



BACKPACKING SECTION (BPX)

Definition of a CMC Trip

Background

For years, CMC tradition defined a CMC trip as “trailhead to trailhead.” That definition limited the hours trip leaders claimed for purposes of SCFD funding, caused erroneous labeling of the number of trip days required for some multi-day trips, and potentially reduced the number of backpacking trip days led by trip leaders for purposes of recognizing trip leaders’ annual contributions

Recent research failed to identify the source document for the “trailhead to trailhead” definition, thought by tradition to have originated with CMC’s liability insurance. But the phrase was not found in current CMC operating or insurance policies and its original purpose has been lost

Search for a Definition of “CMC Trip”

A review by senior volunteers for BPX Committee, Denver Safety and Leadership Committee, Denver Group Council, as well as CMC staff, resulted in a request to CMC Executive Director Keegan Young for a new official interpretation of “CMC trip”

After reviewing CMC’s liability insurance policy and conferring with members of the CMC board and insurance specialists, Exec. Dir. Young determined that since CMC has no authority over transportation to and from CMC activities, CMC activities officially begin upon exiting vehicles at the group’s destination to begin planned CMC activities

CMC activities include hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, backpacking, camping, biking, fly fishing, and mountaineering, etc., and specifically includes overnight stays in developed and undeveloped campsites and non-profit mountain lodging dedicated to mountain activities, such as 10th Mountain Division Huts, State Park yurts, etc.

Revised Definition of a CMC Trip

Based on the above staff decision, and pending further instructions from Denver Group or CMC staff, **BPX will use the following definition of a CMC trip:**

“A CMC multi-day trip begins after participants complete vehicular travel to the assembly point for planned CMC activities and four or more participants are assembled there by the trip leader. The trip ends when participants enter their vehicles to return home or to the meeting location or move to another location for additional activities”

August 1, 2020



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BPX Implementation

Three measures of CMC volunteer production are affected by this change:

1. Trip Activity Time for SCFD purposes. Trip Leaders enter “activity time” at the end of their trip roster after closing a trip on CMC.org. Activity Time begins when the trip leader and participants exit arriving vehicles and continues until they reenter their vehicles at the conclusion of the activity
2. “Trip Days” for BPX trips. BPX trips are offered to trip leaders and members with the number of trip days in the title of the posted trip. (Trip leaders are free to change pre-planned trip-days.) In the past, only hiking days (trailhead to trailhead) were counted as trip days. This was confusing when a 4-day trip was presented on the schedule as a 2- or 3-day trip. The confusion was caused by a now-erroneous interpretation that trips did not begin until departing a trailhead

Example, a 4-day trip arrives on Day-1 at a campground outside the trailhead, the group overnights at the campground, then departs the trailhead on Day 2. On day 3, the trip returns to the original campground, stays overnight, and drives home on day 4. This 4-day trip was once called a 2-day trip

3. Trips Led for Trip Leader Production. BPX trip leaders will be given credit for leading the actual number of days required to operate a trip rather than the number of hiking days used previously

Note: Since 2011, DS&L has informally agreed to manually adjust backpacking trips to actual trip days, but this is the first written definition of a CMC trip based on an official CMC ruling

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