The Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym was created through student initiative and drive. In 2000, a group of enthusiastic students took steps to develop a cohesive and official on-campus climbing community. Spearheaded by Ryan Anderson ’01 and Patrick Murdoch ’01, the group of students formed CACC, the Climbing Association of Colorado College. Once established, CACC moved to build a climbing gym on campus. At a Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund expedition slideshow, some students and members of the Ritt Kellogg Advisory Committee got to talking, a phone call was made, and Mr. Kellogg agreed to fund the building of the climbing gym, giving it the name The Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym.

The school contracted El Dorado Climbing Wall Company to construct the gym. El Dorado worked closely with students, offering a truly personalized climbing wall. The students constructed a model climbing wall out of styrofoam and met with the employees of El Dorado to tweak the design until all those involved were satisfied. Construction began in El Pomar, converting one squash court into the current climbing area. CC students assisted with many aspects of construction, from drilling holes to adding stylistic detail.

With the guidance of Dan Crossey of Facilities and Charles Walters of Photography, the students turned the gym from a dream to a reality. It has been a 10 year learning process, with constant improvements to safety and organization. The gym employs student staff to serve as monitors who observe the gym, assist climbers, promote safety, set routes, and help the gym run smoothly.

The climbing gym is open from 4 pm-10 pm Monday-Thursday, and 6 pm-10 pm on Sundays. Currently, the only type of climbing available is bouldering, however top-roping and lead climbing will be available in block three. The gym has a new floor as well as snazzy, new informative posters. The gym is rumored to have spontaneous dance parties inspired by gym monitors and climbers alike.

The gym is open to all skill levels! If you are new to climbing and want assistance from the monitors without all the crowds stop by Beginner Wednesdays the second Wednesday of each block from 3 pm-4 pm There is also Women’s Wednesdays from 4 pm-6 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each block.

The Ritt Kellogg Gym maintains its close ties with CACC, which meets Thursdays at 12:15 pm in upstairs Worner. CACC works with the climbing gym to put on climbing competitions, some of which contain costumes and hat wrestling. Coming up, there will be a Halloween competition on November 4th for students to showcase their climbing skills and abilities.

The current gym will see some major expansions with the new El Pomar facility. The floor space of the gym will approximately double, but the climbing capacity will triple. There will be more opportunities for bouldering, an introductory climbing area, as well as a second story viewing window to check out the climbers from above. Construction will start in the spring and will be done by next school year.

-Lauren Paley ’11 with great help from Dan Crossey of Facilities, Sally Hardin ’12 and Colin Jenks of Outdoor Education

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**Happenings**

**MEETINGS:**

**Outdoor Recreation Club:** Every Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the WES Room
**Climbing Association of Colorado College:** Thursday at 12:15 pm in upstairs Worner
**Kayak Club:** Roll Sessions and club meeting every Monday 8 pm-9:30 pm at the pool—All skill levels welcome!

**GEAR HOUSE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-8 pm
Friday: 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

**RITT KELLOGG CLIMBING GYM HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday: 4 pm-10 pm
Sunday: 6 pm-10 pm

**TRIPS:**

- **Day Trips**
  
  BreakOut Saturday: 10/22
  ORC: Day Hike Series: 10/13
  Pumpkin picking 10/23

- **Weekend Trips**
  
  Kayaking Club and ORC: Kayaking and hot springs trip
  ORC AND BSU: Sand Dunes Trip
  **Block Break Two**
  BreakOut: Tapetes de Lana, Mora, NM Fire Mitigation in Crestone, CO
  ORC: Westwater Kayak and Raft Trip
  Mountain Biking Trip to Fruita, CO
  The Search for Wild Horses in Southern CO

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**FUCC:** Ski Pass Sale in Worner Film Screening: 10/8
**CACC:** Reel Rock Film Screening: 10/18
**Outdoor Resume Building Workshop with Libby Bushell:** 10/10, 10/12
**ORC:** Leader Training Applications: 10/15
Thoughts from the Road: Aspen Bike Trip, 2011

The Aspen Bike Trip, the longest running block break tradition at CC, proved to live up to its storied past: we crested Independence Pass, crossed the Continental Divide in a beat-bumping, breathtaking fashion. We flew across 160 miles of gorgeous autumnal Colorado! Descending Independence Pass in full aerodynamic tuck—pushing the 50 mph margin—took the “crown” as far as standout moments go (good thing it lasted 20 miles). Climbing Aspen Mountain and getting to hike around the Maroon Bells, with the aspens at their peak, was pretty good too.

-Breton Schwarzenbach ‘14

What happened first block?

- Successful first block breaks were had by our student groups:
  - Cycling Club sent 63 students on the one 160 mile Aspen Bike Trip
  - 19 First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips (FOOT) adventured around various mountains in Colorado
  - BreakOut sent two community service trips—one to a homeless shelter in Alamosa, CO and another to an animal shelter in Dalhart, TX
  - Both ORC day hiking trips and BreakOut Saturday trips ventured out into the Colorado Springs community

Break Out of the Ordinary with BreakOut!

BreakOut is a 22 year-old organization that sends out student-led service trips over block breaks and weekends. Through a wide variety of service projects, BreakOut strives to serve the City of Colorado Springs and communities throughout the Southwest. BreakOut also serves the Colorado College community, providing opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills, meet other students and learn about pressing social issues first-hand.

BreakOut offers a variety of trips including: BreakOut Saturday trips, which go out on Saturdays throughout the block to nonprofits in the Colorado Springs area. There have been trips to the Ronald McDonald House, Venetucci Farm, and Care & Share. BreakOut trips go out every block break to locations around the Southwest. Past locations have included La Puente, a homeless outreach in Alamosa, CO; Easter Seals, a camp for the disabled in Empire, CO; and Tapetes de Lana, a weaving coop in Mora, NM. Alternative Spring Break Trips last for all 10 days of spring break and give students the chance to work extensively with one organization or volunteer with multiple organizations. Past trips have focused on rebuilding houses and nonprofit work in Santa Fe. Applications for ASB trips are typically available at the beginning of 5th block.

How can a student get involved? Sign up for a trip! ANY student can sign up for a FREE BreakOut and/or BreakOut Saturday trip. Sign up in the Campus Activities office. Lead a trip! Any student who has been on an NSO trip is eligible to lead a BreakOut Saturday or block break trip. Leaders often choose their co-leaders and the service site. You can lead as many or as few trips as you would like. If you would like to apply to be an ASB leader, you must lead a BreakOut block break trip first. Students can also join the Steering Committee to help guide the BreakOut co-chairs in their decision making process. Email BreakOut@ColoradoCollege.edu with questions!

-BreakOut Co-Chairs Emily Moore ‘12 and Justin Garoutte ‘12, with help from Lauren Paley ‘11

A Reason to Celebrate!

- Thanks to Marley Hamrick ‘12 for completing the NSO 2011 Tapestry of Service! Check it out in the display case in downstairs Worner
- Financial Aid is now available for all Outdoor Ed programs!
- Elizabeth Pudder adopted two puppies from DAWGs animal shelter, an NSO and BreakOut volunteer site!
- Most applications for ORC leader training ever—103 applicants!

Email us your photos!

Have a question about Outdoor Education or any of the groups we advise (BreakOut, ORC, FUCC, Kayak Club, Cycling Club, Ahlberg Gear House, Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym)? Email us!
OutdoorEd@ColoradoCollege.edu

Need gear?
The Ahlberg Gear House (1024 Weber St.) has a variety of outdoor gear available to rent!