

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT OVERNIGHT USE OF THE CMC BOULDER GROUP CABIN AT BRAINARD LAKE.

THE CABIN IS A SHARED RESOURCE:

- The Boulder Group of the CMC owns the cabin, but the committee that oversees, coordinates and cares for the cabin is made up entirely of volunteers. The fees collected at the cabin are used exclusively for supplies and maintenance and club expenses. The cabin needs everyone's effort and energy. Each user is expected to care for and maintain the cabin so that it can continue to be enjoyed for years to come. That's a big part of its charm. There is a wealth of information about the cabin in the [Brainard Cabin User's Handbook](#).

WHO CAN RESERVE SPACES AT THE CABIN?

- Anyone who is on the list of Qualified Users can reserve overnight spaces at the cabin.
- Every group wishing to reserve spaces must have at least one Qualified User in their group and that person must be at the cabin with the group.

HOW DOES ONE RESERVE SPACES?

- Day Hosts may reserve spaces for the following winter starting in June. Qualified Users may reserve spaces starting in October.
- Check the [Brainard Cabin Reservations Calendar](#) to see if space is available for the desired time frame. The number shown in the calendar is the number of spaces taken.
- Email a request for your desired stay (please be specific regarding nights and spaces wanted) to: brainardcabin@gmail.com
- The reservations coordinator will verify that you are a Qualified User and then send you a request for payment. When your payment has been received, your reservation will be entered in the calendar.
- You must pay within 3 days of making the reservation and payments are NON REFUNDABLE. If you make changes to your group, the group must still include at least one Qualified User.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- Spaces cost \$24 per person per night for non-members, \$12 per person per night for CMC members. Children 12 and under pay ½ price.
- Day Hosts get 2 free spaces each night on the weekends they are hosting.
- People who help at the work parties earn one free night for each day they help.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN STAY?

- The capacity of the cabin is 12 people staying overnight.
- If one group reserves the entire cabin then the limit depends on how well the members of the group know each other (each person still needs to pay the per person fee).

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR A GROUP?

- Each group is told the current combination to the lock, and each group is responsible for its own safety.
- When two or more groups are going to share the cabin, one group cannot assume that the other will have the cabin open. Chores are to be shared.

- When more than one group is in the cabin it's like kindergarten: you should work and play well together. The groups frequently contact each other to coordinate efforts.
- Only groups with a reservation are allowed to stay overnight. Would-be overnight crashers can be told to leave. Truly lost and desperate souls are a different matter.

CAN I BRING CHILDREN?

- Yes. However, the cabin is not child friendly. There are no guards around the hot stoves, the ladder to the loft or the tools in the anteroom. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN.**

HOW DO I BECOME A QUALIFIED USER?

- You need:
 - A few pre-requisite skills
 - A thorough study of the [Brainard Cabin User's Handbook](#)
 - On-site training
- **PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS:**
 - Know where the cabin is and how to get there.
 - Know how to build a fire in a cook stove.
 - Relieve yourself in an outhouse, perhaps at 0°F.
 - Empty a full mouse trap, bait and re-set it, without smashing your fingers.
 - Use axes and mauls to safely split wood for the stoves.
- **ON-SITE TRAINING TOPICS** (after you've studied the manual):
 - Opening and closing the cabin: photo-voltaic system, shutter and window latches.
 - General intro to what's kept where in the cabin: dishes, pots/pans, silverware, tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, salt, spices, water jugs, sleeping pads, blankets and pillows (no sheets), tools, mousetrap bait, brooms, dustpans, axes and mauls, kindling, wood for the cook stove, wood for the heating stove, spare bulbs, extra dish rags, and lots more.
 - Where to find this year's wood pile. It may be buried under the snow.
 - Where next year's pile of green wood is stacked, so that you don't try to use it now and experience smoke and frustration.
 - Where to find water in the winter. Melting snow uses too much of our limited wood supply.
 - How to operate the stoves. They are old and very precious.
 - How to use the kitchen sinks. Where to dump the waste water (in the outhouse).
 - Oh yeah. How to find and dig out the outhouse, if the snow has covered it.

If you wish to participate in on-site training, send an email to brainardcabin@gmail.com and you will be notified of upcoming opportunities.

RESTRICTIONS: NO DOGS (EXCEPT FOR SERVICE DOGS), NO GUNS, NO SMOKING, IN OR AROUND THE CABIN.

- We all want to bring our pooches, but there are many reasons why it's just not workable.
- Alcohol is allowed, but at 10,450 feet altitude it has a huge kick. Be very very careful.

WHAT DO THE HOSTS FOR DAYTIME VISITORS ("Day Hosts") DO?

One person said, "Day Hosts are charming people who boil water and keep the fires going." There's a bit more to it than that, but it's a good start.

- Day Hosts are Qualified Users who volunteer to:
 - Have the cabin open and warm from 10 am to about 2:30 pm on weekends and holidays from early December through early April.
 - Welcome daytime visitors to a warm cabin.
 - Provide hot water for cocoa, tea and coffee.
 - Be ambassadors for the Colorado Mountain Club.
 - Wash the dishes used by the daytime visitors (most visitors will offer to wash their own dishes, but it uses too much water to wash one cup at a time. It is best to collect up a sizable number and then wash them in one batch).
 - Haul enough water for all the drinks and dishes.

As always, there are no guarantees for our daytime visitors. If people get to the cabin and it is locked and shuttered on a winter weekend, then that's too bad, but sometimes it's just not avoidable. The CMC will do its best, but, like everybody else, the Day Hosts are volunteers.

Day Hosts who go up on a Saturday morning generally have to leave the trailhead before 7:30am. That is because it takes about two hours to warm the cabin on a cold day and because they commit to having the cabin warm by 10. To avoid that early start, many hosts go up on Friday. Day Hosts usually bring a lot of friends to help them. After the last daytime visitors have been ushered out at 2:30, the Day Hosts are off duty till the next morning.

WHAT DAY HOSTS DON'T DO:

- Day Hosts don't do chores or provide meals/cooking for other groups who are staying overnight.
- You cannot make a reservation to stay over simply because there is a Day Host staying overnight. Each group wishing to make a reservation needs to include at least one qualified user.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION:

- Check out the [Brainard Cabin User's Handbook](#)
- Send email to brainardcabin@gmail.com