

Columbine Gem and Mineral Society 2026 Field Trips (4/09/2026)

Field Trip Rules

All field trips are open to current members of the Columbine Gem & Mineral Society. All participants are required to sign a current Field Trip Rules, Safety and Release of Liability Document. This document is also required for minor children (under the age of 18) of club members, signed by the parent or legal guardian. GUESTS (adults or minors) are not permitted on field trips due to liability issues.

In all cases:

1. Members are required to: sign up for field trips ahead of the field trip (unless otherwise noted in the field trip description); notify the field trip leader(s) if they decide to not attend after signing up; & notify the field trip leader(s) if they need to leave the field trip site early.
2. PETS are not allowed on field trips. Please be aware that mine owners may have pets on their sites – CGMS cannot restrict those animals
3. RETURNING TO FIELD TRIP SITES: When a field trip takes place on private property/claim, club members may not return to the site without the explicit permission and authorization from the land or claim owner(s).
4. COLLECTING: Collecting specimens is for non-commercial personal use.
5. Attendees acknowledge they are guests on someone else's property and must act as such – any attendee may be required to leave a field trip location by the Field Trip Leader/Coordinator for any reason including safety, disrespectful behavior, lack of following directions, physical limitations, etc.
6. MINORS: No minors under 18 are allowed on field trips unless otherwise noted in the field trip description.
7. Initial sign-up will occur at CGMS meetings.
8. In ALL cases – You are responsible for yourself, you must be fit for the accessibility and limitations
9. Anyone who signs up for a spot and cancels less than 2 days prior to the trip may be asked to wait until the next field trip season to participate in future field trips at the discretion of the board; on trips with limits of 15 people or less, no shows will not be allowed on current year field trips.
10. Field Trip Leaders must enforce any limitations/restrictions provided to CGMS by mine-owners. On all field trips Field Trip Leader/s are empowered to set any limitations/restrictions they deem necessary.

Columbine Gem and Mineral Society 2026 Field Trips (those officially signed up will receive additional information by email)

Location	Finds	Day/Time	Field Trip Leader	Accessibility	Limitations	Cost
Sedalia Mine (collecting)	almandine garnets, magnetite, azurite, malachite, actinolite	April 18		Easy to moderate: 2WD okay to drive to site. Approximately ½ mile up to top of mining area, fairly steep walking mining road.	No one under 18; No more than 12 participants; Boots over ankles; Dry, hot, steep; sign up at least 3 days prior	Free (donation to mine owner encouraged)** **Mine owner may consider taking people directly to garnet quarry but inquire closer to trip**
Royal Gorge Ranches	Mica, Rose, smoky, white quartz, feldspar, garnets	May 9		Easy – drivable, easy walking, gravel/dirt roads	Kids welcome; No more than 25 people; potential for rattlesnakes; hot and dry-bring water and food	Free (no leaving without telling leaders)
Hartsel Barite	blue barite	May 16, more instructions to come		Easy – drivable with high-clearance 2WD cars, short to moderate walk to site	Kids welcome; no more than 30 participants; sign up at least 3 days prior	Free (cost paid by club)
Last Chance Mine - Creede, CO	Amethyst; Silver-rich galena (argentiferous galena)	May 29		Moderate - exposed at high elevation. Dumps can be very steep and loose in places, potential rockfall, and toxic minerals	See accessibility column! – Bring good coverage / sunscreen, lots of water, snacks, etc. Limit of 15 people-Sign up by July 10; Children 10 and older are allowed to collect (ages 5-9 can go	\$2/lb; collecting in a special club-only area not typically open to the public. Separate underground mine tours ranging in cost from \$10-20.

Location	Finds	Day/Time	Field Trip Leader	Accessibility	Limitations	Cost
					on a tour but not in mine)	
Mid Spring outcropping	Calcite and Selenite?	June 6		2WD ok, short steep hike	Kids welcome; limited to 8 people due small outcrop area; you will want a hammer and chisel	Free
Calumet Mine	Epidote, Hematite, garnets, magnetite, actinolite, uralite, quartz, etc.	June 13, carpooling required!		Difficult - Steep ¼ to ½ mile hike required to access site; 2WD okay to drive to site	See accessibility column! Steep, rolling rocks/ boulders. No kids under 16 due to hazards limited to 25 participants. Sign up by May 29	Free
Longs Gulch	Large variety of Jasper. Possible agates, petrified wood, Chalcedony	June 20; instructions to come		High Clearance Deep ruts on last mile	Very Kid Friendly. Limit to 20. Car Pooling preferred	Free
Historic St. Elmo cobweb (building) tour – Hancock Road mining area tour	No Collecting – historic site and discussion	July 11, tour bring a lunch and water if going on Hancock Road tour		Easy/moderate drive with 4WD; easy walking Plan one hour for building tour; add 2+ Hours for Hancock Rd.	Kids welcome; no more than 20; must carpool up Hancock Road	Free

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Texas Creek	Variety of beautiful/interesting finds. Nice Yard/Garden Rocks	July 18; More instructions to come		Easy - park nearby, walking on rough surface	Kids welcome - no prior sign up required; Bring a picnic if you'd like	Free (attendees should be members of CGMS)
<i>St. Elmo historical tour/historical mine tour</i>	<i>No collecting Historical and discussion</i>	<i>(ADDITIONAL /ALTERNATE DATE IF NEEDED) July 16</i>		<i>easy/moderate drive with 4WD walking?</i>	<i>???</i>	<i>Free</i>
National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum (and Matchless Mine Historic Site) – Leadville, CO	No Collecting – educational and social trip	Friday, August 21 (or 22);		Easy	None – This will be a fun and educational trip for all ages and knowledge levels; pack a lunch	\$10/person
CGMS picnic and silent Mineral Auction	Join us for a fun afternoon and buy some cool mineral specimens!	SATURDAY, August 15,		FUN! Drive up and park nearby! Eat and visit!	ALL are welcome; to help us know how much food to buy, please rsvp at (to be announced)	CGMS will provide the burgers, hot dogs and buns. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish, snack, or dessert to share.
“Spanish” Arrasta	No Collecting – historic site and discussion	TBD		Difficult and Easy; complex 4 WD road to parking – 400-foot walk from county road; Need to	Limited to 20 participants	Free (plus lunch at Jan’s Restaurant)

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				carpool from La Gree's		
OVERNIGHT TRIP Crawford NE	Colorful Jaspers, possible agates - maybe a Fairborn or prairie agate?	Sept or Oct Weekend trip		Easy. RV or Tent Camp, or hotels in area	<=30	Free