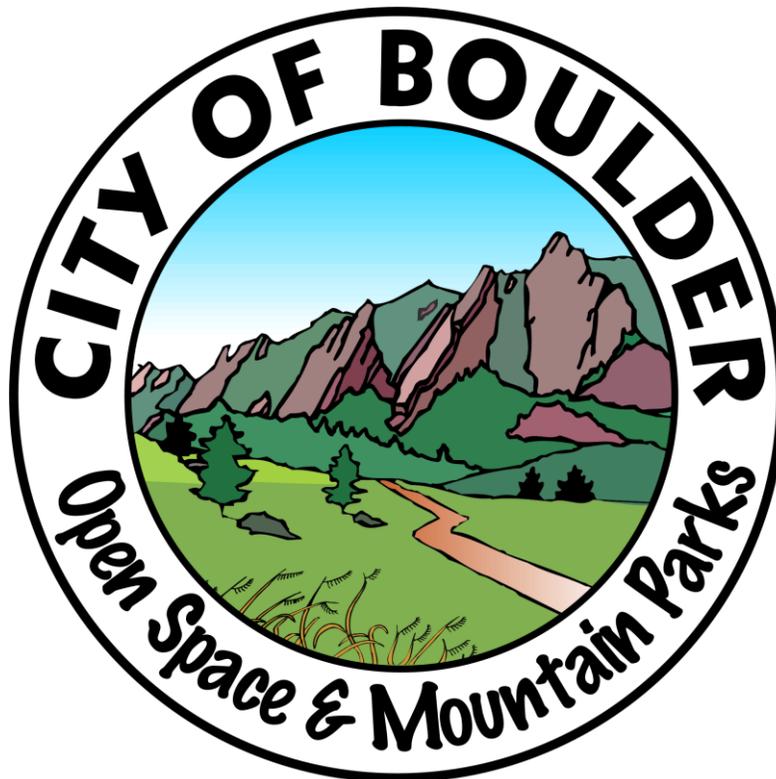


City of Boulder
Open Space and Mountain Parks



Volunteer Manual – 2018

VolunteerOSMP.org

The success of a society lies in the willingness of its citizens to give of themselves, to perform or give a service of their own free will.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Welcome!

Greetings Volunteer,

You are joining hundreds of volunteers who have made a commitment to make a difference for the City of Boulder by fulfilling the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Charter purposes. We hope you find working with us a rewarding experience. Know that we greatly appreciate your time.

Within these pages you will find background information about OSMP, and an overview of expectations for volunteers. Please become familiar with the information in this manual and use it as a reference. You may also visit our web site, VolunteerOSMP.org, for more information and updates.

Feel free to call Volunteer Services staff with any questions. Our goal is to help make your experience meaningful, productive, and satisfying.

Sincerely,

Jennelle Freeston
Volunteer and Service Learning Supervisor
FreestonJ@bouldercolorado.gov
303-818-6972 (mobile)

Kristin Weinberger
Coordinator of Group Projects (one-day projects)
WeinbergerK@bouldercolorado.gov
303-910-5603 (mobile)

Halice Ruppi
Coordinator of Volunteer Programs (long-term/on-going assignments)
RuppiH@bouldercolorado.gov
303-579-3023 (mobile)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

City of Boulder Vision and Values.....	pg. 1
City-Wide Volunteer Cooperative & Government.....	pg. 2
OSMP Mission, Charter and Governance.....	pg. 3
History and Facts of OSMP.....	pg. 4
Benefits of Volunteering.....	pg. 5
Volunteer Standards.....	pgs. 5-9
Safety Guidelines.....	pgs.10-13
Responding to an Emergency & When to Call a Ranger.....	pg.15
OSMP Regulations.....	pg.18
Important Phone Numbers and Websites.....	pg. 19

City of Boulder Vision and Values

Vision

Service excellence for an inspired future.

Values

Customer Service

We are dedicated to exceeding the expectations of our community and our co-workers by demonstrating consistent and professional service with a solution-oriented approach.

Respect

We champion diversity and welcome individual perspectives, backgrounds and opinions. We are open-minded and treat all individuals with respect and dignity.

Integrity

We are stewards of the public's trust and are committed to service that is transparent and consistent with city regulations and policies. We are honorable, follow through on our commitments and accept responsibility.

Collaboration

We are committed to organizational success and celebrate our shared dedication to public service. We believe community collaboration and the sum of our individual contributions leads to great results.

Innovation

We promote a forward-thinking environment that supports creativity, calculated risks and continuous improvement. We embrace change and learn from others in order to deliver leading edge service.

City-Wide Volunteer Cooperative

You are joining thousands of other people who volunteer with the City of Boulder in various capacities.

The *mission* of the Volunteer Cooperative is to support a community of service.

The *vision* is an integrated network of resources and opportunities to strengthen community stewardship.

For more information about the City of Boulder Volunteer Cooperative and other volunteer opportunities, please visit www.bouldercolorado.gov/volunteer

City of Boulder Government

The city of Boulder operates under a city council/city manager form of government.

Visit the city Web site at: www.bouldercolorado.gov.

City Council

Nine Council members are elected at-large on a non-partisan basis for two and four-year terms. Council members select one of their members to serve a two-year term as Mayor. In accord with the Charter of the City of Boulder, Council members serve without pay. Every two years (odd number years), five Council members are elected to office. The four receiving the most votes serve four-year terms; the fifth person, receiving the least amount of votes, serves a two-year term. City Council appoints and sets salaries for the City Manager, City Attorney, and Municipal Judge. Council meets regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. All Council meetings are open to the public.

Departments

There are separate departments within the city administered by department heads hired by the City Manager.



OSMP Mission

The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP) preserves and protects the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder. We foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations.

OSMP Charter

The Charter of the City of Boulder describes and mandates the purposes of land acquisition as Open Space. Article XII, Section 176, Open space purposes-Open space land, states that, Open space land shall be acquired, maintained, preserved, retained, and used only for the following purposes:

- (a) Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
- (b) Preservation of water resources in their natural or traditional state, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, or fragile ecosystems;
- (c) Preservation of land for passive recreational use, such as hiking, photography or nature studies, and, if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing;
- (d) Preservation of agricultural uses and land suitable for agricultural production;
- (e) Utilization of land for shaping the development of the city, limiting urban sprawl, and disciplining growth;
- (f) Utilization of non-urban land for spatial definition of urban areas;
- (g) Utilization of land to prevent encroachment on floodplains; and
- (h) Preservation of land for its aesthetic or passive recreational value and its contribution to the quality of life of the community.

For the complete text of the city charter pertaining to Open Space and Mountain Parks, refer to www.osmp.org.

OSMP Governance

The City Council appoints the Open Space and Mountain Parks Board of Trustees, which meets 1 to 2 times every month. There are five board members who serve five-year terms, with a new board member placed each year. Meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for citizen input.

History

About Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks lands are a very special place. They teem with native plants and wildlife and are home to a number of threatened and endangered species. They serve as a buffer between Boulder and nearby development. They sustain agriculture uses and add untold benefits to the natural environment through cleaner air, water, and earth. These lands shape the urban mosaic of the Boulder Valley, and provide citizens with extensive recreational opportunities that are unique within urban America. OSMP trails are used by walkers, hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, dog walkers and other passive, or low-impact, recreational users.

In the late 1800's volunteers built the first trails in the newly established Mountain Parks system (including The Rocky Mountain Climbers Club and the Colorado Mountain Club). For more than 100 years, volunteers have been contributing time and effort to build our shelters and trails. OSMP's formal volunteer programs have been in place since the 1980s, providing residents a way to contribute and give back to the land through stewardship projects and programs. Volunteers greet visitors on trails, monitor wildlife, lead interpretive hikes, restore natural habitats, pull noxious weeds, build trails, staff the Flagstaff Summit Nature Center, and monitor rare plants. OSMP volunteers span in age from 8 to 80, and some have volunteered for decades. The volunteer application process is competitive; most of the programs fill to capacity each year. Two of OSMP's most famous volunteer programs are the Raptor Monitoring program, which was one of the first of its kind, and the award-winning, state recognized Volunteer Naturalist Program.

Some Facts about Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks

- OSMP's first land acquisition was in 1898, when Boulder citizens voted to purchase the 80 acre Batchelder Ranch at the foot of Flagstaff Mountain. The Batchelder Ranch house still stands at the east end of Gallardia Lane.



Photo: The Batchelder Ranch prior to 1898; the entrance to Gregory Canyon is behind the windmill.

- In 1967, Boulder became the first city in the country to pass a sales tax of 0.40 cents for the acquisition and management of open space lands. An additional 0.33 cents was approved

by the voters in 1989, and another 0.15 cents in 2003. These will expire in 2018 and 2019 respectively. In 2013, voters opted to reallocate the 0.33 cents that was due to expire at the end of 2018 in such a way that the portion going to OSMP will be reduced to 0.22 cents through 2035 at which time it will be reduced to 0.10 with no expiration. Also in 2013, voters redirected the 0.15 cents that was to expire at the end of 2019 to Transportation. As a result of the 2013 election, commencing in 2020 OSMP's dedicated sales tax will be 0.62 cents through 2035 and 0.50 cents thereafter.

- OSMP currently preserves and protects over 45,000 acres of land from nearly 400 separate land acquisitions.
- OSMP land contains over 145 miles of trails.
- There are approximately 6.2 million visits annually to OSMP land (visitation study from June 2004 through May 2005; note: in this study, a single "visitor" could make multiple "visits"). In addition, 31% of visitors report having one or more dogs with them (2010-2011 OSMP dog visit data). In comparison, Rocky Mountain National Park had fewer than 3 million visitors in 2009 on almost 6 times the acreage of OSMP.
- OSMP is funded primarily through sales tax revenues, as well as bond issues, private donations, and development dedications.

Benefits of Volunteering

As stated in the City of Boulder Long Range Management Policies (1995): "A volunteer is anyone who, without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond possible reimbursement for previously approved expenses, performs a task at the direction of, or on behalf of, the Department." Some volunteers spend a few hours on a single project; others contribute work for years - all without compensation, outside of satisfaction in helping care for Open Space and Mountain Parks.

Benefits for City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks volunteers are many:

- Feeling good about your contribution of time and expertise.
- Meeting people with similar interests.
- Gaining on-the-job experience. Enhancing your resume!
- Giving back to the land, environment, and community.
- Ongoing education: taking part in trainings and presentations.
- Tax deduction for miles traveled in your personal vehicle to and from the volunteer job. Keep good records, and consult the IRS or your accountant for more information.

Volunteer Standards

Under State Law, you are considered an "Authorized Volunteer." Authorized Volunteers are covered under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, Section 24-10-101. Essentially, this Act states that the city will provide representation and legal assistance if legal action is brought against a volunteer. This act only applies during and within your volunteer duties, and does not cover willful or wanton behavior including, but not limited to: sexual harassment; racial, ethnic, religious, gender, disability, or other discrimination; illegal use of drugs; drinking alcohol or being under the influence of alcohol while on duty; or any illegal conduct. All are expressly

prohibited, and will result in your termination as a volunteer.

OSMP will provide volunteers with a description of their assignment that will outline qualifications, responsibilities, and commitments. Volunteers don't receive pay or other goods for work performed.

To be considered an active OSMP volunteer, you must:

- Complete a volunteer application, including reference information.
- Sign an annual “Volunteer Acknowledgment of Risk and Release” form.
- Sign an annual program-specific Service Agreement.
- Fill out an online background check. Background checks must be updated every few years. It is the volunteer's responsibility to let Volunteer Services staff know if there is a change to your criminal record.
- Attend required orientation and training sessions, and read required materials.
- Track and report your service hours through Volgistics, our online volunteer database at <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/log-into-your-volunteer-account> (unless another form of hours tracking is determined by your OSMP staff liaison).
- Stay current on and adhere to OSMP regulations, the OSMP volunteer policies set forth in this manual, and the OSMP volunteer policies set forth in any program-specific manuals.
- Fulfill your agreed-upon commitment/s.

Separation from Volunteer Services

Most volunteer positions are for a defined time period and volunteers are asked to honor that time commitment. However, volunteers may resign at any time for any reason. As a volunteer, you can't be required to do work you don't want to do. Please let us know if a position is not working for you. We can work to make it fit your expectations, or consider other volunteer options. Volunteers who fail to satisfactorily perform their volunteer assignments are subject to suspension or release.

Dependability

We are counting on you to attend all required training programs, and to fulfill your commitments. Don't hesitate to ask questions and get information. Communicate if you can't make a scheduled assignment. If an unforeseen conflict arises, contact your coordinator or other agreed-upon staff to arrange for a substitute. Please plan to arrive to your volunteer work on time, or early.

Behavior, Demeanor and Appearance

As a representative of the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, you are expected to

treat co-workers, other volunteers or staff, and the public with courtesy and respect; obey lawful orders; report on time and ready to work; and stay safe and alert while volunteering.

- Project a positive image of the agency you represent. Visitors are our guests, and we want their time to be pleasant and safe. Sincere concern and friendly interest should characterize all interactions. The average visitor will often judge an agency based on the actions of a single volunteer. Overcoming one discourteous encounter will often take several positive contacts by other personnel.
- A volunteer should provide unbiased information.
- As an OSMP volunteer, your contact with the public must not be an outlet for your private views. If you disagree with an OSMP policy issue, discuss it with Volunteer Services or your staff coordinator. We want to know about and address your concerns, and we encourage feedback and suggestions.
- If a person approaches you with a problem, explain what actions you can or cannot take, and if appropriate, report issues promptly to a ranger or staff member. Do try to be helpful and well-informed. If you aren't sure about something, don't hesitate to say so. It is extremely important not to give incorrect or misleading information.
- At no time is a volunteer to assume the role of agency personnel. A volunteer does not discuss events or self-interpret policies with the public or media. When in doubt as to what information to provide, refer to information made public by a main office. **All media inquires are to be referred to the OSMP representative.**
- As a representative of OSMP, it is important that you appear professional, both in dress and demeanor, when serving as a volunteer. Please consider the condition and cleanliness of your attire when you will be interacting with the public. You might be required to wear an identifying nametag, shirt, hat, pin, or jacket. Please do not wear your volunteer uniform, or partial uniform, when off duty. Uniforms are issued for conducting official volunteer duties.

Harassment

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks will not tolerate any type of physical, mental or sexual harassment. If you wish to report any abuse or harassment, please contact the Volunteer Services Coordinator.

Drugs and Alcohol

Volunteers are subject to immediate dismissal if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their volunteer duties.

Confidentiality

Confidential information must not be discussed with people not employed by OSMP. This could include crime incidents, rescue or accident reports, wildlife sightings, sensitive species or habitat information, or proposed budget or policy changes. If you're questioned about such matters, politely but firmly refer the questioner to OSMP staff. They will answer questions or connect the

questioner with the appropriate personnel.

Honesty

Volunteers shouldn't expect special privileges or favors. Use of OSMP property or equipment for personal benefit or acceptance of gratuities from the public is not permitted. Any money, clothing, phones, or other items found on OSMP land should be returned to a ranger, staff member, or to an OSMP facility as soon as is conveniently possible.

Authority

As a volunteer, you don't have ranger or enforcement authority. Be familiar, and comply with OSMP regulations. Your behavior will set an example for those around you. If you've received training and authorization, and feel comfortable, you may educate visitors about regulations, but you **will not** enforce the rules. Do NOT approach a person or situation whenever there is any question about your own safety. All enforcement of regulations is the responsibility of the OSMP Rangers and the Sheriff's Department. Report all violations of OSMP regulations to an OSMP ranger or the police at 911, as is appropriate to the circumstance.

Media

All media inquiries, as well as difficult policy questions or issues, should be referred to OSMP personnel. Do not speak to the media as an OSMP representative. Remember, there are over a thousand OSMP volunteers, and even a simple public service message can be misinterpreted.

Vehicles

Unless otherwise stated in a volunteer job assignment, under no circumstance should a volunteer drive an OSMP vehicle or operate any motorized equipment. Any transportation undertaken or provided by an individual is that individual's personal risk and responsibility. You are not acting as an official OSMP volunteer when in a private vehicle.

Volunteer Accident and Injury

If a volunteer is injured in an emergency situation, the volunteer will be treated like any other private citizen, and taken to the nearest emergency room. Volunteers for the City of Boulder are not considered employees, and therefore, are not eligible for workers' compensation. However, the City carries a medical insurance policy covering accidents occurring to volunteers; this policy is only valid when an individual is performing volunteer duties for the City. This policy is limited, and considered secondary to an individual's primary coverage. Report any injury to your supervisor immediately. Then contact Volunteer Services, who will fill out a claim form for you, if necessary.

Lost and Found

Visitors seeking lost items should contact OSMP lost-and-found at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage, (303) 441-1959, or the OSMP Main Office (303) 441-3440. Please don't leave found items at the trailheads, as they are not secure, are exposed to weather, and lost-and-found would not be able to help a visitor calling about the item.

Volunteering with a Dog

There are a few volunteer positions, such as Trail Guide Park Patrollers, where you may bring

your leashed dog with you during your OSMP service. If you have any doubt as to whether or not you may bring your dog, contact the Coordinator of Volunteer Services. Any dog that is with you and is your responsibility during your OSMP service, must be leashed at all times. If you choose to bring your dog, make sure to bring plenty of water. As a representative of OSMP, both you and your dog's actions are likely to be more scrutinized by visitors than actions of the general public. This provides the opportunity for you to set an example of enjoying the trail with your dog safely at your side. In addition, anything that your dog does, however minor, that is perceived as violating the Voice and Sight standard or any other OSMP dog regulation could be used by visitors as a rationale for not adhering to OSMP's dog regulations themselves.

Volunteer Uniform Policy

If you wear a uniform as part of your volunteer role, uniforms are only to be worn for the shifts and events that you are scheduled for. Uniformed OSMP volunteers are highly visible representatives of the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), therefore, professional appearance is important. It is important for uniformed volunteers to present a professional approachable, appearance. Professional appearance is essential to provide excellent customer service, increase approachability, and proper personal appearance emphasizes professional competence and expertise of the City of Boulder.

Wearing Uniforms Off-Duty

Volunteers **may not** wear any uniforms or partial uniforms when off duty. Volunteers will only wear uniforms when conducting official volunteer duties. Volunteer uniforms consist of a shirt, hat, and name badge.

Additional Uniform Considerations

- Do not wear when you are off duty (even to the grocery store)
- Do not wear while sharing your personal political views or at council meetings
- Do not wear while drinking alcohol
- Uniforms are incomplete without nametags.
- Non-department accessory items must not detract from the uniform's overall appearance.

Personal Appearance Standards:

Volunteers are expected to maintain a neat, clean, well-groomed, professional appearance and to comply with the following general guidelines:

- Visible tattoos on the upper arm above the elbow are permitted as long as they are not obscene or sexually explicit, do not advocate symbolize or discriminate based on sex, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.
- Earrings must not detract from the overall uniform appearance (e.g., oversized, distracting, neon colors).

Safety Guidelines

Safety is a primary concern for OSMP, and ultimate responsibility for safety rests on each and every individual. These guidelines are not a comprehensive first aid or safety manual. While volunteers are encouraged to acquire first aid training, it is not a requirement, and as private citizens, volunteers have differing levels of first aid or emergency training. In all cases, prudence and the standards of your training should dictate the level of assistance you decide to render. The City does not take responsibility for your personal decisions. (See “Volunteer Acknowledgement of Risk and Release” form).

Your most important safety tool is your brain. Mental preparation and anticipation are the bedrock of safety in the field. Think about the terrain where you will be, the forecasted weather, what you will be doing, how long you might be out, who will be with you, and other circumstances that could influence what gear you choose to take. The more you anticipate possible problems, the less likely those problems are to materialize and the better prepared you will be to handle them if they do.

Following is some basic information about a few of the hazards that you might encounter. It is not a comprehensive list, but hopefully it can help you think through potential hazards.

Criminal Trespass

There have been recent incidences of criminal trespasses (vehicle break-ins) at trailheads. If you drive to a trailhead, leave valuables at home. If this is not possible, hide anything of value in the trunk or under a seat. Please remember vigilance when pulling into the trailheads whether by car or bike. If you notice a break-in in progress or a break-in that has already occurred, leave the area immediately and call 911. If you observe suspicious behavior, call the non-emergency City of Boulder Dispatch number at 303-441-3333.

Always provide law enforcement with your contact information. If you can do so safely, gather information for dispatch (including descriptions of vehicles and persons involved, direction of travel, license plate, time of day, etc.). Regardless of the situation, your safety is our number one concern. Do not make contact with violators.

Altitude

Elevations of city of Boulder OSMP properties are not generally high enough to cause altitude sickness in healthy individuals. However, individuals who live at lower elevations, especially near sea level, may experience shortness of breath, headaches, or loss of appetite for a few days to a week after coming to Boulder. Such individuals should take on only light tasks until they acclimatize.

Lightning

Thunderstorms occur most frequently on summer afternoons, but can occur at any time of year; it doesn't have to be cloudy, as lightning can strike from a clear sky. Getting an early start can help avoid thunderstorms, and adverse weather in general.

If caught in a thunderstorm, remember, lightning tends to strike the highest object in the area, but can also be unpredictable. If lightning threatens, leave exposed areas quickly. Avoid bodies of water, ridges, mesa tops, peaks, solitary trees, and rock outcrops. When threatened by lightning,

groups should spread out to reduce the chance of being struck together. If you're on a horse, get off and away from it. Stay away from metal gear, tools, or fences. If you're caught on a ridge and can't safely descend, take shelter on a ledge, but don't lean against cliff faces. Avoid shallow caves and overhangs, as they can be a spark gap for ground currents. If a vehicle is nearby, get inside, keeping hands clear of metal.

If you find yourself in circumstances where you cannot move to a safer location, squat down: crouch with knees drawn up, elbows on knees, and hands over your ears. In this position, the lightning will hopefully take the shortest route to the ground through your arms and legs, and not go through your head or other vital organs (and your hearing will be a little protected from thunder claps).

Sun

The sun's intensity is greater at elevation than it is at sea level, so visitors from lower elevations should be particularly careful not to get burned. This is the case even when it is cloudy or in the winter. When out in the sun, cover exposed skin where possible, wear a hat, and use sunscreen on skin that is not covered. Protect your eyes with glasses that block UV. The sun's rays are most intense between 10 AM and 2 PM. Sunlight reflecting off snow and ice can cause serious burns. Remember to apply sunscreen under your nose and chin to protect against reflecting ultraviolet rays.

Heat and Dehydration

Humans cool their bodies primarily by sweating. Too much heat can lead to serious illness resulting from the body's inability to dissipate heat fast enough, or from electrolyte loss through sweating. In dry climates, such as Boulder's, sweat evaporates quickly, and people don't always realize how much they have sweated. Activity in hot weather can require drinking four quarts of water, or more, per day. Keep water handy. It is better to drink small amounts of water frequently, because thirst isn't an adequate indicator of dehydration. By the time people are thirsty, they can already be dehydrated by a quart or more.

Complications from heat can develop with amazing swiftness, even in strong, healthy individuals. Pay attention to your own and others' conditions, especially water intake. Anyone feeling weak or faint should rest in the shade and slowly drink plenty of water.

Cold and Wind Chill

Hypothermia occurs when the body's core temperature falls below 95°F. It's potentially lethal, and can occur at temperatures well above freezing. Combinations of cold, wind, and water are especially dangerous. Dress with your activity in mind, always including layers for Boulder's rapidly changing weather. Boulder has experienced temperature swings of up to 40°F in a single day and wind speeds in excess of 100 mph. Gloves, hat, and raingear can make a huge difference in both comfort and safety.



Poison Ivy

"Leaves of three, let it be." Poison ivy produces an oily substance called urushiol [oo-roo-shee-awl, -ol], which is found in the sap of leaves, stems, and roots. If urushiol gets on your skin, it can cause blisters, swelling, and itching. Around Boulder, poison ivy usually grows low to the ground, but sometimes climbs like its eastern counterpart. It should be noted that dogs can get urushiol on their fur, and humans can be exposed by touching the fur.

Wildlife Encounters

Never feed wildlife; it disrupts their natural behavior, often attracts unwanted animals, and even the cutest animals pack a sharp set of teeth and will defend themselves. When wild animals lose their fear of people they can develop nuisance behaviors (such as approaching people or entering houses) and that often ends badly for the animal.

Visitors will often ask about bear and mountain lion attacks.

- In Boulder OSMP's history, no one has been injured by a bear, and only one person has been injured by a mountain lion (a 7-year-old boy survived an attack on Flagstaff Mt. in 2006).
- In the state of Colorado in the last 130 years there have been 3 fatalities from mountain lions (2 confirmed & 1 probable) and 3 fatalities from black bears.
- In the United States between 1900 and 2015, there have been 15 recorded fatalities from mountain lion attacks (and 7 in Canada and 1 in Mexico during the same time period). In the same time period there have been 16 recorded fatalities from non-captive black bears in the US lower 48 states (and 46 in Canada and 6 in Alaska during the same time period). In addition, 10 people in the US have been killed by captive black bears since 1900.

Larger predators such as black bears and mountain lions can be encountered at any time, though attacks on humans are extremely rare. If you encounter these species, don't turn your back on them, crouch down, or run (you might look like prey). First make sure the animal has an escape route, then stand your ground, make yourself appear as large as possible, speak calmly to the animal, and back away slowly. Don't make direct eye contact; this can be perceived as a threat. However, if the animal is stalking you or behaving aggressively toward you, yell, clap, make noise, wave your arms, stamp your feet, throw sticks or rocks, act aggressively, and do make direct eye contact. These animals are not looking for a fight; if they are hunting they want easy prey, so you want to be threatening. Black bears and mountain lions rarely attack for defensive reasons (unlike grizzly bears). Black bears sometimes bluff charge (run at a person then veer off or stop) - stand your ground (it is unlikely to be the start of an attack.) Black Bears are not adept

at catching prey and don't normally hunt- their diet around here is usually about 90% vegetation and insects - the little meat they get is usually from carrion or trash. Lions are solitary hunters and can't risk an injury. If either perceives that you might hurt them, they normally back off. If you are attacked, fight back, try to stay standing, go for vulnerable parts on animal – eyes, nose, etc. (don't play dead). Note that if you travel north to grizzly (AKA brown bear) country, grizzlies do sometimes attack as a defense and playing dead may be a good idea. The last grizzly bear seen in Colorado was killed in the San Juan Mountains in 1979.

While attacks by coyotes are rare, there have been increasing numbers of coyotes and of persons bitten by coyotes in Front Range communities in recent years. At least 2 persons were bitten in Boulder in 2013 and 1 in 2014. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers believe many of the coyotes involved in aggressive incidents have lost their fear of people because people have fed them. If a coyote approaches you, or is hanging out close to a trail or in town and doesn't move away as you get closer, try to chase it away – make eye contact, yell at it, clap, make noise, wave your arms, stamp your feet, walk toward it, throw sticks or rocks, and act aggressively. If the coyote still won't go away, face the coyote, back away slowly, and report the incident to OSMP rangers or CPW. We'll coexist well if the coyotes have some fear of people and if they learn that the trails and yards are people territory where they are not welcome (just as coyotes may chase other coyotes out of their territory.) Never turn your back or run when you see a coyote. Leash your dog in areas where coyotes are seen – your dog is in much more danger than you are. If a coyote actually attacks you, fight back – kick it, punch it, hit it with something, squirt your water bottle in its face. Fatal attacks by coyotes are almost unheard of, but there have been 2 recorded in North America. In 1981 a 3 year old girl in California was killed, in 2009 a 19 year old woman was killed in Nova Scotia.

Deer, coyotes, badgers, raccoons, and skunks are seldom aggressive, but give all animals plenty of room to allow them to carry on with their lives. Report bear and mountain lion sightings to rangers, as well as any animal that is acting aggressive, appears sick or is displaying unusual behavior. Some animals can carry diseases that are communicable to humans.

Snakes

Snakes have long gotten a bad rap. Without these graceful creatures, our rodent population would be uncontrolled. There are a number of snakes that call OSMP home, though only one, the prairie rattlesnake, is venomous. Prairie rattlesnakes are pit vipers, and their bite characteristically shows two fang marks and requires emergency medical attention. In contrast, harmless snakebites leave a horseshoe pattern of small puncture wounds.

The harmless, normally docile bull snake can be confused with a prairie rattlesnake, as it has similar markings, though rattlesnakes tend to be smaller in size. When provoked, the bull snake might hiss, strike aggressively, or shake its tail rapidly (if the snake happens to be in dry grass, this can sound amazingly like a rattle). The venomous coral snake does not live in Colorado, but it is often confused with the harmless milk snake, because it has similar red, black, and yellow bands. Other local snakes include the common garter snake and the yellow bellied racer.

Ticks, Mosquitoes, Black Widows, Allergic Reactions

Ticks can carry serious diseases such as Colorado tick fever and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Ticks are out from early spring to late fall, and special care should be taken in brushy areas.

Regularly check yourself for ticks, tuck pant legs into socks and shirt into pants, and wear repellent on shoes, socks, cuffs, and pant legs. Anyone exhibiting muscle or joint pain or a fever after finding an embedded tick should consult a physician immediately. We have not had any Lyme disease cases that have originated in Colorado. Investigated cases have been from exposure in other states, usually Eastern states where the deer tick is found. Colorado is not known to have the ticks that have been confirmed to transmit Lyme disease.

Mosquitoes can carry the West Nile Virus and a number of people in Colorado have been infected. Only certain species of mosquitoes carry the virus and very few mosquitoes actually are infected. In Colorado, the West Nile Virus is transmitted to people by a species called, *Culex tarsalis*, a medium-sized mosquito that feeds in the few hours around dawn and dusk. If you are headed out at dawn or dusk, or to an area with a lot of moisture, cover up and use insect repellent.

Black Widow spiders have shiny black bodies with a red hourglass marking under the abdomen. A black widow bite can cause muscle spasms, respiratory distress, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. If a bite is suspected, seek emergency medical care.

Some people are allergic to the venom of particular stinging insects, such as bees, wasps, hornets, and ground-nesting harvester ants. Swelling larger than a few inches in diameter from a sting indicates a local allergic reaction. A rash, rapid pulse and breathing difficulties indicate a serious systemic allergic reaction. Call 911.

Giardia

We strongly advise visitors (including dogs) not to drink water from lakes or streams, because of the presence of the protozoan, *Giardia lamblia*, which can cause nasty gastric distress and illness.

Responding to Emergency & When to Call a Ranger

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY: WHEN TO CALL 911

Life Threatening Emergencies or Crimes:

Examples: injured hiker, lost hiker, fire/smoke, vehicle break-in, assault/weapons.

Do not approach anyone who has committed a crime/

Do not approach a crime scene.

1) Call 911. Dispatch will guide you through a series of questions, such as: Your name, location, nature of call, i.e. injured hiker, extent of injuries, and/or type of crime, etc.

2) Tell dispatch how you know about this emergency.

(are you witnessing it or has it been reported to you second hand?)

3) If you are reporting information from a citizen, ask for their name, Phone number, location and time of event. Ask the reporting party to remain with you if possible.

4) If you are reporting a crime, take note of how many people, description (hair, height, clothes, and equipment) type of vehicle, license plate number, Direction of travel, time, etc.

MAKE SURE THE SCENE IS SAFE BEFORE YOU APPROACH.

5) Stay with the victim. If you do not have a phone, specifically identify An individual to call 911. Give as much information as possible.

Render aid to the level for which you are trained.

(See Non-Emergent and Law Enforcement Situations on reverse side)

Non-Emergency and Law Enforcement Situations:

Contact an OSMP Ranger if you see:

1) Someone in a wildlife closure

2) Someone not following a regulation, or an offense being reported from a visitor (graffiti, resource damage, campers hitting golf balls, etc)

DO NOT CONTACT VISTORS WHO HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME.

3) Dog chasing wildlife, dog off-leash in a leash required area, Or dog in a dog-prohibited area

4) Mountain lions and/or Bears (sightings, injured animals)

Who to Call:

Mon-Fri 8AM – 5 PM call the OSMP front desk: 303-441-3440

Ask staff to contact a Ranger.

Evenings and weekends: call: Non-Emergency Dispatch: 303-441-3333.

They will contact a Ranger for you.

1) Staff will ask you for your name, phone #, location, and the reason you are calling.

2) Explain how you know about this incident (i.e. are you witnessing it Or has it been reported to you second-hand?)

3) If you are reporting a violation, take note of how many people, description (hair, height, clothes, and equipment) type of vehicle, license plate number, direction of travel and time. (ONLY GET INFORMATION IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO)

4) If you're reporting information from a citizen, include their name, phone number, location, time and date of occurrence. Ask the reporting party to remain with you if possible.

Media: Refer ALL media to OSMP Front Desk: 303-441-3440.

Information from a Reporting Party

In some instances, information might be brought to your attention by a visitor who is not directly involved (the reporting party). In all cases you should get the reporting party's name and contact information, including phone number(s). It is difficult to know what follow-up information the rangers might need, and the initial information (such as an illegal campsite) could lead to another issue (such as an individual with an outstanding arrest warrant), and the rangers might need further information from the reporting party.

There are some instances where you should keep the reporting party with you. Whenever there is an incident where a person's health or safety is in question, you should keep the reporting party with you until a ranger or other law-enforcement agent arrives. For example, if a guardian reports a lost child or someone brings a lost child to you, keep the guardian or the person accompanying the child with you. Until the child has been reunited with its guardian and a ranger has determined that the child is safe (the ranger might want to ask the guardian some questions to probe for neglect or other issues), you should keep all parties with you.

When a person's health or safety is in question, the rangers might need additional information quickly from the reporting party. We don't want to risk a missed or dropped phone call when time could be critical. Other examples of situations where you should keep the reporting party with you are missing persons, injury, weapons, and physical or verbal assault.

Note: There is no legal authority through which you can either require the reporting party to provide contact information or ask a reporting party to stay with you. If a reporting party seems hesitant to provide contact information or to remain with you, explain the importance of access to quick information for the rangers and emergency personnel, and the unexpected turns that an incident can sometimes take. If a reporting party refuses to provide contact information and/or refuses to stay with you, politely thank the person for the information, and take whatever notes you can, including appearance and clothes of the reporting party.

Colorado Good Samaritan Law

13-21-108 (1997) Persons rendering emergency assistance exempt from liability.

(1) Any person licensed as a physician and surgeon under the laws of the state of Colorado, or any other person, who in good faith renders emergency care or emergency assistance to a person not presently his patient without compensation at the place of an emergency or accident, including a health care institution as defined in section 13-64-202 (3), shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions made in good faith as a result of the rendering of such emergency care or emergency assistance during the emergency, unless the acts or omissions were grossly negligent or willful and wanton. This section shall not apply to any person who renders such emergency care or emergency assistance to a patient he is otherwise obligated to cover.

(2) Any person while acting as a volunteer member of a rescue unit, as defined in section 25-3.5-103 (II), C.R.S., notwithstanding the fact that such organization may recover actual costs incurred in the rendering of emergency care or assistance without compensation at the place of an emergency or accident shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in good

faith.

(3) Any person, including a licensed physician, surgeon, or other medical personnel while acting as a volunteer member of a ski patrol or ski area rescue unit, notwithstanding the fact that such person may receive free skiing privileges or other benefits as the result of his volunteer status, who in good faith renders emergency care or assistance without other compensation at the place of an emergency or accident shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in good faith.

Source: (1) amended and (3) added, L. 90, pp. 862, 1544, § § 2, 8, effective July 1, 1996

What It Means

People are rarely sued for helping in an emergency. However, Colorado's Good Samaritan Law was designed to give legal protection to people who provide emergency care to ill or injured persons. When a citizen responds to an emergency and acts as a reasonable and prudent person would under the same conditions, Good Samaritan immunity generally prevails. This legal immunity protects you, as a rescuer, from being sued and found financially responsible for a victim's injury. For example, a reasonable and prudent person would...

- Move a victim only if the victim's life was endangered
- Ask a conscious victim for permission before giving care
- Summon professional help to the scene by calling or radioing for help
- Only provide care commensurate with one's training or competence
- Continue to provide care until more highly trained personnel arrive

The Good Samaritan Law does not mean that you cannot be sued. In rare cases, courts have ruled that these laws do not apply in cases when a rescuer's response was grossly or willfully negligent or reckless or when the rescuer abandoned the victim after initiating care or accepted payment for their actions.

OSMP Regulations

Rules & Regulations

This is a summary of the most commonly violated rules and regulations; it is NOT a complete list. For a complete listing and description of all OSMP rules and regulations, please go to www.osmp.org

- Dog Regulations
 - Dog regulations vary from trail to trail. Please read posted regulations at each area. Go to OSMP.org for more information on the dog tag program.
 - Some areas require dogs to be on leash, some areas dogs are prohibited and some areas are voice and sight control with a mandatory voice and sight tag.
 - Visitors must immediately pick up and dispose of their pet's waste.
 - Dogs must not harass or menace any person, wildlife or livestock.
- Permits are required for:
 - Special use – any event intended for 25 or more persons
 - Off -Trail – any activity off a designated trail in a Habitat Conservation Area
 - Research – any research project
 - Commercial Use – any commercial use activity on OSMP for which there is a fee, charge or purchase of goods or services
- Possession or discharge of a firearm or weapon (including those powered by gas) is prohibited.
- Bicycles permitted on designated bike trails only
- It is prohibited to damage, remove or collect any public property including but not limited to wildflowers, rocks and wildlife.
- It is prohibited to disturb or harm wildlife. Seasonal or temporary access restrictions may be in effect.
- Glass containers are prohibited.
- Camping is prohibited.
- Possession or discharge of fireworks or firecrackers, model rockets, hot air balloons, gas-powered engines is prohibited.
- Fires are prohibited except in OSMP provided grills. Grill fires are prohibited between 11 pm and 6 am.
- Vehicles must stay on designated roadways. Parking is prohibited between 11 pm and 5 am on OSMP property. Exceptions: Panorama Point and Halfway house are closed to parking between 12 midnight and 5 am. Buckingham Park, Lefthand Canyon pull-offs and Boulder Falls are closed from Dusk to Dawn.
- Entering closed areas or climbing on buildings is prohibited.
- Altering (grooming, tree cutting, rock gluing, chipping or placing fixed hardware) is prohibited.
- The following activities are prohibited unless in designated areas: biking, sledding, para-gliding, hang-gliding, and fishing.
- State law prohibits the consumption of alcohol greater than 3.2% in any public place.
- Hitting golf balls, organizing or participating in competitive events, polluting the water, swimming, defacing property with paint, placing tents, nets and/or structures, launching/landing aircraft and disturbing the peace are prohibited.

City of Boulder
Open Space and Mountain Parks
66 South Cherryvale Road
Boulder, CO 80303
www.osmp.org

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
Volunteer Services Supervisor	(303) 818-6972
OSMP Main Office (general information, media inquiries, rangers during business hours, and more)	(303) 441-3440
Chautauqua Ranger Cottage	(303) 441-1959
City of Boulder – Police Dispatch (non-emergency)	(303) 441-3333

Important Websites

City of Boulder – www.bouldercolorado.gov
City-Wide Volunteer Cooperative <https://bouldercolorado.gov/volunteer>
OSMP – www.osmp.org
Volunteer Services – www.VolunteerOSMP.org
City of Boulder Colorado Facebook Page
City of Boulder Twitter
Open Space and Mountain Parks Facebook Page

This manual may be revised at any time. Please call (303) 818-6972 for the current version.

