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MONTHLY MESSAGING & RESOURCES FOR LEADERS IN DESTINATION STEWARDSHIP

Backcountry Winter Safety



If you plan to head into our exhilarating backcountry this winter, [Do Colorado Right](#) and keep safety in mind. Know Before You Go, [check the avalanche forecast](#), carry avalanche rescue gear, be prepared for changing conditions, recreate responsibly and [Care for Colorado](#).

Help Us Share the Care for Colorado Monthly Messaging

Resources from Colorado Tourism Office & Leave No Trace:

- [Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#)
- [Colorado Backcountry Winter Safety Video](#)
- [Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office: Winter Outdoor Recreation Directory](#)
- [COTREX](#): The Colorado Trail Explorer. Available for free, COTREX offers the most comprehensive trail map available for the state and is built atop data from over 230 trail managers.
- [COtrip](#): This mobile-friendly web tool is a resource for road closures, conditions, construction and traffic information across Colorado.
- [Do Colorado Right Backcountry Safety](#)
- [Find Your Perfect Colorado Backcountry Adventure With Safety in Mind](#)
- [Get Out in Front of Backcountry Danger](#)
- [Leave No Trace for Backcountry Snowsports](#)

Resources from Care for Colorado Coalition & Beyond:

- [5 Must Know Winter Safety Tips for Nordic Skiers](#)
- [12 Tips For Recreating Responsibly in Winter](#)
- [Aspen Alpine Guides Avalanche Courses](#)
- [CMC Classes on Avalanche Education and more](#)
- [CO Search & Rescue Education](#)
- [Colorado Snowmobile Association Safety Information](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)
- [Tips for Planning a Backcountry Ski Trip](#)
- [This Winter Be Safe and Smart With Artificial Light](#)
- [Winter Backcountry Camping Checklist](#)
- [Winter Backcountry Safety Checklist](#)
- [Winter Wheeling](#)

#CareForColorado Social Media Posts

Share any of the social media posts below to encourage and inspire visitors to Care for Colorado on all their adventures. Easily use one (or all) of these ready-to-go social posts, or create your own thankful posts and add your own hashtag. Don't forget to tag @VisitColorado and @LeaveNoTraceOrg

- If you plan to head into our exhilarating backcountry this winter, [Do Colorado Right](#) and venture out with safety in mind. [Check the avalanche forecast](#) and do not visit areas with avalanche danger. Come prepared with the proper safety equipment, training and clothes to keep you warm. Always plan adventures that match the ability of everyone in your group. @coavalancheinfo. #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace
- In the backcountry, unpredictable weather and avalanches can strike even the most seasoned winter recreationist. Make sure you #KnowBeforeYouGo and check conditions with the @coavalancheinfo. #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace
- Make sure to have a Plan B if the trailhead is full. Check the state of Colorado's free Trail Explorer app ([COTREX](#)) ahead of time for information on alternative trails and resources nearby. #KnowBeforeYouGo #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace #COTREX
- Know Before You Go and plan to ski in an area that fits the skill levels of your entire party to create an enjoyable and safe experience. #KnowBeforeYouGo #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace
- The beauty of the backcountry is unmatched — so let's keep it that way for generations. Whatever you pack in, pack it out. We all have a responsibility to #TrashtheTrash to keep Colorado's landscapes clean. #LeaveNoTrace #CareForColorado.
- Before you venture out in Colorado's backcountry, always tell someone where you're headed and when you'll be back home. Some areas that are easy treks in

the summer can become dangerous in winter conditions. #KnowBeforeYouGo and respect trail and area closures. #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace

- Always be prepared for the unexpected. Travel with avalanche rescue gear in Colorado's backcountry. #KnowBeforeYouGo #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace

Care for Colorado Coalition “Backcountry Winter Safety” Success Stories

International Dark Sky Association created a blog post to address this month's messaging theme: [This Winter, Be Safe and Smart With Artificial Light](#)

Care for Colorado Coalition News

CTO Learning Labs: The CTO has launched a free online educational platform called CTO Learning Labs. Users will be able to access the Colorado Concierge program, the CRAFT Learning Labs and other free educational resources to increase overall Colorado knowledge and connect with the CTO further. A recording of the platform overview webinar can be [accessed here](#).

Leave No Trace — Responsible Winter Recreation Workshops: Leave No Trace will be hosting three virtual workshops over the course of the next two months around how to responsibly recreate in the winter. These free workshops are open to anyone. Workshop dates are Jan. 19, Feb. 1 and Feb. 7. For more information, please contact Faith@LNT.org.

Meeting & Events Incentive Direct Support Grant: The Direct Support Grant provides up to 50 percent of eligible direct-support costs, not to exceed \$200,000, for hosting events in Colorado that take place on or before June 30, 2024. Funded by [HB21-1263](#), the Direct Support Grant differs from the rebate program in that events must affect multiple counties and demonstrate the potential for significant economic impact. Applications close on Jan. 12, 2023. Although not required, applicants are encouraged to submit a [brief LOI](#) prior to completing a full application so that CTO staff can learn more about the proposed event and the potential multi-county impact.

Meeting & Events Incentive Cash Rebate Program provides a 10 percent cash rebate against eligible hard costs for hosting meetings and events in Colorado through June 30, 2024. To help partners spread the word about the program, a [Meeting & Events Industry Toolkit](#) has been created. Industry partners can utilize the toolkit and share it with potential applicants.

If you have any news or success stories that you would like to share in next month's newsletter, please email Kaiti Jacobson, program manager, at kaiti.jacobson@state.co.us.

Care for Colorado Coalition

To learn more about the Care for Colorado program, please check out our [content hub](#) on Colorado.com. For questions on the Care for Colorado Coalition or if you would like to refer an organization, agency or business to be a Stewardship Partner or Stewardship Member, please email Barb Bowman at barb.bowman@colorado.com.

Colorado Tourism Office

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Care for Colorado Resources

Care for Colorado Principles Toolkit

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www.LNT.org

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