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## Water Safety & Etiquette



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Governor Jared Polis  @GovofCO

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With the near-record Colorado snowfall, water flows will increase in rivers and streams as the spring snowmelt accelerates. Outdoor recreationists should remain aware and cautious as higher flows mean dangerously cold, swiftly moving water.

10:00 AM · Apr 18, 2023 · 18.4K Views

Each summer, Colorado's pristine lakes and rivers across the state welcome friends and families to soak up longer days filled with bluebird skies and glorious mountain views. This year, we're looking forward to enjoying these moments even longer than usual. After a winter of record snowfall, water enthusiasts will rejoice in what could

potentially be a record year for the "longest stretch of boatable days in Colorado in a decade," according to Water Education Colorado.

From beach activities like swimming and building sandcastles to making waves boating and windsurfing, there are endless ways to make summer shine brighter in Colorado's waters. Help us encourage everyone to safely enjoy the amazing and diverse water recreational opportunities that Colorado's rivers and lakes offer by sharing the links and social posts below through your own channels.

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## Help Us Share the Care for Colorado Monthly Messaging

### Resources from Colorado Tourism Office, Leave No Trace & Beyond:

- [Colorado Concierge Learning Lab: Traveler Safety](#)
- [Colorado Whitewater Rafting](#)
- [How to Clean, Drain & Dry Your Boat](#)
- [Know Before You Go](#)
- [Raft Right This Summer](#)
- [Riverside Picnicking](#)

### Resources From the Care for Colorado Coalition & Beyond:

- Colorado Parks & Wildlife:
  - [Aquatic Nuisance Species](#)
  - [Boating Safety](#)
  - [River Runner's Etiquette & Responsibilities](#)
  - [Whitewater-Paddling Safety Video](#)
- Colorado River Outfitters Association:
  - [River Comfort Fun & Safety Tips](#)
  - [River Ratings](#)
  - [Water Safety Video](#)
- International Dark-Sky Association:
  - [River Camping Under The Night Sky](#)
- National Parks Service:
  - [River & Stream Safety](#)
  - [Water-Vessel Safety](#)
- National Weather Service:
  - [River Observations & Forecasts](#)
- U.S. Forest Service:
  - [Whitewater, Canoeing, Boating Safety](#)
  - [Water Safety](#)
- UCHealth:
  - [Great Colorado Summer Tubing Floats](#)

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## #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.

- Rivers are powerful and always changing. [Know Before You Go](#) and always check current water levels, speeds and temperatures before heading out on your water adventures. 🌊 ☐ #VisitColorado #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace
- Remember to wear a life jacket during your recreational water activities — fishing, water sports, boating, paddling and more. And don't forget one for your pet! 🐾 🌊 #VisitColorado #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace
- Help prevent the spread of damaging invasive species by cleaning, draining and drying all water crafts before and after your outing 🚣 . Take extra precaution by brushing off boots, water sandals and pets, too. #VisitColorado #CareForColorado #LeaveNoTrace

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## Care for Colorado Coalition "Water-Safety & Etiquette Success Stories"

- Grand County features [5 Tips for River Rafting](#) on their website.
- UCHealth has an article entitled [Can Paddleboarding Keep You Young?](#), featuring a quick reference guide to the Colorado Parks & Wildlife boating rules.
- Visit Durango features [Water Activity Safety Tips](#).
- Echo Canyon River Expeditions has a [Giving Back page](#) on their website, which features the Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles.
- [The Royal Gorge Region Visitor Guide](#) divides their whitewater opportunities into three categories — mild, medium and wild — with some safety and information tips on pages 19–21.
- Vail hosts an annual [Water Safety Expo](#) event dedicated to educating and raising community awareness about how to enjoy water recreation safely and responsibly.

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## Care for Colorado Coalition News

- Please welcome new Coalition Partners: [The Next Summit](#), [Westminster Chamber of Commerce](#), [Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce](#), [Roaring Fork Fishing Guide Alliance](#), [Pawnee Pioneer Trails scenic and historic byway](#), [City of Trinidad](#), [Town of Nederland](#), [Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa](#), [Visit Longmont](#), [UCHealth](#), West End Dark Sky Alliance, Jackson County Lodging Tax

## Panel and [Shadow Mountain Nature Park](#).

- Join a Leave No Trace and Care for Colorado Coalition Partner, the City of Wheat Ridge, for the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Spotlight starting June 15. [Click here](#) for more information about how you can be involved with the events.
- The Next Summit, a Care for Colorado Coalition Partner, is asking if other CFC Coalition Partners would be interested in working with them to protect and expand free public access to private and public land. If you are interested in this issue, learn more [here](#).
- [Colorado Kids Create Care for Colorado](#) highlights seven Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles as taught by the CTO and Leave No Trace. For the past 10 years, a statewide drawing contest has been held for students ages 5–18 with the resulting artwork used to illustrate stories about Colorado. Enjoy learning the Care for Colorado song and view the talent of the Centennial State's budding, young artists and creatives. All profits from book sales go toward art supplies for underfunded teachers through the Art in a Box program.
- CTO Frontline Tourism Worker Award: Nominations for [Top Frontline Tourism Worker Awards](#) are now being accepted. Do you know a frontline worker that goes above and beyond to make all visitors and residents feel welcome? Are you with an agency that has a similar award? Help the CTO recognize up to eight Colorado frontline workers for their tireless efforts in ensuring hospitality that guests will cherish and remember. We encourage you to [submit nominations](#) by 4pm on June 13.

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## About Care for Colorado Coalition

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, please email Barb Bowman at [barb.bowman@colorado.com](mailto:barb.bowman@colorado.com).

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### Colorado Tourism Office

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