

Volunteers Enhance Recreational Opportunities and Restore Resources



Partnership

Snapshot: Friends of the Peak

Friends of the Peak is a volunteer non-profit organization founded in 1995 to help the Forest Service preserve, restore, and enhance Pikes Peak and surrounding areas. The volunteers are active in trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects while enhancing recreational opportunities.

Program Highlights

Friends of the Peak organizes and leads weekend group workdays and projects resulting in 5,000 volunteer hours annually. The group has completed more than 200 work projects over the past 11 years, providing over \$750,000 worth of maintenance and improvements in the Pike National Forest. Volunteers have:

- Constructed and maintained over 30 miles of hiking trails in and around Pikes Peak
- Adopted the Barr Trail, a national scenic trail, to the Pikes Peak Summit
- Helped coordinate planning and signage for the Ring the Peak Trail
- Restored and rehabilitated tundra vegetation on cut slope areas along the Pikes Peak Highway

- Planted native trees along the Pikes Peak Highway
- Offered public education on land values and ethics and maintained a Pikes Peak Web page
- Raised funds to purchase trail signs and fence rails and to improve trailheads
- Provided input on various Forest Service planning initiatives and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping studies

Trails for People; Restoration for Wildlife

Approximately 600,000 residents live within a half-hour drive of Pikes Peak, America's mountain, visited by nearly one million people annually. By restoring habitat and maintaining a vast trail network, Friends of the Peak blend enhanced recreational opportunities with critical ecosystem protection.

State: Colorado
Forest: Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands
Partners: Pike-San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands, and Friends of the Peak
FS Funds Used: \$5,000 annually
Partner Funds: \$75,000 annually (estimated time)
Other Funds: \$25,000 annually (estimated)

Colorado

Friends of the Peak working and learning on the Ring the Peak Trail

