



Special Park Conditions

Activity: Outdoor Skills Education – Basic Avalanche Courses

A. Authorized Services

1. The commercial activity authorized by this are the following: Avalanche 1 and Avalanche Rescue education courses. Overnight backcountry camping and ski mountaineering is not authorized under this permit.
2. The use of ropes, hardware, protection, snow anchors, crampons, and ice axes are not authorized. Activities that would require the use of such equipment are not authorized. Advanced Avalanche courses which may include but are not limited to Avalanche 2 or Pro courses, are not authorized under this permit.

B. Tour Leader and Guide Certifications

1. Tour leaders and guides are required to:
 - a. Be familiar with the park, know and obey park regulations and area closures, and assure compliance with regulations and area closures from participants.
 - b. Understand the hazards involved and prepare participants for conditions and situations which may be encountered.
 - c. **To have one guide on the trip current in Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or higher emergency certification. Other guides shall have a minimum of current certification in standard first aid and CPR.**
 - d. Assure that all members of the group are properly clothed and equipped for the trip.
 - e. All guides must carry a first aid kit suitable for backcountry emergencies and appropriately sized for the group they are guiding.
 - f. All guides are required to have and carry a cell phone at minimum. Cell phone coverage is limited in the park. A guide may need additional reliable emergency communication device which could include a GPS locator beacon, satellite messenger, or satellite phone.
2. A written list of all guides with description of basic qualifications, must be provided to the park prior to beginning operations. Copies of all certifications must be on file at the base of operations and may be requested by the Superintendent at any time.
3. Instructors and guides must have the expertise, training, and experience to operate all services authorized under the CUA permit.
4. Guides shall educate the group on Leave No Trace principles and practices.
5. All guides are required to take the Online Awareness course on Leave No Trace. It is free. [Leave No Trace: Take Action to Protect the Outdoors - Overview \(Int.org\)](#)

C. Conduct of Trip

1. Total group size is maximum of 12 people with a guide to client ratio of 1 guide to 6 clients. All groups must have a ratio of 1 leader to no more than 6 participants at a minimum. More guides per participants are encouraged.
2. All groups must honor the rights of others and always conduct themselves in a professional manner.
3. A Rocky Mountain National Park representative will be permitted to accompany the tour at least once per season to evaluate the program.
4. The CUA holder or guide shall provide all clients with an orientation prior to the trip which emphasizes safe practices while recreating in the park. At a minimum, the orientation should include nature and demands of the trips, safety and emergency procedures, weather conditions, park regulations, wildlife interactions, and Leave No Trace practices.

D. Special Conditions for Avalanche Course

1. Avalanche Level 1 and Avalanche Rescue are the only courses allowed under this authorization. All higher levels avalanche courses are only authorized under a Climbing Concession Contract.
2. **Minimum Commercial General Liability insurance is \$1,000,000 per person per accident.**

3. On Saturdays and Sundays, a company may have more than 1 course per day, but courses must be in different areas of the park, with no more than 1 course per day held in either the Bear Lake-Emerald Lake Drainage or in Hidden Valley. To clarify, on weekend days, this means 1 single course across these popular locations, not 1 course in each location.
4. Monday through Friday, a company may have more than 1 course per day, but courses must be in different areas of the park, with no more than 1 course per day held in the Bear Lake-Emerald Lake Drainage, and with no more than 1 course per day held in Hidden Valley. To clarify, on weekdays, this means 1 course at each of these popular locations.
5. Tours are encouraged to carpool to minimize parking impact in Bear Lake and Hidden Valley. Beaver Meadows Visitor Center parking may be used as a meeting space.
6. All snow pits are required to be filled in.
7. Courses need to be away from ski and snowshoes trails.
8. List of Basic Avalanche courses being offered must be submitted to the Commercial Services Office prior to operating in the park.

E. General Provisions for All Permits

1. Guide Passes and Entrance Fees for Clients

- a. Guide Passes are to be used solely by the Permittee and designated employees to conduct official business under a Commercial Use Authorization/Special Use Permit or Concessions Contract and are not for personal use. **Guides must carry this pass at all times while in the park.**
 - b. Guide Passes must be kept with guides at all times in the park, to be presented as requested to park staff to confirm appropriate use and entry to the park. Permittee is responsible for ensuring that its guides comply with this requirement. ID is required.
 - c. Guides are required to present the guide card at the entrance stations along with their driver's license when entering the park to show that they are on official business. The guides are required to inform the entrance station staff on clients entering for the trips for example which vehicle, number of clients, etc.
 - d. Clients of the Permittee are not admitted free entrance to the park. The clients' options are:
 - i. Buy an entrance pass – pay when they enter with the Permittee
 - ii. Have a Current Entrance Receipt
 - iii. Have a Current Pass (Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass, Interagency Annual Pass, Senior, or Access Pass) (pass is valid & in the name of the client)
2. CUA Permit Holders and their clients are not authorized to use the fast pass lane for any commercial activities in the park. All CUA Permit Holders (i.e. guides) and clients must enter via a staffed entrance kiosk. Use of the fast pass lane by a CUA Permit Holder may result in revocation of their CUA permit.
 3. Frontcountry camping is available on a first-come, first-serve basis at Longs Peak Campground and by advanced reservation at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, and Timber Creek Campgrounds. Normal camping fees and regulations, including length of stay, will apply to the Permittee and its participants.
 4. Prior to initiating each trip, guides are encouraged to contact Park Headquarters (970) 586-1206 for information on current conditions.
 5. Proof of adequate general liability and automobile insurance coverage must be provided to the park prior to operating under this permit.
 - a. Commercial General Comprehensive Liability coverage is required in the amount of \$500,000 per person per accident.
 - b. Commercial Vehicle Insurance coverage is required for all owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles used by the Permittee who transport clients.
 - c. Minimum limits for Commercial Vehicle Insurance are 15 or fewer passengers, \$1,500,000 and 16 or more passengers, \$5,000,000. Rocky Mountain National Park must be listed as additional insurer.
 6. All incidents involving overdue parties or accidents involving property damage or personal injury must be reported to park dispatch at (970) 586-1203 within 24 hours of incident and to the Commercial Services Office.

7. All advertisements/brochures which make reference to Rocky Mountain National Park must be approved by the Superintendent prior to publication, distribution, or broadcasting. All such publications must include a statement that the operator is authorized by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, to conduct services in Rocky Mountain National Park.
8. Prior to engaging in any commercial filming or still photography using model(s) (posed or on camera talent), set(s), or prop(s) that are not a part of the location's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities consultation with the Commercial Services Office is required. This activity may be subject to a separate permit.
9. Violation of park regulations or the terms of this permit may result in the suspension of privileges granted by this permit and could lead to appropriate fines or citations, as well as non-renewal.