



Technical Climbing and the Bivouac Permit

Call directly to the Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park at 970-586-1242 for information on permit procedures, backcountry conditions, and climbing regulations.

Day use in the park requires no special registration or permit. All overnight use requires a permit discussed in the following section. For safety considerations, climbers are encouraged to notify family or friends on route selections and contact them at the completion of any climb.

For emergencies, call 911. For park information call 970-586-1206.

Information on **Fishing, Horses and Other Pack Animals, Backcountry Camping Guide, and Weather and Climate** is available at visitor centers throughout the park.

The Bivouac Permit

A bivouac is a temporary, open-air encampment established between dusk and dawn and is issued only to technical climbers. The permit also provides technical climbers with an advanced position on long, one-day climbs and/or climbs that require an overnight stay on the rock face. All bivouacs require permits. Permits must be in your possession while in the backcountry.

You are limited to designated bivouac zones, at or near the base of the route, or on the face of the climb. Due to high impact in certain bivouac zones, the number of people

is restricted. These zones are listed on the next page.

Reservations may be made for the restricted zones on or after March 1st, by mail, in person, and by phone (through May 20th).

A **Vehicle/Parking Permit** will be issued for all vehicles parked at the trailhead. Have the vehicle license number(s) available when you get your bivouac permit. The parking permit must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard.



Regulations

- Permits are issued only to technical climbers.
- The climb must be four or more technical pitches and three and one-half or more miles from the trailhead.
- Party size is limited to four people and all members must be climbing.
- A bivouac must be established within the designated zone, or at the base or on the face of the climb.
- The bivouac must be at least 200' (70 adult steps) from water.
- The camp must be set up at dusk and taken down before dawn.
- No erected type shelters, tents or supported tarps may be used.
- The site must be off all vegetation and out of meadows. You can sleep on rock or snow only.
- Fires are prohibited. Use portable stoves only.
- Stock are prohibited.
- Helmets are advised for climbing.

Restricted Zones

At this time, four areas restrict the total number of people allowed to bivouac:

LONGS PEAK AREA

Broadway, below the Diamond—10 climbers

Chasm View—six climbers

Mills Glacier—20 climbers

Meeker Cirque—eight climbers

NOTCHTOP PEAK

Base of Notchtop—eight climbers

BLACK LAKE AREA (Glacier Gorge)

McHenry Peak—six climbers

Arrowhead (Solitude Lake)—six climbers

Spearhead (Moon Pillar)—eight climbers

Chiefshead/Pagoda—four climbers

SKYPOND AREA/ANDREWS GLACIER

Taylor/Powell Peaks—six climbers

Sharktooth Peak, (Petit Grepon,

Cathedral Spires, Lock Vale Pinnacle,

Saber—six climbers

Minimum Impacts



Water should be purified before use by boiling, chemical treatments, or filtering. *Giardia* is an intestinal parasite found in the water. Purify the water, even if it looks pristine. Wash water should be discarded 200 feet from the water course.

Fires are not permitted at any bivouac. Only stoves are allowed.

Trash, including aluminum and cigarette butts, must be packed out.

Privies are not provided. Dig a four-six inch cathole at least 200 feet from water. Bury or carry out all toilet paper and human waste.

Locate the site anywhere within the assigned area on rock or snow as close to the base of the climb as possible.

Trails—There are over 355 miles of maintained trails, but most bivouac sites will require crosscountry travel. Know and use minimum impact camping and hiking techniques.

General Information

A total of seven nights may be used in SUMMER. Stay no more than three nights at any spot, then move. An additional 14 nights are allowed in WINTER. In winter, you may use a tent.

Pets, weapons, and vehicles are not allowed.

Hazards in the form of violent weather (lightning, wind, snow, and rainstorms), snowfields, avalanches (even in summer), waterfalls, rivers, and the dangers associated with climbing, cause injuries every year and can ruin a climb.

Checkout and be responsible.

Always let a friend know your plans. Rocky Mountain National Park no longer requires you to checkout after your climb. YOU are responsible for notifying someone when you return. National Park Service rangers will not start a search until after a climber is reported overdue. Call 911 in emergencies.