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Weather in Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs is the second largest city in Colorado with an altitude of 6,035 feet above sea level and is known for its moderate temperatures throughout the year. The average number of days of sunshine is 300 and the average snowfall is 37 inches a year.

Colorado Springs is so close to the mountains the weather can change at a moment’s notice. Summer can become quite warm, but remember to pack an umbrella as thunderstorms often move in during the afternoons, and to bring a light jacket or sweater for cool summer nights. The humidity is usually quite low compared to other regions of the U.S.

High Altitude Precautions

Colorado Springs ranks among those cities of the United States with the highest altitudes. The lack of humidity, warm days and cool nights are some of the advantages to living at this elevation. Colorado Springs residents are familiar with the special conditions created by the dry air and its decreased amount of oxygen.

Visitors to our campus, however, often overlook some simple suggestions that can reduce possible negative effects caused by the high elevation. To ensure that your attendees enjoy their visit to Colorado Springs, here are a few things to keep in mind to give attendees’ bodies time to adjust to the altitude and prevent altitude sickness:

- Stay below 7,000 feet the first day (the city of Colorado Springs is 6,035 feet above sea level).
- Give your body time to adjust (there is a lot to see and do at the lower altitude level).
- Avoid strenuous exercise the first day.
- Drink lots of fluids, especially water and avoid too much alcohol and tobacco.

If you follow these simple suggestions, you are sure to enjoy each day of your conference.
Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau offers many complimentary services to its clients. The Bureau will provide brochures, maps, and guides. In addition, it will help coordinate spouse programs and events for special functions, and will gather information for clients and act as a liaison between clients and service companies. They can be reached toll free at (800) 888-4748 or locally at (719) 635-7506. For more information, visit www.visitcos.com.

Local Attractions*

The Pikes Peak region is home to many "must-see" attractions such as the amazing Garden of the Gods with its massive red sandstone formations and its Visitor’s Center, a unique natural history museum. You don't want to miss Manitou Springs, Old Colorado City, Cave of the Winds, Seven Falls or the Manitou Cliff Dwellings. The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is America’s only mountain zoo and houses the largest giraffe herd of any zoo in the world. The Royal Gorge is home to the world's highest suspension bridge hanging at 965 feet. If that isn’t enough, visit the ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy, the World Arena, the Olympic Training Complex or the Air Force Academy.

Nestled in a sunny valley just west of Pikes Peak and Colorado Springs, Cripple Creek epitomizes the Old West. Enjoy one of two beautiful and scenic routes to Cripple Creek, spectacular in any season. A town reminiscent of rowdy mining days and Old West enchantment, Cripple Creek has casinos sprawling down the main street (Bennett Avenue). Park the car and take a stroll through the gambling halls, museums, and shops or leave the driving to a casino, with buses that transport from many Front Range locations on regular schedules.

The Pikes Peak region has more than 50 attractions, so there is sure to be something for everyone!

Facts About Pikes Peak*

Towering over the plains and the city of Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak is one of the best-known landmarks in the state. Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who surveyed the mountain in 1806, named it “Grand Peak,” but cartographers labeled it “Pikes Peak” on their maps. After a November storm prevented him from scaling the mountain, Lt. Pike predicted “no one would ever reach the summit.” Today more than 400,000 people climb the 14,110-foot peak each year. Katharine Lee Bates, a visiting professor at Colorado College, wrote the words to the classic American anthem “America the Beautiful” after her trip to the summit in 1893.

*From the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor’s Guide (www.visitcos.com)
Colorado College History

Colorado College was established as a coeducational institution in 1874, two years before Colorado became a state. In 1871, General William Jackson Palmer, founder of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, laid out the city of Colorado Springs along his new line from Denver. Envisioning a model city, he reserved land and contributed funds for a college. In the early years, the college gathered a small faculty whose roots ran to traditional New England scholarship. Today’s faculty, although more diverse philosophically, still balance teaching and scholarship as the college’s traditional strength.

Colorado College began a unique program in 1970 by adopting the Block Plan. The Block Plan divides the academic year into eight three-and-a-half week segments or blocks. Students take and professors teach only one principal course at a time. Because of this program, all courses are given equal importance and students can give full attention to each course.

Colorado College is located on a 90-acre campus in downtown Colorado Springs at the base of the 14,110-foot high Pikes Peak, about an hour south of Denver. Ranked 31st among the nation’s top liberal arts colleges by U.S News & World Report, and even higher for its quality of teaching, Colorado College is the only top tier college in the Rocky Mountain region. The college is also one of only a handful of prestigious liberal arts and sciences colleges located in a metropolitan area.

Directions to Colorado College

The Colorado Springs Airport serves 6 airlines with around 90 flights daily, offering non-stop service to 13 U.S. cities and easy connections to almost any city in the world.

By Plane: Many airlines fly directly to Colorado Springs without requiring you to switch planes in a hub city. The Colorado Springs Airport is a 20-minute drive from the campus. You can also take a taxi (719-777-7777) to campus.

By Car: Interstate 25 is the major highway into Colorado Springs. Take Exit #143 (Uintah Street) and head East (away from the mountains). Turn right (South) on Cascade Avenue and you will be on campus. Residential Life and Housing/Conference Services is located in Bemis Hall at 920 North Cascade Avenue.
**Admission Tours**
College information sessions are held all summer at 9:00AM and 1:00PM, Monday through Friday. Campus tours occur immediately following the information sessions at 10:00AM and 2:00PM, Monday through Friday. If you are interested in arranging information sessions and/or tours of the campus for your conference participants, please visit the following website [http://www.coloradocollege.edu/admission/introduceyourself/visit/signup/](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/admission/introduceyourself/visit/signup/) or call Conference Services at (719) 389-6012 for planning assistance.

**Emergency Preparedness**
Emergency preparedness and response is a shared responsibility. Colorado College provides information regarding emergency preparedness and response to the campus via the College’s Emergency Preparedness website [http://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/preparedness/](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/preparedness/) and printed materials. Guests at Colorado College should commit to personal preparedness and a general understanding of Colorado College’s plan by being aware of their surroundings. Colorado College Campus Safety often relies on the instincts and perceptions of individuals to detect activity that is out of the ordinary and may indicate suspicious or illegal conduct. If you see anything suspicious please call Campus Safety at (719) 389-6707. To help you stay up to date on campus safety, Conference staff will collect cell contact numbers via the room roster to send safety alerts. You can also visit the Emergency Preparedness website for further information on emergency procedures for conference guests.

**Colorado College’s Sustainability Commitment**
The Colorado College mission commits us to providing the finest liberal arts education in the country by embodying our core values. Sustainability isn't optional at Colorado College; it's central to our community and to the examples we set through all of our work. We aspire to make Colorado College a model for sustainability at all levels – an academic community that lives its commitment to a thriving future, honoring the economic, social and environmental narratives of our complex ecosystem.

Since 2012 when the college embarked upon a strategic planning process to examine and affirm aspirational goals for the future, Colorado College has made exemplary strides in sustainability performance and it continues to be a centerpiece of our strategies to remain relevant to our students and the world moving forward. Indeed, sustainability is a prominent piece of our strategic plan and the master plan and is exemplified in our daily actions, including our continued drive towards carbon neutrality, our design of the new Tutt Library as a net-zero energy/net-zero carbon building, and our increasing portfolio of sustainability courses.

STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) is a self-reporting framework for colleges to assess their sustainability performance. By using this widely accepted and comprehensive metric, Colorado College has made solid improvements in our performance and has a clear road map of where to head in the coming years. The first Colorado College STARS report came out in 2014, and the college earned a ‘silver star' in sustainability. This rating is evidence of the ethic and practices that permeate the administration, faculty, staff and students at our college. The Colorado College 2015 State of Sustainability Update earned the college our current status as a STARS® Gold institution, validating many of the efforts begun over the past years as well as re-focusing our efforts in new areas as we strive to become a STARS® Platinum institution and a premier sustainability example while providing the ‘finest liberal arts education in the country.’