

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



FOR YOUR SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE PARK RESOURCES...

BE PREPARED WITH APPROPRIATE GEAR.

SEASONAL MOUNTAINEERING EXPERIENCE AND EQUIPMENT

- * Sleeping bag/tent with appropriate seasonal rating.
- * Snow sealed or plastic boots.
- * Storm gear, gaiters, cap, gloves, etc.
- * Sunglasses (check UV/IR), sunscreen (check SPF).
- * Topo map/compass.
- * Supplies to purify all water.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**
- * The "Ten Essentials." (See back)
- * Clothing appropriate for the season, weather, and your trip.
- * Micro spikes, crampons, snowshoes, or skis may be required.
- * Signed **Wilderness Use Permit** (please verify correct camp areas and dates on front of permit before leaving the Wilderness Office).
- * Dash tag required for each vehicle at the trailhead.
- * Carry in/out bear-resistant food storage canister required Apr - Oct.

CHECK UPCOMING WEATHER BEFORE DEPARTURE **Remember, conditions change momentarily!**

BE PREPARED FOR MOUNTAIN HAZARDS.

KNOW AND TAKE PRECAUTIONS

- * Summer: expect extreme weather, high water, wind gusts & lightning.
- * Winter: expect extreme winter conditions, wind gusts & avalanches.
- * Altitude sickness (know symptoms and treatment).
- * Dehydration (drink plenty of liquid).
- * Lightning hazard (common daily).
- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees.
- * Streams, lakes, and waterfalls can be deceptively dangerous. Keep your distance
- * Be prepared for unexpected wind gusts on exposed areas and ledges.
- * Frostbite and Hypothermia (stay warm and dry).
- * Avalanche hazard (study, prepare and train in advance).
- * It is required to use food storage lockers at trailhead where available.
- * Wildlife can be dangerous (stay together and avoid confrontations).
- * Inform someone at home of your trip itinerary and when you will return.
- * Additional information available from Park Rangers.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- * There is a \$36 administrative fee for each permit issued from May through October. The administrative fee is non-refundable, non-exchangeable, and does not include the Park entrance fee.
- * Checkout time from campsites is noon.
- * From June through September, campers may stay in the wilderness for a maximum of 7 nights with no more than 3 consecutive nights in one camp area.
- * From October through May, campers may stay in the wilderness for a maximum of 14 nights with no more than a total of 21 nights per year.
- * Quiet hours 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- * Sleeping in vehicles is not permitted at trailheads.

A Wilderness Use Permit

is required for all overnight wilderness use and must be displayed on the outside of your pack while hiking to your campsite and on your tent at the campsite.

A Dash Tag

is required for overnight parking and must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.

A Bear Canister

is required for all wilderness camping April 1 – October 31. All food items and garbage must be secured inside a commercially manufactured carry-in/out bear-resistant food storage canister. Other methods of food storage are not permitted in the wilderness. Food items include food, drinks, cleaning supplies, toiletries, and cosmetics. Place the locked canister at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) from your campsite when you are not actively attending, consuming, or preparing your food items.

- * This permit is valid only for the dates and camp areas listed.
- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees as near as is safely possible to the silver metal arrowhead that marks the site.
- * Use pit toilets where provided; otherwise dig a 6 inch deep "cat-hole" at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) from water, trails, and campsites.

In order to protect park resources and minimize impacts, the following are PROHIBITED everywhere in the wilderness:

- * Pets and vehicles (including bicycles).
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**
- * Hunting, recreational use of firearms, feeding or approaching wildlife.
- * Removing or disturbing natural features.
- * Trenching around tents and camps.
- * Shortcutting between trail switchbacks.
- * Littering, leaving trash or human waste bags in sites or pit toilets.
- * Washing dishes or bathing within 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) of water.

In addition to the above General Regulations, Special Regulations apply to designated sites, technical orienteering cross-country zones, stock, technical climbing bivouac zones, winter mountaineering zones, and fishing. Familiarize yourself with these. Possession of firearms must comply with Federal & State laws.

You assume complete responsibility for your own safety and that of your group while hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Designated Site Regulations

- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees as near as is safely possible to the silver metal arrowhead that marks the site.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**
- * Party size is limited to 7 at individual sites and 12 at group sites.
- * Due to excessive impact, groups over 7 persons must use group sites or split up and camp at least one mile apart.
- * If the designated site has more than 4 inches of snow, follow the "Winter Regulations" below.

Technical Orienteering Cross-Country Zone Regulations:

- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees.
- * Camp must be established:
 - within the designated cross-country zone.
 - at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) from water.
 - out of sight and sound of trails and other campers.
 - below treeline and out of meadows.
 - no more than 2 nights in 1 cross-country zone.
 - and moved at least 1 mile each night.
- * Party size is limited to 7 people. Stock prohibited.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**

Stock Regulations (horses or llamas):

- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees as near as is safely possible to the silver metal arrowhead that marks the site.
- * Camp must be established in "stock camps" only.
- * Party size is limited to 6 people and 8 stock at individual stock sites.
- * Party size is limited to 12 people and 16 stock at group stock sites.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**
- * Grazing is prohibited. Carry complete feed (certified weed free).
- * Loose herding is prohibited. Tie stock to hitchracks.
- * Ask for the Stock Use brochure for more information.

Technical Climbing Bivouac Regulations:

- * A bivouac is defined as a temporary, open-air encampment.
- * Permits are issued only to technical climbers.
- * The climb must be 4 or more roped technical pitches and 3½ or more miles from the trailhead.
- * Party size is limited to 4 people and all members must be climbing.
- * A bivouac must be established:
 - within the designated bivy zone, or at the base or the face of the climb.
 - at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) from water.
 - with camp set up at dusk and taken down before dawn.
 - without the use of erected type shelters, tents, or supported tarps.
 - on rock or snow only, not on vegetation, and out of meadows.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**
- * Secure food.
- * Stock prohibited.

Winter Mountaineering Zone Regulations:

- * Camp safely away from standing dead trees.
- * If the designated site has more than 4 inches of snow, camp at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) away from the site. Do not camp in the site.
- * Party size is limited to 12 people.
- * Camps must be established:
 - within the designated winter zone, at least 1 mile from the trailhead.
 - at least 70 adult steps (200 feet/60 meters) away from water.
 - on snow or rock only -- never on vegetation or in meadows.
 - out of sight and sound of trails and other campers.
- * **Campfires PROHIBITED. Use portable stoves only.**

Leave No Trace



Plan Ahead and Prepare

- * Visit the wilderness in small groups.
- * Choose equipment and clothing in subdued colors.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces On the Trail...

- * Stay on designated trails. Walk single file on the middle of the path.
- * When traveling cross-country, choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
- * Step to the downhill side of the trail and talk softly when encountering pack stock.

At Camp...

- * Choose an established, legal site that will not be damaged by your stay.
- * Restrict activities to the area where vegetation is compacted or absent.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- * Pack out everything that you bring with you into the wild country.
- * Pick up all spilled foods.
- * For washing, use small amounts of biodegradable soap and scatter strained dish water.
- * Deposit human waste in "catholes" dug 6-8" deep at least 70 steps (200') from water, camp, or trails.
- * Use toilet paper or wipes sparingly. Pack them out.
- * Inspect your campsite for trash and evidence of your stay. Pack out all trash; yours and others.

Leave What You Find

- * Treat our natural heritage with respect. Leave plants, rocks, antlers, and historical artifacts as you find them.
- * Good campsites are found not made. Altering sites shouldn't be necessary.
- * Let nature's sounds prevail. Keep loud voices and noises to a minimum.
- * Do not build structures or furniture.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- * Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the wilderness. Always carry a lightweight stove for cooking. Enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
- * Where fires are permitted, use existing official visible metal fire rings.
- * Gather sticks no larger than an adult wrist.
- * Put out campfires completely.

Respect Wildlife

- * View from a distance - don't disturb by shouting to get better photos.
- * Avoid water sources at dawn and dusk.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- * Select a campsite that is out of sight and sound of other visitors.
- * Do not engage in littering, tree damage, or graffiti.
- * Leave cell phones off. Use only in case of an emergency.

Reservations

Wilderness campsite reservations may be made in person or online.

For reservations in person, please visit the Wilderness Office at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center on Hwy 36 just west of Estes Park or the Kawuneeche Visitor Center on Hwy 34 just north of Grand Lake.

For online reservations, please visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and search for "Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Permits" to check campsite availability (<https://www.recreation.gov/permits/4675320>). Reservations typically open on March 1 at 8:00 am Mountain Time every year.

Arriving late?

In order to free up unused campsites, permits not picked up prior to noon on the first day of your trip will be automatically cancelled and reissued to other campers. You may call prior to noon on the first day of your trip to indicate a late arrival, in which case your permit will be held for you.

Contact us

Call the Wilderness Office at 970-586-1242 or visit the website for more information: [go.nps.gov/RockyWildernessCamping](https://www.nps.gov/RockyWildernessCamping)

The Ten Essentials

Never hit the trail without these essential items in your backpack.

- 1) Water and/or water purification
- 2) Topographic map and compass
- 3) Pocket knife
- 4) First aid kit
- 5) Sunglasses with UV protection
- 6) Flashlight, spare bulb, and batteries
- 7) Space blanket
- 8) Nylon cord
- 9) Waterproof matches
- 10) Extra food



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Rules and Regulations of Wilderness Camping

Leave No Trace Ethics



PROTECT YOUR PARK'S
RESOURCES

COLORADO