

Technical Climbing and the Bivouac Permit

Call directly to the Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park at *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 or *586-1206.

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

*Area codes in Colorado will change April, 1995. Dial 303 prior to that date and 970 after April, 1995.

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 reverse side.

Reservations may be made for the restricted zones on or after March 1st, by mail, in person, and by phone (through May 20th). Reservations are not needed or accepted for all other bivouacs.

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

- A climbing party is limited to a maximum of 4 people; all must climb.
- A site must be 3-1/2 miles or more from the trailhead.
- A climb must be 4 or more pitches, roped, technical climbing.
- A site must be off all vegetation. You must sleep on rock or snow.
- No tents are allowed. You may use a ground cloth,

or roll in a tarp, use sleeping bags or a bivouac sack. The "camp" must be established after sundown, and removed before sunup; in other words, between dusk and dawn.

- Sites need only be large enough for 1 person, be relatively flat, have adequate drainage (you cannot dig ditches), be at least 200 feet from water, and be clear from rockfall.



RESTRICTED ZONES

At this time, 4 areas restrict the total number of people allowed to bivouac:

LONGS PEAK AREA

Broadway, below the Diamond--10 climbers.
Chasm View--6 climbers.
Mills Glacier--20 climbers.
Meeker Cirque--8 climbers.

BLACK LAKE AREA (Glacier Gorge)

McHenry Peak--6 climbers.
Arrowhead (Solitude Lake)--6 climbers.
Spearhead (Moon Pillar)--8 climbers.
Chiefshead/Pagoda--4 climbers.

NOTCHTOP PEAK

Base of Notchtop--8 climbers.

SKYPOND AREA/ANDREWS GLACIER

Taylor/Powell Peaks--6 climbers.
Sharkstooth Peak, (Petit Grepon, Cathedral Spires, Loch Vale Pinnacle, Saber)--6 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 4-6 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 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 7 nights may be used in SUMMER. Stay no more than 3 nights at any spot, then move. An additional 14 nights are allowed in WINTER. In winter, you may use a tent.

Pets, weapons, & 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.