



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION
SUMMER HUT INFORMATION
PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL GROUP MEMBERS

Backcountry Preparedness The huts are situated between 9,700 and 11,700 feet in elevation. A warm summer morning at a trailhead can turn quickly (and without warning) into a cold storm with lightning, hail, or even snow at higher elevations. Hypothermia and altitude sickness are common problems in the mountains, be sure that you know how to prevent, recognize and treat these potentially life-threatening conditions. Bring enough extra clothing, survival gear, food, and water to spend the night out if you do not make it to the hut ([Summer Suggested Equipment List](#)).

Traveling to the Huts

Hiking & Mountain Biking* There are many Forest Service roads and trails that lead to, or are close to the huts. Purchase a map through 10th Mountain, a local outdoor store, or contact the local Forest Service for more information. Start early in the day and allow plenty of time to reach the hut, and remember to accommodate the slowest member of your group. *Mountain bikes are prohibited from entering Wilderness Areas and may not be allowed on all trails, so please know and respect any restrictions and boundary locations.

Vehicle Access While many of the huts are accessible by 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicles, 10th Mountain does not guarantee vehicle access, and some roads are considered more challenging than others. Since the huts were built for skiers, mountain bikers and hikers, motor vehicles are strongly discouraged except for group support. Please consider a non-motorized option to access the huts, but if driving:

- Purchase a map of the area and determine which road(s) are appropriate for your driver/vehicle and contact the Forest Service before your departure for information on road conditions and openings/closures.
- Do not leave valuables in your car at the trailhead. Unfortunately, cars have been broken into/vandalized.
- Park in the designated parking areas at trailheads, or for support vehicles driving to the hut, there are also designated parking areas approximately 1/4 mile away from the huts (usually outside of a closure gate).
- Keep in mind that some roads may remain snow covered and impassable by vehicles well into August, and others become impassable when wet.
- Plan ahead and bring packs, etc. in the event that a support vehicle is unable to reach the hut parking area.

Horses Horses are permitted at some of the huts with prior approval from 10th Mountain. Please call for further information, and visit our website's [Guidelines for Horses and Pack Animals](#).

Route Finding/Maps You are responsible for finding the route to the hut. Someone in your group must have experience in route finding in bad weather conditions, reading maps, and using a GPS and compass. Most routes and trailheads are not marked or maintained. The brochure map is for trip planning only, not for navigation. Maps can be purchased through 10th Mountain or local outdoor stores. Groups should have at least one map; multiple maps for large groups.

Cellular Phones/Emergency Communication A cellular phone can be helpful in the event of an emergency; however, communication is only possible from some of the huts and trails. Your group may want to consider a SPOT, inReach, PLB or satellite phone for more reliable emergency communication, and hand-held, two-way radios for inter-group communication. In an emergency, do not call 10th Mountain - contact the appropriate county sheriff.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card The CORSAR card supports the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund, a program that reimburses county sheriffs for costs incurred during search and rescue operations. Purchase cards for \$3/year at 10th Mountain or where hunting and fishing licenses are sold. 10th Mountain encourages hut users to support this program. Current Colorado hunting, fishing or ATV licenses are already included in the program.

Emergencies & First Aid Self-rescue is the responsibility of your group. Communication of any kind, even in an emergency, is not possible from most of the huts or along trails. If a member of your group is injured or becomes ill you cannot rely on outside help. Plan ahead and be prepared to execute a self-rescue. Your group should be equipped with first aid supplies and have experience in emergency medical procedures. Contact the county sheriff in the event of an emergency. Before departing for your trip, leave the following information with a responsible friend or relative:

- Your car's make and license plate number, the trailhead(s) you will be parking at, and the appropriate County Sheriff's number.
- Your exact travel plans including dates, huts, routes, and your plans in case of an emergency.

Eagle County Sheriff 970-479-2201 Ben Eiseman Hut, Fowler/Hilliard Hut, Harry Gates Hut, Jackal Hut, Peter Estin Hut, Polar Star Inn, Seipel Hut, Jay's, Chuck's, Walter's, and Vance's Cabin

Grand County Sheriff 970-725-3343 Broome Hut

Lake County Sheriff 719-486-1249 10th Mountain Division Hut, Sangree M. Froelicher Hut, Skinner Hut, and Uncle Bud's Hut

Pitkin County Sheriff 970-920-5310 Betty Bear & Margy's

Summit County Sheriff 970-668-8600 Francie's & Janet's

Group Leader Since the group organizer (the person who made the reservation) may not be experienced in the backcountry, we recommend that your group discuss how decisions will be made in the field and who will be the leader in the event that problems arise. Be honest when assessing each member's strengths, skills, and experience. If no one in your group can provide leadership, you should consider hiring a permitted guide service, listed at www.huts.org.

Hut Amenities/Etiquette Hut capacities vary, and sleeping areas are generally divided among several bunk rooms. Overflow camping around the huts is not permitted. Please be courteous of others with respect to noise, quiet hours, playing music, use of alcohol, and personal gear storage. Respect other hut users by not using cellular phones. **Smoking is not permitted in the huts.** For a more specific list by hut, go to [General Hut Amenities](#) and then scroll down to our Hut Amenities Grid. Huts amenities vary depending on the hut (see exceptions), but include:

- **Wood-burning heat stove, firewood and fire-starting materials provided. Exceptions:** Chuck's Down & Walter's Down have propane fireplaces, Jay's has a wood-burning heat stove and a propane fireplace, Broome has a pellet stove. All necessary fuels and tools are provided.
- **Propane burners for cooking, propane provided.***
- **Wood-burning cook stove with oven, firewood and fire-starting materials provided. Exceptions:** Jay's, Chuck's, Walter's, Polar Star Inn and Vance's have propane ovens*. Broome, Francie's, Janet's & Seipel Hut don't have ovens.
- **Pots/pans/dishes/utensils.**
- **Mattresses on sleeping platforms:** Bring your own sleeping bag, pillow, and if you prefer, a bed sheet to cover existing polyester or polyurethane mattress covers.
- **Photovoltaic lighting.* Exceptions:** Polar Star/Seipel: propane lights, Jay's, Chuck's & Walter's: lights on a generator.
- **Hut supplies: toilet paper, paper towels, soap, cleaning supplies, trash bags.**
- **Propane Grills.** Although not available at all huts, Jay's, Chuck's, Walter's, Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut have propane grills (propane is provided).
- **Gear carts.** Most huts have carts for hauling gear from the vehicle closure gate to the hut. If locked, use the hut code to unlock the cart and return the cart to its original location after use.
- **Fire rings.** Campfires are allowed in the metal fire rings only. Water and tools are provided in case of an unintended fire. Find out current fire danger ratings, and whether a fire ban is in effect from the Forest Service before your trip. **Exceptions:** Francie's and Janet's do not have fire rings.
- **Water.** Water is available at springs or streams between 1/4 mile and 2 miles from each hut. There are 5 gallon water backpacks at most huts to help you collect water. All water should be boiled, filtered or treated. Some huts are equipped with a pump in the kitchen that dispenses water from a roof-top cistern. This water is for cleaning only. Do not drink this water, even if you filter it. Depending on the level of hut use and precipitation, the cistern could be dry at the time of your visit. **Note:** Groups using a support vehicle for their trip may want to bring their own water. **Exceptions:** Jay's, Chuck's and Walter's all have hot/cold running water – water from these sinks is potable. There is cold running water from the kitchen sinks at Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut – water is from a nearby spring, purification is recommended.
- **Other: Francie's, Janet's, Jay's, Chuck's, and Walter's, Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut all have a wood-burning sauna. Jay's, Chuck's Up and Walter's Up have propane refrigerators.**

*Propane and photovoltaic systems are not fail-proof. Backup systems are in place in the form of wood burning cook stoves (at most huts) and flashlights. 10th Mountain does not refund hut trips because of mechanical failures.

Forest Service Ranger Districts

Aspen/Sopris Ranger District 970-963-2266

Betty Bear Hut, Harry Gates Hut, Margy's Hut

Dillon Ranger District 970-468-5400 Francie's & Janet's

Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District 970-827-5715

Ben Eiseman Hut, Fowler/Hilliard Hut, Jackal Hut, Peter Estin Hut, Polar Star Inn, Seipel Hut, Jay's, Chuck's, Walter's, and Vance's Cabin

Leadville Ranger District 719-486-0749

10th Mountain Division Hut, Sangree M. Froelicher Hut, Skinner Hut and Uncle Bud's Hut

Dogs Sorry! DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED at any of the huts because of serious health/hygiene issues. Visit the Colorado Huts & Yurts Alliance website for information on properties that do allow dogs.

Arriving at the Hut

- **Hut Trip Confirmation/Door Lock Combination** The confirmation with the hut's door lock combination is emailed to the person who reserved the hut, at the time the hut is reserved. Huts are locked with padlocks, so combinations are necessary for entry. Please post the confirmation letter on the board upon arrival. All users must have a reservation or face eviction by those who do, or by our roving hut keepers (there are no resident hut keepers).
- **Arrival time is 2pm, please depart by 11am.** Respect field staff and other hut groups, abide by these times.
- **Fire Precautions** When first arriving at a hut, familiarize yourselves with **emergency fire procedures and exits**. Fire could occur at the hut and would likely be either a structure fire (inside the hut) or a wildland fire (in the forest outside the hut). In order to decrease the chance of a fire-related tragedy, you need to be aware of the hazards of both types of fires and what to do if either one occurs. If a structure fire is uncontrollable, get everybody out, with their shoes, clothing and sleeping bags if possible. Report any damage to 10th Mountain.

Hut Instructions Familiarize yourself and your group with all hut instructions posted at the huts.

- **Turning on the Lights** Activate photovoltaic lights by turning on the master switch on the hut's electric panel.
- **Lighting the Propane Stove** Turn on the photovoltaic system (see above). Activate the safety shut-off timer located near the propane stove (not all huts have a timer). When the timer runs out, it will automatically shut off the gas. Before lighting the stove to continue cooking, turn off the knobs, then reset the timer and finally re-light the stove.
- **Warming the Hut** If it is necessary to make a fire, keep it small to start. Be sure the flue is open and the stove is drawing well. Gradually make a hot fire, and then let it burn down before bedtime. The huts are well insulated and stay warm through the night. Split wood on the large stumps provided, not on the breakable bricks surrounding the stove. Make enough kindling for you and the next party. Cutting, hauling, and stacking firewood is expensive and labor intensive. Burn it judiciously. Place cold ashes in the metal ash drum.
- **Kitchen Information/Duties** You're sharing the kitchen, so please don't monopolize it. Keep cooking and preparation time short, and clean up promptly. Pump water is not drinkable, but can be used for dishwashing – not all huts have a pump. Wash and rinse dishes carefully. Use hot, soapy water for washing and add 1/2 capful of bleach to rinse water. All garbage, including uneaten food/packaging, must go home with you (trash bags provided). Do not throw trash into the outhouse. Food attracts mice and bears; never leave food outside or at the hut when you depart.
- **Living/Dining Rooms and Decks** Do not monopolize communal areas by spreading your gear on tables and couches. Leave shoes by the door or near the fire. Be considerate of your hut mates. **Smoking is not permitted in the huts.**
- **Bedrooms and Quiet Time** Beds are chosen on a first-come basis; assume a full hut for the night. Store your personal gear on or under your bed, not in the communal areas. Please observe quiet time from 10 pm to 7 am.

Cleaning Up and Departing the Hut/Visit our [COVID 19 Information](#) page for additional cleaning responsibilities!

- **Cleaning** Sweep the floors and stairs, wipe down the kitchen and dining areas, clean and put away the dishes.
- **Garbage** Carry out all garbage, including all leftover food (trash bags are provided).
- **Split/Restock Firewood** Split and restock kindling for the cook-stove and larger wood for the heat-stove.
- **Propane** Turn propane stove knobs off.
- **Photovoltaic/Lights** Turn off all lights and turn off the appropriate photovoltaic system's switches.
- **Closing/Locking** Close and lock all windows, outhouse doors, backdoors, and lock the front door behind you.

Scheduled Hut Maintenance in summer may require pumping out the outhouses, servicing the photovoltaic systems and general hut repairs. Some work may go on during your stay and we apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause you. Please do not block the gate with vehicles.

Cancellations/Changes must be made 30 days prior to the trip start date to receive an 80% hut credit for a future trip. Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to the trip start date will result in forfeiture of your payment. No refunds.