

CMC Etiquette quips for new member emails (send pet peeves and etiquette suggestions to remonsma@gmail.com) 8/6/2017

By Robbie Monsma, Denver Group Councilmember

Ride in carpools with people you don't know! The more CMC members you get to know, the more "at home" you will feel in the Club. It's really nice to show up for a trip and see people you know from prior trips.

Bring small bills to pay your carpool driver. Making change is clumsy, and may be impossible.

Bring a change of footwear and a bag for your dirty boots, as a courtesy to your carpool driver.

Make sure your personal first aid kit is up to date and packed appropriately. If you are hurt, it is YOUR first aid kit that will be used first.

Do not make plans for end the day without a HUGE fudge factor. If you have "return time" concerns, talk to the leader before you commit. "Things happen" under the best of circumstances.

If taking more than a casual morning hike, put your dog in day care for the day. Worrying about returning in time to let a pet outside will ruin your day.

Read the *entire* Trip Details sheet when you first sign up for a trip. Most questions will be answered there. If you have never been to a particular meeting place, get directions ahead of time to know how long it might take you to get there.

Bring the Trip Detail sheet with you or plug the leader's cell phone number into your phone. If you are running late to the meet-up spot, call or text the leader with an approximate arrival time. Bad traffic may be affecting everyone. Note: the leader has the option to go on with everyone who arrived on time.

Trip meeting times are exact. If you show up just five minutes late, you may be left behind. This is CMC practice. The Trip Leader set the meeting time with an eye toward expected weather, rush hours, length of the trip, sunset time, etc. If you tend to be a perpetually late person, schedule yourself to arrive at least 15 minutes early.

If you need to drop off the trip roster, cancel yourself out ASAP so others may be notified to take your place. Within a few days of the trip, ALSO call or write the trip leader. If you wake up sick the morning of the hike, call the trip leader. "No show" without a good explanation may provoke the leader to keep you off future rosters.

Stay together on trails, at least within sight of each other. If the group is naturally breaking into sub-groups by speed, be sure the trip leader knows about it. She may slow down the pace altogether or decide to formally split the group, if she has another trip leader or experienced member on the trip who can lead one of the groups.

Never, ever just leave a trip altogether without a discussion with the trip leader. He may assume you are missing in the wilderness and call for Mountain rescue! If your issue can be accommodated, he will try to do so. It all depends on remoteness of the hike location, how far up the trail you are, etc. The trip leader may ask you to sign yourself off the trip in writing.

Pack for your trip the night before, using the 10 essentials checklist. Anything you want to leave until last minute, like lunch, be sure to have a note to yourself by your pack. The more you hike, the easier and faster it will be to do this.

We suggest you carry extra water and food, beyond what you think you may need. Until you have built up your experience, it's pretty common to under-estimate time on the trail.

Be prepared to "bio-break" in the woods or behind a rock, etc. Usually the sexes separate into groups. If you need to go, say something, because others are probably thinking that too! Do not under-hydrate to keep from needing to pee because you may sicken and the group will be stopping anyway.

Bring enough tissue and a sealable bag to pack it out. Bring a small spade in case you need to bury "#2." Do not bury paper, as animals will dig it up. Nothing is worse than finding someone else's toilet paper along the trail!

Every trip is different but try to avoid loud or long conversations on the trail. You may want to get to know someone and a bit of conversation is fine. But excessive talking is a no-no. Others may be too polite to ask you to stop,