in 2007

Favorite Trail Snack: Baked Yams

Favorite Trails: Tenderfoot Trail to Mt. Rosalie and the El Dorado Canyon + Walker Ranch Loop

Most FAQ at the front desk: "How do I do [insert common need] on the website"

LINDA DIEDERICHSEN

Joined CMC in 2000

Favorite Trail Snack: Mixed Nuts

Favorite Trails: Dorothy Lake and West Monson Pass from Crested Butte (especially during wildflower season)

Most FAQ at the front desk: "How do I make a trip change?"

Joanne Young

Joined CMC in 2012

Favorite Trail Snack: Grapes and my husband's chocolate chip cookies

Favorite Trails: skiing Spring Creek Trail in Yellowstone National Park

Most FAQ at front desk: "How do I sign up for RMOTHG Group?"

Carol Thompson

Joined CMC in 2024

Favorite Trail Snack: Fig Bars

Favorite Trails: Hell's Hole trail to bristlecone pine reserve

Most FAQ at the front desk: "How do I cancel or transfer from [insert activity trip or course]

Are you, or someone you know, interested in volunteering as a front desk support? Email kelsieturner@cmc.org

Exclusive View at the Membership Survey Results

Before we send out the results of the Membership Survey sent out Fall 2025, we are offering our volunteer Leaders and Instructors a chance to review the results.
Overall, we received overwhelmingly positive reviews of our trip leaders and instructors!

We kindly ask that you refrain from sharing the results publicly; some of the results are for internal purposes only. Results will be shared with members at the end of the month.

More Results Here

SCHOOL DIRECTORS UPDATES

SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING

Jan 26th @ 6:30pm

RSVP Here

The Colorado Mountain Club Foundation has received a multi-year endowment from Rich McAdams to be used for CMC schools, courses, and seminars. Rich McAdams was an acclaimed Colorado mountaineer, longtime CMC volunteer educator, and past director of multiple CMC schools.

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 on a first-come basis, with an effort to ensure all statewide schools 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 be possible? Please note that the annual endowment is limited, all statewide CMC Schools are eligible, and any reasonable request will be honored. Please send requests to info@cmcfoundation.net.

Request Support Here

LEADER RESOURCES

The Leader Resource Page is intended to provide information for CMC trip leaders, CMC Group leaders, and CMC instructors. This page includes information about permits, trip reports, and other helpful resources. Please reach out to the Outdoor Programs Manager, Ashley Kramer, at ashley@cmc.org with questions or suggestions.

The Website Resource Page is intended to provide information for CMC School Directors and Instructors.

New Year = New Permits

To help facilitate our permit needs, there is now a section dedicated specifically for permits under the Leader Resource Page.

There you will find:

2026 Jeffco Permit

Jeffco permit tags are being mailed to the CMC office. They should be available for pick up during office hours (Tues-Thurs 7:10am-6pm), starting next week!

Approved Permits Folder

Indian Peaks Wilderness Info - Print

Open the folder!

Indian Peaks Wilderness Update: A trip leader was recently stopped by a Ranger and asked about their permit. However, large group permits are only required between June 1 - Sept 15. We have put together a **"Trip Leader Permit Info"** page for you to **print and carry with you** while in Indian Peaks Wilderness. Please direct Rangers to reach out to permits@cmc.org with any questions.

Permit Deadline Reminder - USFS Summer Requests are due Feb 1, 2026.

If you have not received communication from Ashley Kramer about your requested permit, or you are still looking to get a permit for a course in 2026, please email permits@cmc.org

Spring/Summer 2026 Course Catalog
Upcoming deadline:
February 6, 2026

Are you leading a school that falls between March 1-August 31? Please share the information here so we can market it effectively and get the word out!

Submit Here

Want to get your course advertised in CMC newsletters or social media?
Submit a request through the Marketing Form

We want to be part of your journey every step of the way, so as you head into the wild, please share your stories and photos with us with **#StartYourAdventure** on Instagram or by submitting them here. (Make sure you let us know where you were and what you were up to!) We'll share them throughout the year.

Get the new CMC Magnet

#StartYourAdventure

Before we sign off, we wanted to share a fun article for your winter adventuring. It's important we learn from each other's experiences and keep our wits about on the trail.

Check out the Top Outdoor Podcasts of 2025

Regards,

GRAHAM OTYLES
Outdoor Programs Manager

ASHLEY KRAMER
Outdoor Programs Manager

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