



# Connecting to Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness through Geology

Come learn about the geologic history of Rocky Mountain National Park on this strenuous hike to the Andrews Glacier Tarn and back. Discover the many kinds of rocks that make up the mountains and hear about the glacial history that created the stunning landscape we have celebrated for 100 years.

Limited to 15 participants.

**Trip Leader:** Connor Newman

**Dates:** Saturday, July 18 & Saturday, July 25. **MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND.**

**Time:** Meet in RMNP at the Park and Ride at 6:30 am. The group will take the shuttle bus together to the Glacier Gorge Trailhead where the hike will begin. This trip should be back at the trailhead by 1pm.

## **Trail Details:**

Round Trip Length: 9.3 miles  
Start/End Elevation: 9,240' – 11,390'  
Elevation Change: 2,150' net elevation gain  
Skill Level: Strenuous

## **Equipment List:**

### **Required equipment:**

You must have the following items with you in order to attend this program.

1. Water (at least 4 liters)
2. Food
3. Extra clothing layers for warmth
4. Rain gear
5. UV Protectant Sunglasses and/or hat, sunscreen
6. Sturdy hiking shoes or boots (tennis shoes not acceptable for this terrain)

Recommended equipment for hiking:

1. Hiking poles
2. Map/compass
3. Pocketknife
4. Matches in a waterproof container and candle or other fire starter
5. Whistle
6. Flashlight with extra batteries
7. Space blanket
8. First aid kit

### **Hike at Your Own Risk:**

In attending this program, you recognize the inherent risk in hiking in a national park. High country hazards include but are not limited to:

#### **Mountain Weather**

A bright, sunny day can turn windy and wet within a matter of minutes with high winds and driving rain or snow. Be prepared for changing conditions and carry these essentials; raingear, map and compass, flashlight or headlamp, sunglasses and sunscreen, matches or other fire starter, candles, extra food and water, extra layers of clothing, pocketknife, and a first aid kit.

#### **High Elevation**

Elevation may increase the chance of dehydration, severe sunburn, mountain sickness (headaches, nausea, dizziness), and the aggravation of pre-existing medical conditions. Drink several liters of water per day to ward off dehydration. Wear and reapply sunscreen often. If you begin to feel sick or experience any physical problems descend to lower elevations.

#### **Lightning**

Start your hike early in the day, planning to get below treeline or to a shelter before a storm strikes. If caught above treeline, get away from summits and isolated trees and rocks. Find shelter if possible but avoid small cave entrances and overhangs. Crouch down on your heels. When horseback riding, dismount and tie horses securely.

#### **Wildlife**

Approaching, feeding, or disturbing wildlife is dangerous - keep a safe distance. All park animals are wild and can injure or kill you. Be aware of what is going on around you. Know how to live with wildlife and what to do if you encounter a mountain lion or bear.

### **Streams, Lakes and Waterfalls**

Banks and slopes near water can be deceptively dangerous. Keep your distance. Purify drinking water to prevent giardiasis and other water borne diseases.

### **Snow and Ice Fields**

Stay back from steep snow slopes and cornices. Snow avalanche danger is often high. Ask a ranger about current avalanche potential. Know how to recognize dangerous snow conditions.

### **Hypothermia**

Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature which can be life threatening. It can occur any time of year. Dress warm, carry extra layers, and stay dry.

### **Mountain Climbing**

This activity requires extensive training, skill, and proper equipment. Do not attempt to rock climb or scramble up steep slopes unprepared.

To Register:

For questions or to register, please email Connor Newman at

**[rocky.mountain.geo.hike@gmail.com](mailto:rocky.mountain.geo.hike@gmail.com)**