UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

HIKING CLUB

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

FEATURING:
who, were, are, what, we, do, how, to, get, involved
INSIDE THIS GUIDE

WHO WE ARE
Since 1919, hiking club has helped CU students explore the nature and wilderness of Colorado.

WHAT WE DO
Find out about the various trip types and destinations we offer on a weekly basis.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED
Interested in joining? You should be! Follow these easy steps to become a member and start exploring!
WHO WE ARE

Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

John Muir

OUR GOAL

Since its formation in 1919, the Hiking Club at CU has dedicated itself to one simple goal: to help students and staff at CU Boulder explore the many nature and wilderness areas that Colorado has to offer.

The club has evolved and grown over the past hundred years, and is now one of the biggest student groups on campus! Although we are not a guide service, our officers share a love for nature and have a great deal of experience exploring the outdoors. By organizing weekly day hikes and backpacking trips, we hope to help you unwind from classes, make new friends, and go on adventures!

We are dedicated to providing an open and accepting community for people of all skill levels; whether you've soloed the PCT or never hiked a day in your life, we have a trip for you!

At the start of every semester, we organize an intro meeting where we explain the general workings of the club, show photos from our past trips, and answer questions from anyone interested in joining.

This guide repeats the information given at our intro meetings, and is meant to help new members find out more about Hiking Club.

If you've got any questions left, please feel free to shoot us an email or pass by our office; you can find our contact information on the back page of this guide. We hope to see you soon on a hiking trip!

the CUHC officers
There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.

Theodore Roosevelt

OUR TRIPS

Staying true to our goal, the club’s main focus is organizing weekly hiking trips, regardless of the season! At the start of each semester, our officers meet up at a trip planning meeting and fill out the semester’s calendar with a variety of adventures. In the fall and late spring, we try to send out at least two trips per weekend; in winter there is typically only one trip per weekend. All of the trips are announced via our email list; more information on this later!

DAY HIKES

So you are eager to get outside and explore the Colorado wilderness, but school work is constantly looming over you. We get it. How about this: we crowd together in a few cars, drive up into the mountains, hike a few hours, and make it back home by the end of the day? You get your nature fix, but can still spend the rest of the weekend on homework, lucky you! This is precisely what our days hikes are all about. Some of our popular day hikes include:

Chautauqua Right in your backyard, Chautauqua offers a great mix of beginner and advanced hikes: from a quick hike up one of the Flatirons, to the 16-mile skyline traverse.

Rocky Mountain NP A mere hour away from Boulder, RMNP contains endless trails that can be enjoyed by hiking in summer and snowshoeing in winter.
**OVERNIGHT**

On overnight trips, we venture a little further away and spend one or two nights camping. When hiking a fourteener, we typically camp at the trailhead on Friday night, and day-hike the mountain.

On backpacking trips, we carry our camping gear along and spend the night in the wilderness. This is a great way of leaving the crowds behind and submerging yourself in nature. The added flexibility of an overnight trip opens up destinations all across Colorado, which include:

**Four Pass Loop** This 26-mile loop climbs four 12,000-ft passes and traverses the most amazing scenery in the Maroon Bells / Snowmass wilderness area.

**Fourteeners** Colorado is home to more than fifty mountains over 14,000 ft tall. Hiking them is challenging but fun!

**Conundrum Hot Springs** This hot spring is located at 12,000 ft and about 9 miles into the Aspen wilderness. The spring provides a gorgeous view of the valley below!

**Great Sand Dunes NP** This national park straddles the base of the San Luis Valley, provides beautiful color contrasts with the neighboring mountains, and is perfect for a sand-frolicking weekend.
WILDERNESS IS NOT A LUXURY
BUT A NECESSITY OF THE HUMAN
SPIRIT, AND AS VITAL TO OUR
LIVES AS WATER AND GOOD BREAD.
— EDWARD ABBEY

EXTENDED

Fall and spring break are the club’s favorite holidays, and we celebrate them by organizing week-long backpacking trips to Utah and New Mexico. On these trips, we carry our food and gear on our backs and through the wilderness for up to five days of hiking, covering dozens of miles of distance!

These extended trips are the most immersive wilderness adventures that the club offers, and will have you form a close group of friends as you share the experience of through-hiking the desert or mountains together.

SOCIAL

In addition to outdoor adventures, Hiking Club also organizes various social events. The most regular of these is our weekly happy hour, which happens Wednesdays at 9PM at the Southern Sun. This is a great way of connecting with your fellow club members and discussing plans for adventure. Members and non-members of all ages are welcome!

We also arrange a few movie nights each semester, where we get together in sleeping bags and watch a nature movie or documentary.

Our most popular social event is the semesterly Banjo Billy, in which dress up as our favorite princess, animal, or Game of Thrones character and take a ghost tour on a couch-fitted bus. All of our social events are announced through our email list!

GEAR

One of our most useful membership perks is free gear rental! As a new member, you may not own a tent, sleeping bag, backpack, etc... but don’t worry! You can rent out almost any hiking/backpacking gear from our office for free!

All we ask is a small deposit that will be given back to you if you return your gear in a good and clean condition. The only thing you need to own yourself is a decent pair of shoes!
As a hiking club member, you may receive discounts of up to 30% from some of our sponsors! Subscribe to our email list to find out more about these discounts.
It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.

Edmund Hillary

**EMAIL LIST**

Has all this talk of exploring the wilderness made you eager to join us on one of our trips? Great! The first and most important thing for you to do is to subscribe to our email list; all of our trips and events are announced through this list. To subscribe, visit our website (colorado.edu/studentgroups/uchc) and follow the instructions on the ‘Join’ page.

MEMBERSHIP

In order to go on your first trip (and hopefully many more!), you must register as a full hiking club member. You can do this at the intro meeting at the beginning of each semester, or by passing by our office. We ask a small membership fee from our members: $20 for a full year and $60 for five years. In addition, all members are required to sign a waiver that excludes the hiking club and its officers from any liability at club events. You must sign this waiver to be able to go on club trips.

**GOING ON TRIPS**

If you receive an email announcing a trip that you are interested in, you can apply by sending an application email to the respective trip leaders. Instructions for this will be included in the announcement email, and will ask you for some personal details. Please make sure to always include any dietary restrictions, allergies, or other medical conditions - these will not affect your chances of making it on trips, but are important to help trip leaders ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everyone!

Wilderness regulations and practical reasons usually limit group sizes to around 10 people. Due to the popularity of our trips, we generally receive more applications than we have available spots, especially at the start of the Fall semester.

There are a few ways to increase your chances of making it onto a trip: first and foremost, we suggest writing a creative application email! Tell us a bit more about yourself, include a funny story, photos of mountain goats, poems, or whatever you think might motivate the trip leaders to take YOU along! Attending happy hour and other club events helps us get to know you, and therefore also makes you more likely to be selected for trips.

The cost for a trip is usually around $10 to $15, which is used to pay for group breakfast and dinner that is brought by the trip leaders. You will also be responsible for sharing the cost of gas with your fellow trip members; we carpool to the wilderness in order to minimize this cost.

**REJECTION**

Trip announcement emails are usually sent out on Monday of the week of the trip, with an application deadline of Wednesday night. We then try
to inform everyone that applied of whether or not they made it onto the trip, by Thursday morning.

If you get rejected from trips, don’t give up and keep applying, especially at the start of the Fall! If you have been rejected in the past, make sure to mention this in your application emails, as it will increase your chances. May the odds be ever in your favor!

THE OFFICE

Our office is located in the University Memorial Center (UMC), room 443. You can find a list of our office hours on our website. Feel free to pass by with any questions you may have, or to rent out gear! If you cannot find a time that works, shoot us an email and we will try to work something out.

As mentioned before, our members can rent out gear for free, though we do ask for a deposit of $15 to $50, depending on the items you are checking out. Although you can rent out gear for both club and personal trips, we reserve the right to refuse gear rentals for personal trips if the gear is in high demand for a club trip. Due to the high demand for some gear, you may only rent one of each item. Please return the gear in good condition in order to get back your deposit - this includes washing sleeping bags and drying out tents.

TRIP ETIQUETTE

As nature lovers, our club passionately supports the leave no trace principles, which help us enjoy the outdoors while minimizing the impact to the wilderness.

This involves, among other things, packing out all of our trash and being respectful of wildlife. By following these principles, being mindful of your fellow trip members, and following the instructions of the trip leaders, you are guaranteed to have a blast!

OFFICERS

The hiking club is led by a group of enthusiastic officers that are responsible for organizing all trips and club events. Additionally, there are three executive officers that take care of organizational tasks and make sure the club functions properly.

All of our officers are required to lead one day hike, one overnight trip, and hold one weekly office hour per semester. The officers are not paid and run the club entirely on a volunteering basis. If you are interested in leading trips by becoming an officer yourself, please come and talk to us!

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Hiking Club! We hope that this guide has answered most of your questions, and are happy to answer any others you may have! See you soon on one of our adventures!