

About the Authors:

Aaron Voth: I started coming here as a camper in 1998, my first hike here was Old Baldy. Since my first experience here I have worked on staff for five summers. Currently I live in Boulder CO and climb mountains whenever possible. In five years I have climbed over 650 peaks 200 of them over 13,000 feet.

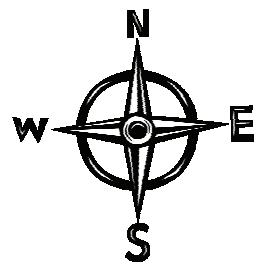


Matt Layman: I'm from Harrisonburg, Virginia and graduated from Virginia Tech in 2013 with a degree in Geography. I will be pursuing an MS in Geographic Information Systems at the University of Denver this fall, and will be climbing as many mountains as possible. I was on staff at RMMC for two summers.



Baldy





Old Baldy (10,740) (4)

Difficulty: Class 2

Elevation gain: 1000'

Distance: 2.3 miles roundtrip

Time: 40 RP

Introduction:

Old Baldy offers great views as well as challenging terrain. A steep, 1000 ft. climb in one mile will challenge your lungs and legs but you will be rewarded with fantastic views of the Pikes Peak Massif as well as Raspberry Mountain. For those who like rock scrambling, Baldy offers many interesting spots south of its main summit.

Description:

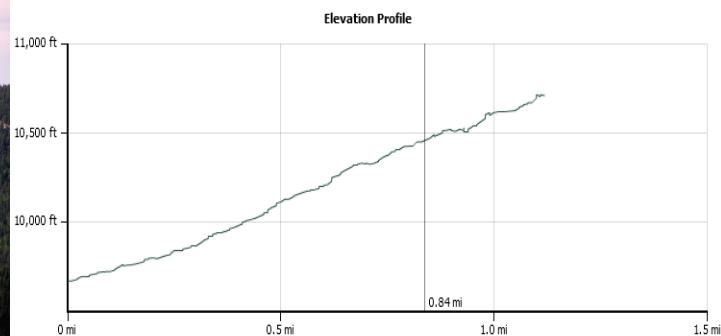
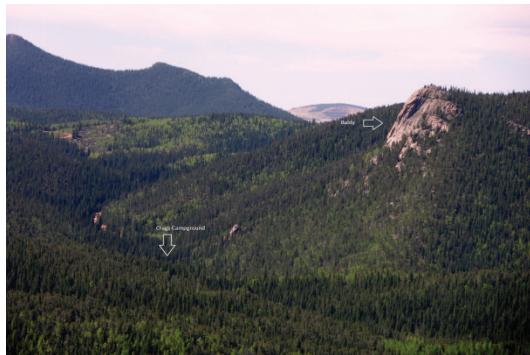
From main camp, the Old Baldy trail is a short distance away. From the intersection below the lodge, turn right on the fork in the road (FS 383) that leads to the Crags Campground. Continue on this road for about .3 mile. When you reach a sharp bend in the road to the Southeast (left) you will see a turnoff for vehicles as well as a USFS trail marker saying "no motor vehicles". Walk past this marker and cross Fourmile creek. You will see two roads leading up the mountain into the woods. Take the road to the right and continue on the rugged, washed out trail. Immediately upon entering the woods you will begin the steep, constant climb to Baldy. After about .7 mile you will reach a flat spot in the trail. Don't be fooled, the trail continues the steep trend immediately after this flat section. Follow the cairns to the top of the ridge then head east until you meet some massive boulders. Climb these and you will have gained Old Baldy's summit.

Extra Credit: Baldy cave (Class 3)

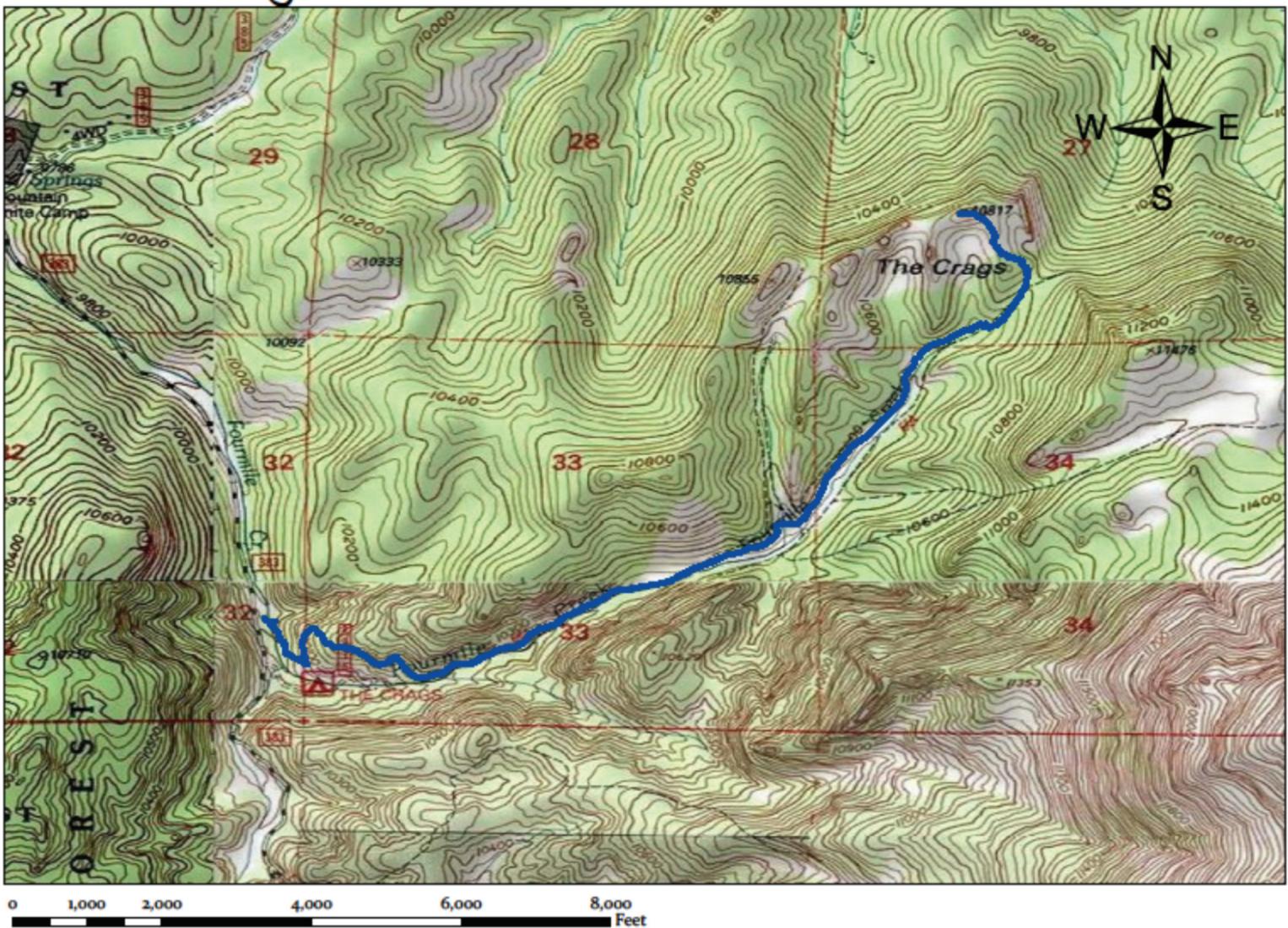
This cave is hard to find. From the summit of Baldy, go back down the boulders to the ridge. Go south (left) and descend approximately 150 feet in elevation. You will see a giant boulder and the entrance is directly in front of it. The entrance to the cave is very small. Explore the area and you will find it. It takes you down into the rocks and then turns to the left and into a small, 3 sided cave. There are logs in the cave which form a place to sit. You can either hop down from the logs and circle the boulder or go back up the way you came down.

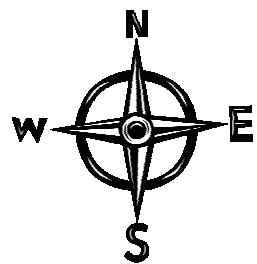
Extra credit: Old Baldy to Solution Pools Traverse (Class 2)

This is relatively easy extra credit. From the summit of Old Baldy go back to the ridge and head south. Merely follow this gentle ridge over to Solution Pools. You can either take the trail down from Solution Pools (Class 3) or retrace your steps back to Baldy.



The Crags





The Crags (10,817) (5)

Difficulty: Class 1
Elevation gain: 820'
Distance: 5.2 miles
Time: 55 RP

Introduction:

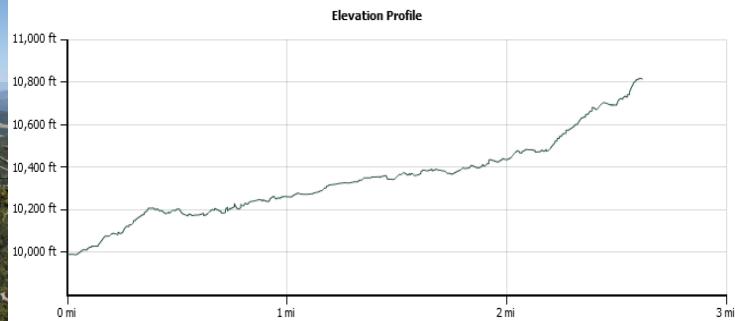
The Crags offer a relatively easy hike with great views for those that haven't spent much time at high altitude or merely want a low intensity hike. It is not for those seeking solitude. Even on weekdays, you are likely to encounter several people as you hike because it is a USFS maintained trail. Weekends, especially holiday weekends, can feel like walking through a crowded city street. Another unique aspect of the Crags is that most of the hike is not in the forest. It is not above treeline, however. At the top you are rewarded with views of the valley you just hiked up as well as excellent rock scrambling should you choose to explore the area.

Description:

From the road intersection below the lodge, turn right on the fork in the road (FS 383) that leads to the Crags/Devils Playground trailhead. At the trailhead, there is a large parking lot and primitive restroom facilities. To the right of the restrooms is the beginning of the trail. Cross Fourmile creek and begin switchbacking up a gentle slope. After about .6 mile you will reach a trail intersection. There is a sign that will direct you to the right if you want to go to Pikes Peak and to the left if you want to go to the Crags. There is also a trail that heads down the creek to the Crags campground. Take the fork to the left and continue on a well defined, gravel trail into a broad valley. You will enjoy views of Pinnacle and the Pikes Peak Massif to the southeast (right). Continue on this very gentle trail. There are several side trails that branch off of the main trail, do not follow these. If you stay on the widest trail you will be fine. After about 1.5 mile you will enter a forested area. The trail becomes less defined at this point. Follow this up a moderately steep slope. You will begin to encounter granite rock formations. Continue uphill on gravelly slopes until you reach the summit ridge. Enjoy the fantastic views to the west and try scrambling the nearby, craggy rock.

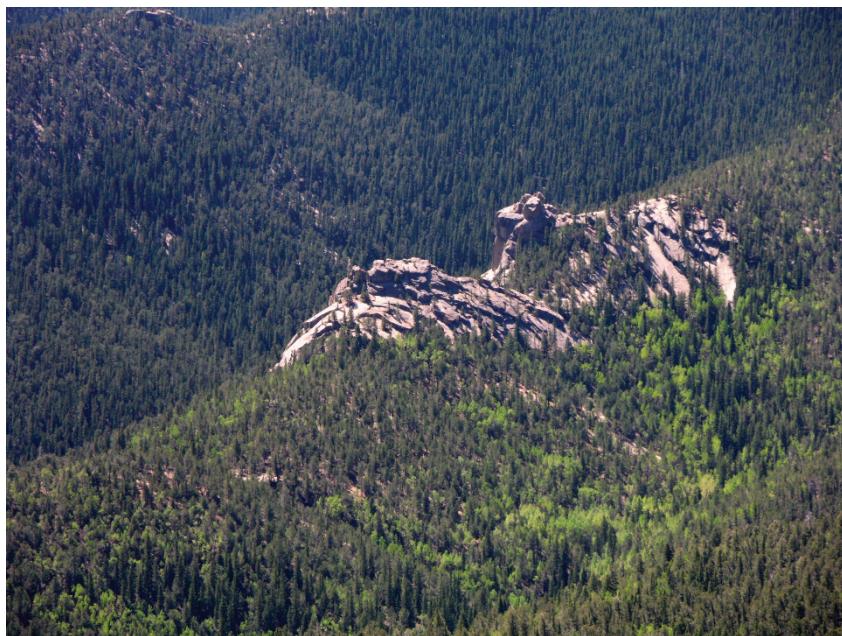
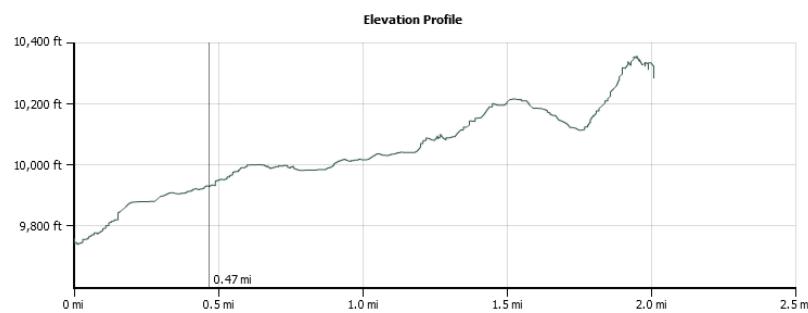
Extra Credit: Prehistoric Valley (Class 1)

While hiking along the Crags trail, you will cross several intermittent (not always flowing) streams on log bridges. After crossing the second bridge you encounter in the valley, turn left onto the trail and follow it up into the valley. Prehistoric valley offers a great place to hang out, throw ball, and picnic.

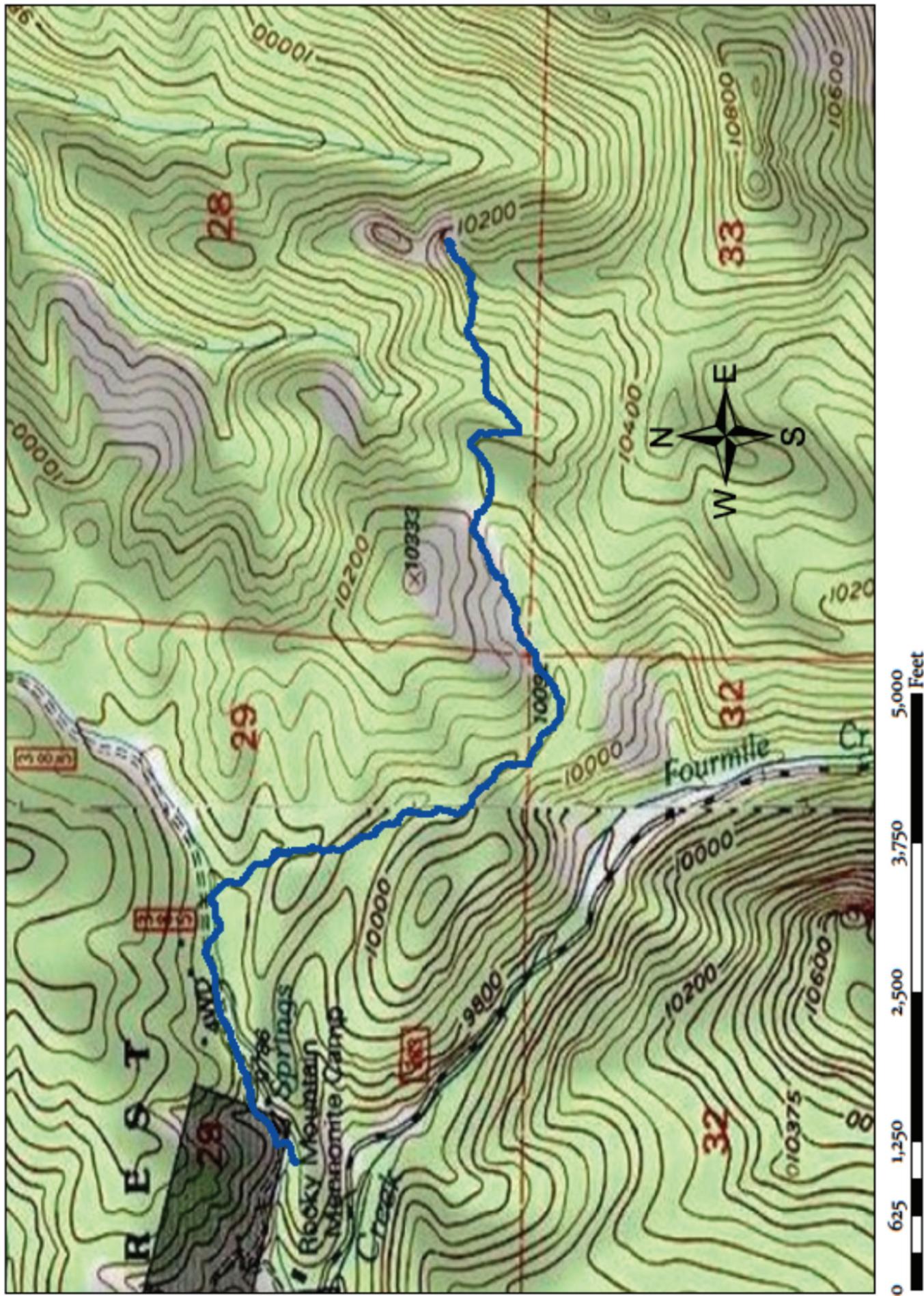


Extra Credit: Lard Point (10,940) class 2, 1.5 miles, 30 RP, 740 ft.

From the highpoint of the trail before it descends into the valley head up the ridge. It is a mellow bushwhack to a 10,540 ridge point. Descend 40 ft to the east cross an old trail and head up the final 400 ft ascent. The vegetation becomes more dense and the terrain more rocky. The difficulty never exceeds class 2. Reach the summit ridge at 10,860 feet. If you follow the ridge proper the terrain is class 4. Instead follow just below the ridge on the west side. Stay as close to the ridge as possible because the deadfall is intense below on the west slopes of Lard Point. Near the east end of the ridge climb up to the summit on solid rock (class 2). Lard point is named after a failed attempt at Pig Rock. Another interesting note is that Lard Point is one of four ranked summits in the immediate camp area.



Pig Rock



Pig Rock (10,360) (2)

Difficulty: Class 3

Distance: 4 miles

Elevation Gain: 750 ft.

Time: 50 RP

Introduction:

Pig Rock is small ridge point which when viewed from Raspberry resembles a Pig, hence the name. This hike is infamous for the amount of staff who get lost on it. The convoluted terrain surrounding the point and the fact that the point is not at the highpoint on the ridge makes it easier to get lost.

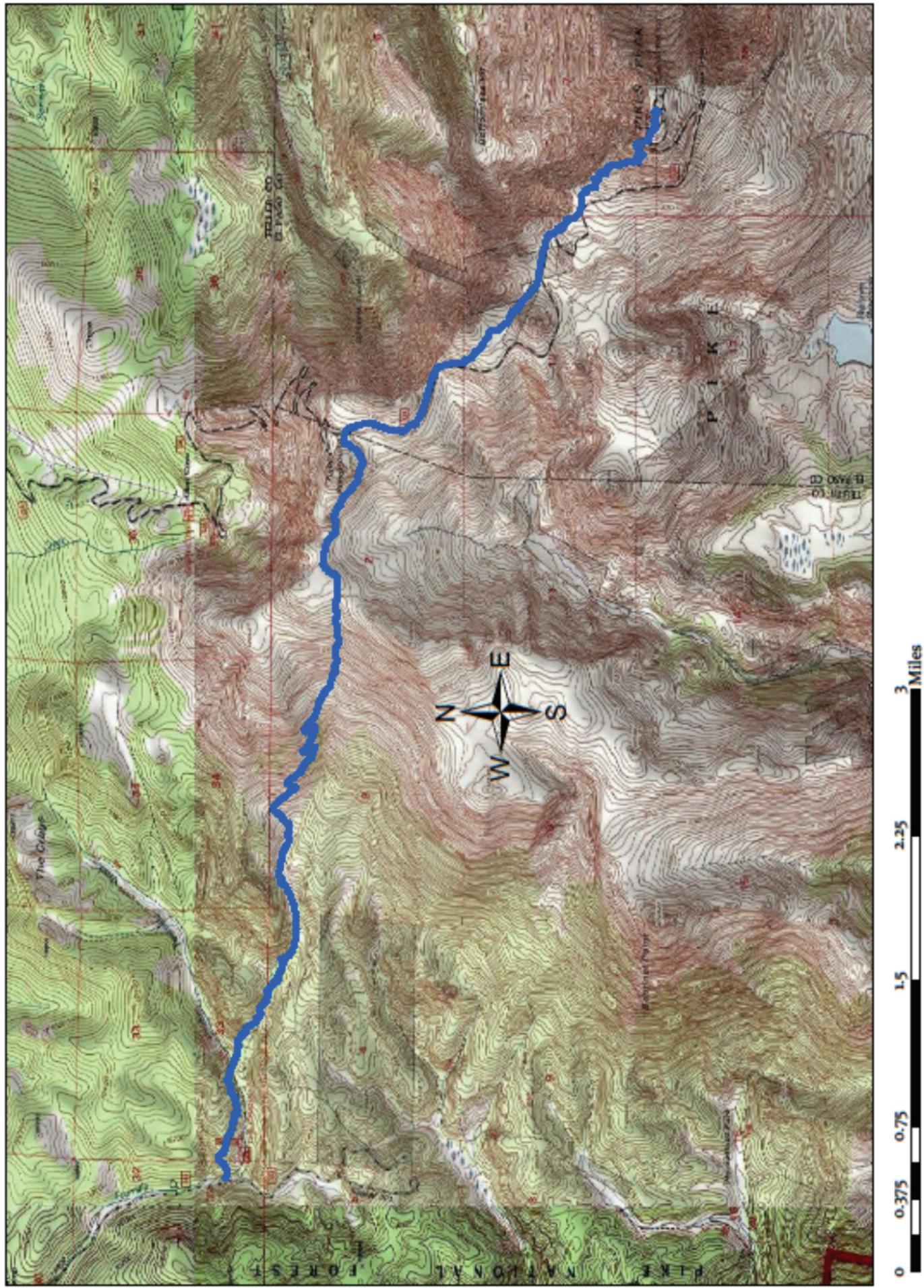
Description:

Hike past staffville on the road, through a meadow, and into the trees again. Look for the Ring the Peak trail sign about 100 yards into the trees. Turn right onto the Ring the Peak trail. Hike up a small ridge which is the same ridge as Aspen Ridge. Descend into a small valley. If you look closely down towards the creek you will be able to see an old still. Hike up the trail as it climbs out of the drainage. Look for the place where there are three Ring the Peak trail signs. This is you turn off point. There will be some old logs blocking an old trail heading north. Follow this trail as it meanders through a shallow valley. The trail is not well defined in spots, as the trail gets higher it becomes more well defined. Near the end of the valley the trail gets steeper as it climbs to a ridge. After cresting the ridge the trail descends about 100 feet into another valley. There is a fallen tree across the trail right before it makes a sharp horseshoe turn back north. This spot can be difficult to follow. Turn north and head down the now single track trail. Look closely for a cairn to the right of the trail. If you end up at a very steep loose section of trail going down you've gone too far. Hike up the steep trail heading North Northeast, it is short and steep. Once on top of the ridge head north, there is no trail here, but a few cairns will guide you. Remember where you crested on the ridge so you can make the return trip. The summit block of Pig Rock is now in view, all you have to do is climb it. Walk across a narrow ledge with good footing to a 20 foot crack (class 3) which is the main weakness in the summit ramparts. Scramble up the crumbling rock to a plateau. This is where most people stop. To make it to the top of the Pig's head find some stair step looking rocks which lead to the top (class 3).

Extra Credits: Little Pig (10,260) class 3, 0.2-0.4 miles, 10-20 RP, 100-180 ft.

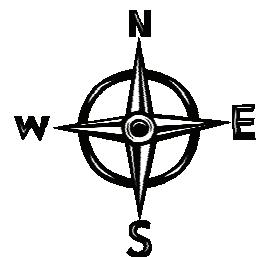
If climbing Pig Rock was not enough for you, you can climb Little Pig, the prominent rock formation north of Pig Rock, from many camp hike locations this point is misidentified as Pig Rock. Descend to the summit ridge of Pig Rock, from there look for a steep scree slope heading to the northwest. Descend this scree and loose pine needles to the saddle. From here the summit of Little Pig looks impossible to climb without ropes. Descend along the summit block to a tree, this is the weakness, scramble up to a large boulder, walk up to the ridge crest. From here it is a class 2 walk up until the final class 3 move. To return back to camp there are two options, one which I recommend is to return by your ascent route back to Pig Rock. The other is to descend from the saddle down into the valley meeting up with the single track and heading up the single track.

Pikes Peak



Pikes Peak- Northwest Slopes (14,110) (8)

Difficulty: Class 2
Elevation gain: 4300'
Distance: 13.25 miles
Time: 250 RP



Introduction:

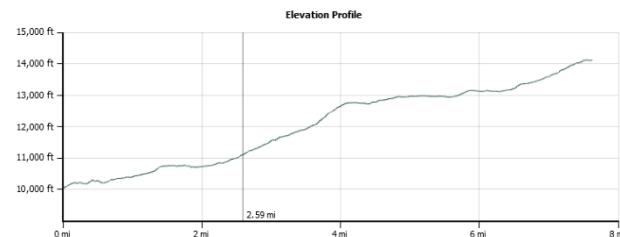
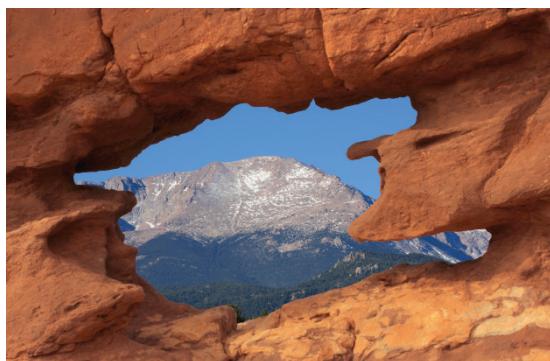
One of the most famous mountains in the United States, Pikes Peak has captured the minds and hearts of many. It inspired Katherine Lee Bates to write the famous song “America the Beautiful” and is named after famous American explorer Zebulon Pike. It rises to 14,110 feet above sea level, and nearly 7,000 ft. above Colorado Springs. While there is a road all the way to the top, it is a long and potentially dangerous hike on a high mountain. Thunderstorms can blow up at anytime during the summer and the temperature can drop dramatically at any time. That being said, there is a gift shop at the top where one can buy souvenirs as well as food and water, which takes away immensely from the wilderness experience yet adds its own unique flavor. Take at least two liters of water per person as well as extra layers, even during the middle of the summer. If a storm looks imminent, get below treeline as soon as you can to avoid lightning. Devil’s Playground was so named because of the way the lightning bounces around from rock to rock. For trip reports and current conditions, go to 14ers.com for accurate, detailed information on weather and trail conditions.

Description:

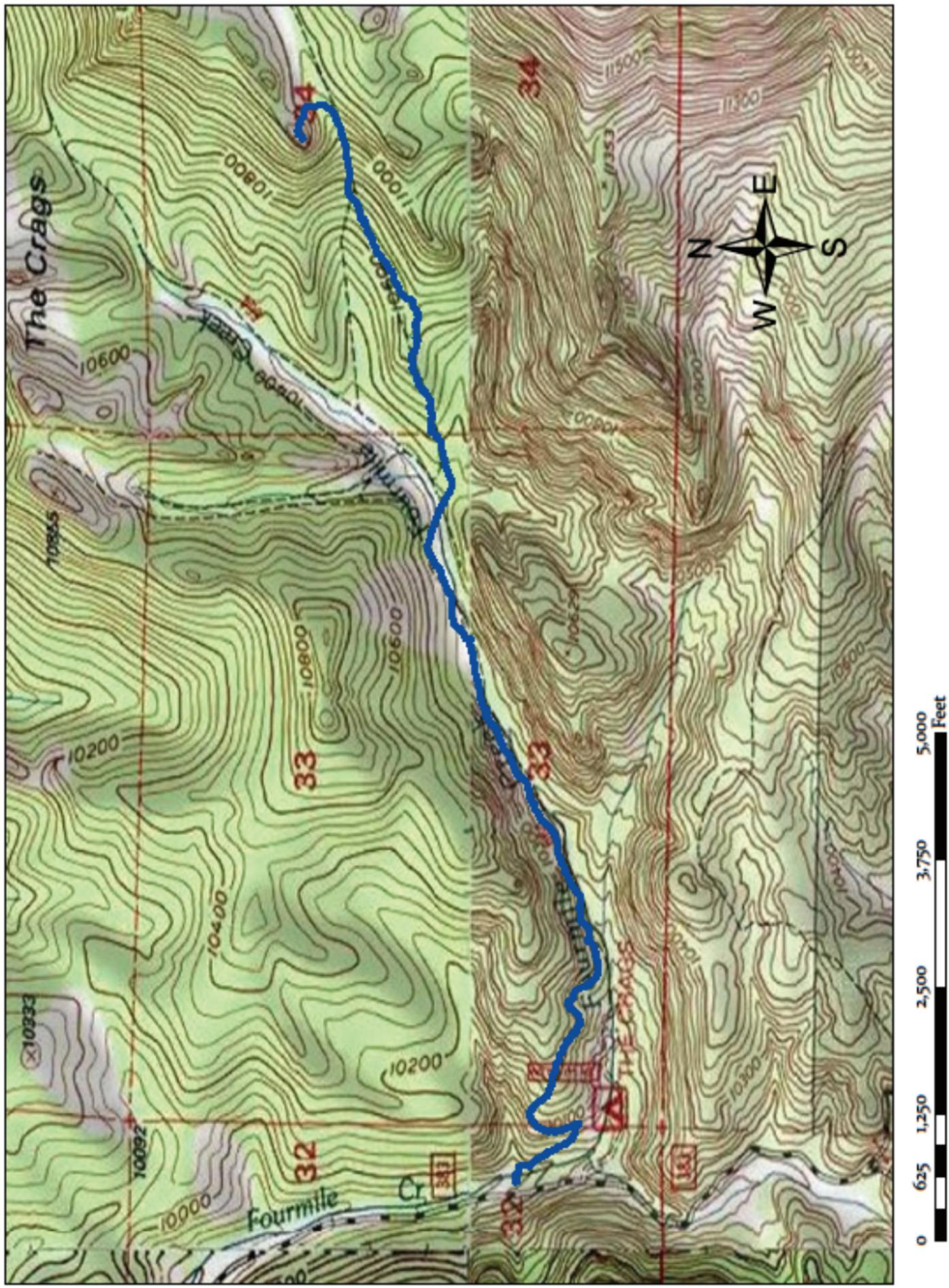
From the intersection below the lodge, turn right on the fork in the road (FS 383) that leads to the Crags/Devils Playground trailhead. Park here, and walk to the right of the restroom facilities to the trail. Cross Fourmile creek and hike up a gentle, switchbacking slope. You will reach a trail intersection after hiking about .6 mile. Take the fork to the right. There is a sign that will guide you. Cross the creek again and continue up a gentle slope through the woods. Eventually you will emerge in relatively open forest. Rock formations called Butting Buffalo and Kissing Buffalo will be on your left. At 11,900 ft. you will encounter treeline. The trail continues to be well defined and its steepness increases dramatically. After climbing approximately one mile up to Sheep’s Ridge you will get your first view of the peak. Continue left on the ridge on a dirt road to Devil’s Playground parking lot. Here you will cross the road and hop over a single-cable fence. The trail continues along the ridge, mostly paralleling the road. The trail never crosses the road after this point but comes very close several times. After about 1.5 miles of mellow ridge walking, you will begin to ascend more steeply. You’ll encounter a boulder field about a half mile below the summit. There is no longer a “trail” per se but a route is well cairned up the Class 2 boulder field to the summit. Join the multitude of cars and tourists at the top and take pride in climbing what other people drove up.

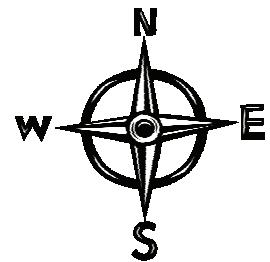
Extra Credit: Little Pikes (Class 2)

Once you are beyond Devil’s Playground on the Pikes Peak trail you will see to the right of Pikes Peak a smaller peak that looks very similar to the main peak. There is no trail to the top but it is only a class 2 scramble to the top of it. It is an unranked 13,000 ft. peak but it has over 230 ft. of prominence which makes it stand out nonetheless.



Pinnacle





Pinnacle (11,340) (6)

Difficulty: Class 3+

Distance: 4.2 Miles

Elevation Gain: 1400 ft.

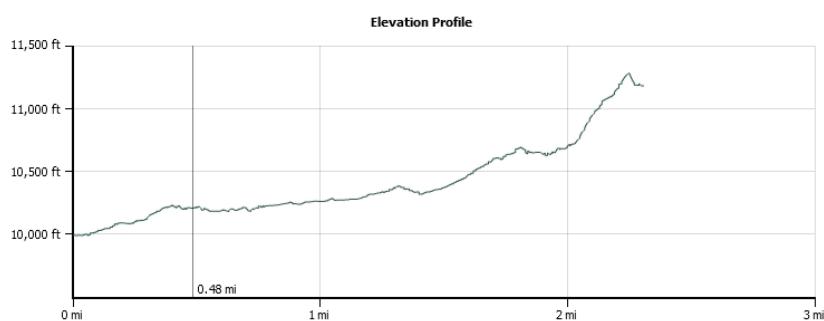
Time: 70 RP

Introduction:

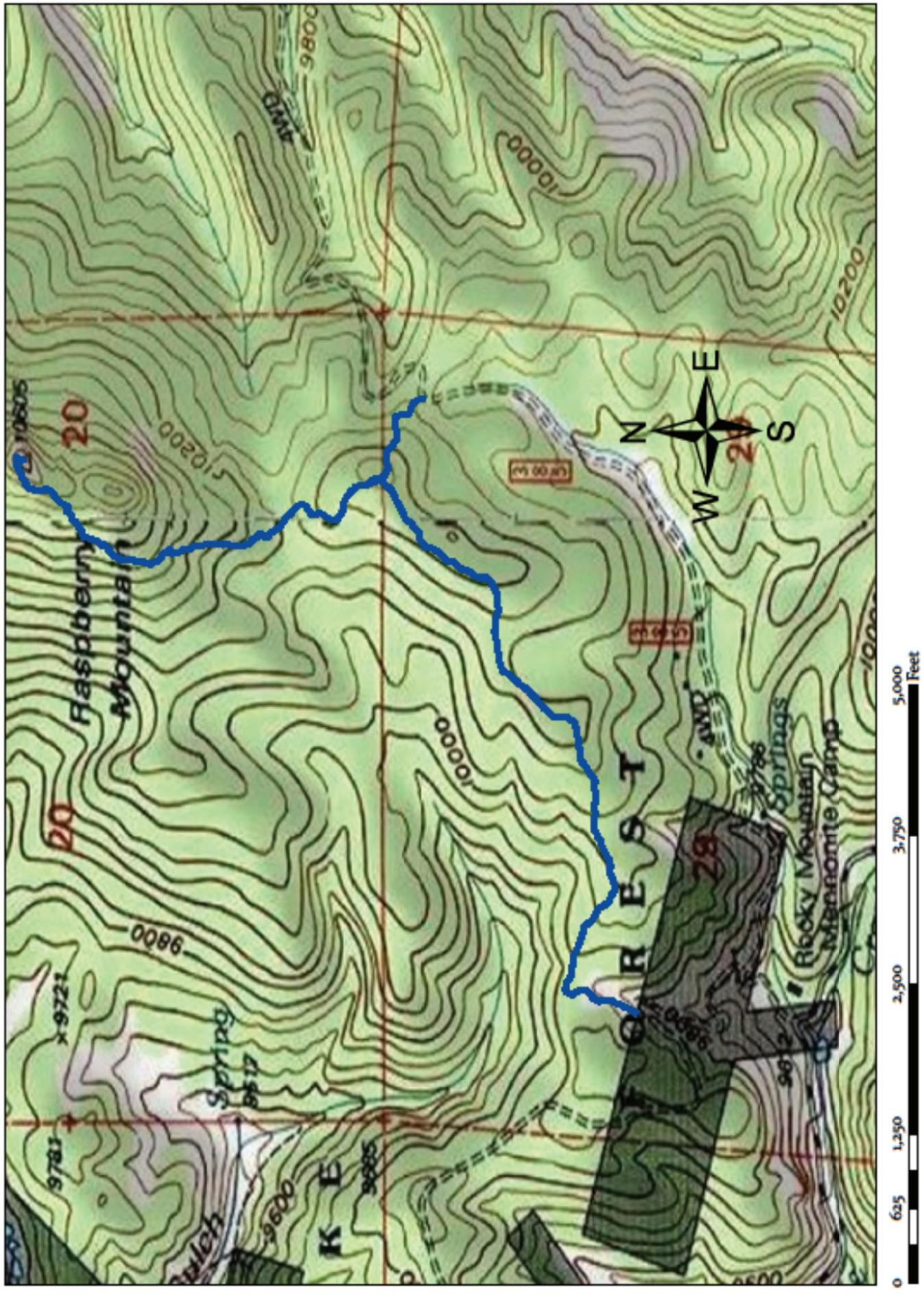
Pinnacle is the most difficult camp hike by its easiest route. Pikes Peak is longer, but it is a walk-up. It is a very prominent looking rock formation when hiking the Crags but in reality it only has 80 feet of prominence.

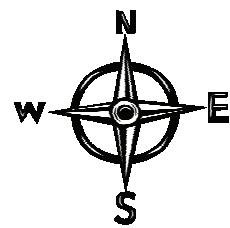
Description:

Start at the Crags Trailhead. Follow the crags trail past the first meadow. Look for a faint trail crossing the stream right before the second meadow. Cross the stream. If you see the remains of an old cabin you are at the right place. A faint trail ascends behind the cabin, at first the trail is mellow but it steepens rapidly. The trail goes up some rocks alongside a scree gully. I recommend staying on the rocks instead of the scree because the footing is better. From here the trail mellows out for a bit before it climbs steeply up near the stream. Take extreme care during this section as the trail is eroding severely. Once past this section the trail levels out again and soon you will come to a clearing. Cross the creek to a flat area below the summit ramparts. If you don't cross the creek and continue on the trail it will come to a meadow with good campsites. This clearing is a good place for a rest before the final ascent. Climb up steep gravel and up many rocks. There are multiple routes up this section, all are class 2+ to class 3. They all converge at the summit block. There is one move that is exposed. It is known as the leap of faith. Going solo you have to make the jump. In a group you can usually receive help on this move. The move itself is a class 3+ move. From the leap of faith it is a short scramble to the top (class 3).



Raspberry Mountain





Raspberry Mountain (10,605) (1)

Difficulty: Class 2

Elevation gain: 980'

Distance: Varies, 3.75-8.0 miles roundtrip

Time: 65-90 RP

Introduction:

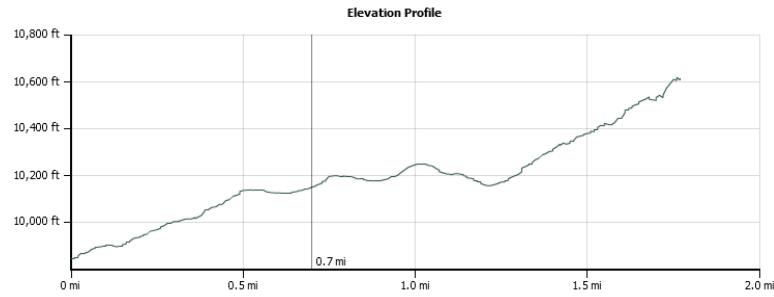
Raspberry Mountain is an ideal hike for those that want great views with moderate effort. It is unique in that it is very prominent and isolated from surrounding ridges and peaks. Thus it is also aptly named Sleeping Giant. These attributes allow hikers of Raspberry to view the western side of the Pikes Peak Massif intimately as well as take in the far away Sawatch, Ten Mile, Mosquito, and Sangre de Christo Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. It is also an ideal spot to take in a sunset. Raspberry was named such because raspberries sprouted after a fire in the early 1900s.

Description: There are several ways to hike Raspberry Mountain; I will describe three of them.

The first way starts at main camp. Take the dirt road from Staffville (hike uphill past Eiger bathhouse and the quonsets until you reach a group of rustic cabins, the road is to the left of the cabin furthest from main camp). It is a gentle climb through two meadows with patches of forest in between. After the second meadow you will climb steeply on the washed out road for about .1 mile and reach an intersection. Take the road that climbs steeply to the left for about .2 mile. Turn right onto another dirt road and follow it downhill. After about .3 mile you will begin to climb again and the road will turn into a trail. Follow this trail to some boulders near the top. Climb the boulders and enjoy the view.

The second way also starts at main camp. Take the dirt road to the north of the lodge up past the maintenance shop and past Emmental. Continue past Emmental and continue until you see a wooden sign for Rocky Ridge, Sky-Hi View, Eagles Nest, Solitude Center, and Park Ridge. There is a faint trail/dirt road to the left of this sign. Take this trail, you will have to bypass a wooden fence, and continue up it for about .2 miles until you reach a well defined dirt road. Turn right on the dirt road and begin a moderate climb up it for about .9 mile. From here you will descend the ridge you just climbed for about .2 mile then continue uphill once again. At this saddle in the ridge the road is no longer a road but a trail. This is the steepest part of the hike, but it is over quickly. Once you reach some boulders after hiking about .6 mile from the saddle you are almost there. Find a way up the boulders and enjoy the top of Raspberry Mountain.

The third way is the longest way to ascend Raspberry. From main camp you will take the main road (FS 383) downhill for about .5 mile until you reach what is called the Horseshoe, a 180 degree turn in the road. You will see a makeshift parking lot and a USFS trail sign saying "no motor vehicles". Take this road north and zig-zag on a gentle slope up the ridge. You will reach the top of a ridge and circumnavigate, heading east, the valley you just hiked. You will see some power lines that head north as well as old mine tailings. Stay on this road, do not turn right on the road to Rocky Ridge. This road eventually merges with the road to the north of Sky-Hi View. You will begin a moderate climb up the road after a relatively flat section directly north of main camp. After about .9 mile you will reach the high point of the ridge. The road gently descends then begins to ascend Raspberry on a well marked trail. After hiking about .6 mile from the saddle up a relatively steep slope you will notice some boulders and thin forest cover. Scramble up and enjoy the view from Raspberry Mountain.



easy access to the standard route. There may be an easy snowfield right below the notch. Cross over the notch(class 2+) and join the standard route. This route adds 1.5 miles one-way.

Extra Credit 1: Ridge Point Fun. Class 2 2-4 miles 150-400 ft. 40-60 RP

Anyone who has been to Sentinel will notice that there is a whole ridge of little summits to the southwest of Sentinel. Follow your route back to the 12230 foot saddle. Head east over Point 12,586 and on towards point 12,492 and 12,499 (class 2). At Point 12,499 there is a dramatic cliff which marks the terminus of the ridge, admire the West Fork Valley. Look for an old trail which climbs Pikes Peak. This is a wild area, if you wish to view Bighorn Sheep this is your place.

Pancake Rocks (11,050)

Difficulty: Class 1

Distance: 10.7 miles

Elevation Gain: 2500 ft.

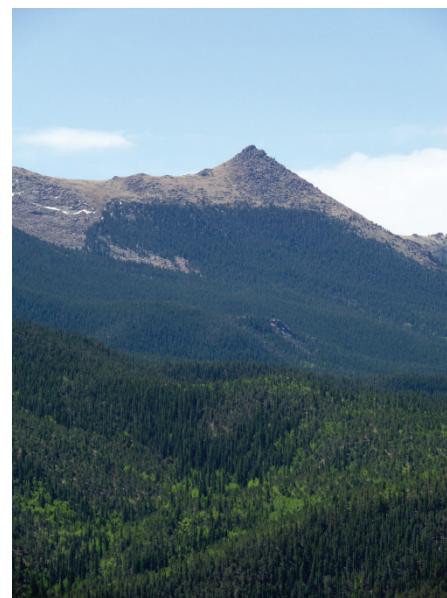
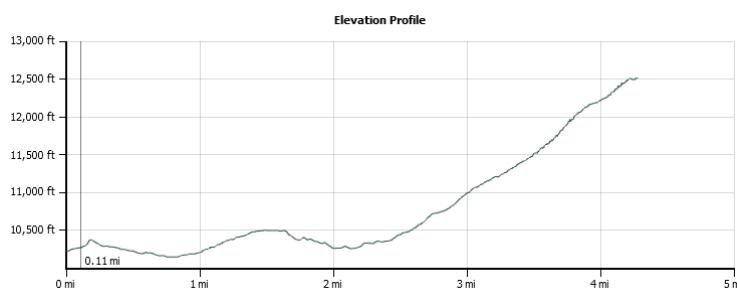
Time: 150 RP

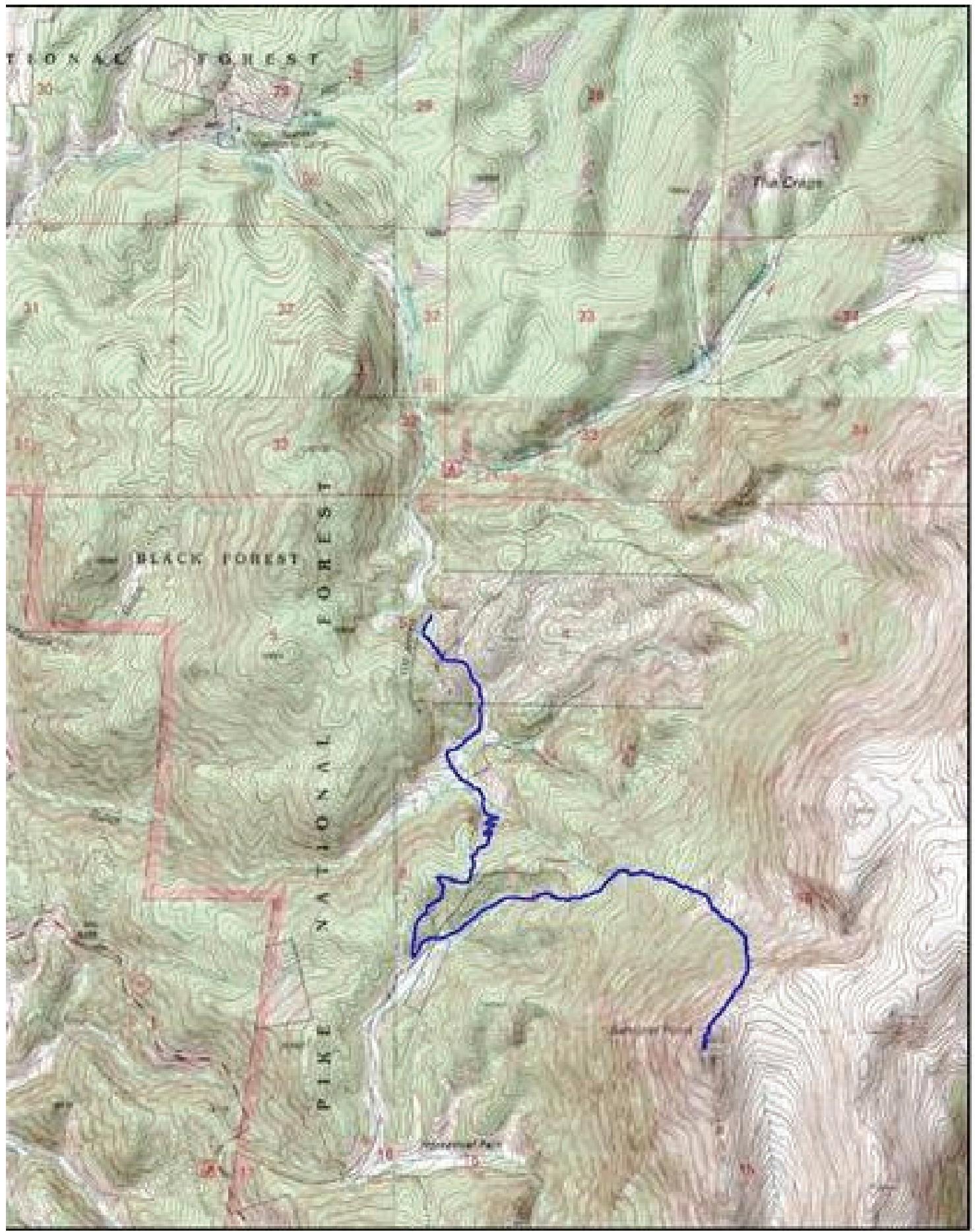
Introduction:

Pancake Rocks was at one time a camp hike, now it is just an obscure point not many people who visit RMMC know about. This should change, Pancake Rocks is a worthy all day hike through meadows and beaver ponds to a fun rock outcropping with an outstanding view.

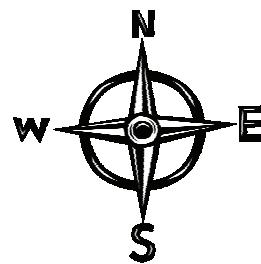
Description:

From the same trailhead as Sentinel follow the Ring the Peak trail. This trail climbs up and over two ridges before descending into Horsethief Park. Cross the creek and join the Horsethief Falls trail heading east. Look for a sign for the Ring the Peak trail and Pancake Rocks. Head up this trail. The lower portions may be wet or snow-covered early in the season. Climb up the many switchbacks to the ridge. This is not the end. Descend 200 feet before climbing the final 200 feet to the rocks. This section of the trail can hold snow into June. The Ring the Peak trail ends here for now. Plans are to construct a trail south to the town of Gilette. On Pancake Rocks enjoy the views to the west and south towards the mining towns of Cripple Creek and Victor.





Sentinel Point



Sentinel Point (12,527) (10)

Difficulty: Class 3

Distance: 8 miles

Elevation Gain: 2600 ft.

Time: 110 RP

Introduction:

Sentinel Point is our favorite camp hike, the variety of routes and relative solitude make this a worthwhile journey. This area is home to many bighorn sheep and is your best chance to see them on the peak. Please do not confuse bighorns with mountain goats. There are no mountain goats on Pikes Peak. Another interesting note about Sentinel is that it is 3 feet shy of being a ranked peak.

Description:

Start at the end of the road past camp. Either follow the Ring the Peak trail around Putney Gulch or jump the fence and head up an old road through Harvey's land. The two routes will merge at a creek crossing. This crossing can be difficult if spring runoff is high. Once past the stream follow the Ring the Peak trail up past some switchbacks and down into Horsethief Park. Follow the trail marked 704C, it will be a left turn. This trail will ascend steeply to the boulder field, there are hundreds of cairns marking the trail. Once at the boulder field there are many options to reach the top. The now faint trail heads up the valley to the north of sentinel before disappearing completely on the ridge. The route I will describe follows the path of least resistance through the boulders. Once you get past most of the trees turn right and scamper up a few boulders (class 2+) to a grassy finger which leads down from the ridge. This is the first crux of Sentinel climb the 400 ft to the ridge. It is steep on good footing. Once on the ridge (12230 ft) it is a short 300 ft climb to the summit. Again follow the path of least resistance up the boulders. There are too many routes to the summit to describe them all. If care is taken the route can be kept at class 2 until 30 feet below the summit. The last 30 feet is easy class 3 climbing. Admire the view from the top, if you are lucky you will see bighorn sheep.

Variation 1: (Jackrabbits shortcut)

After crossing the stream head straight up the ridge to 10,600. Cross the stream and meet up with the cairned trail. This will cut one mile off a one-way trip.

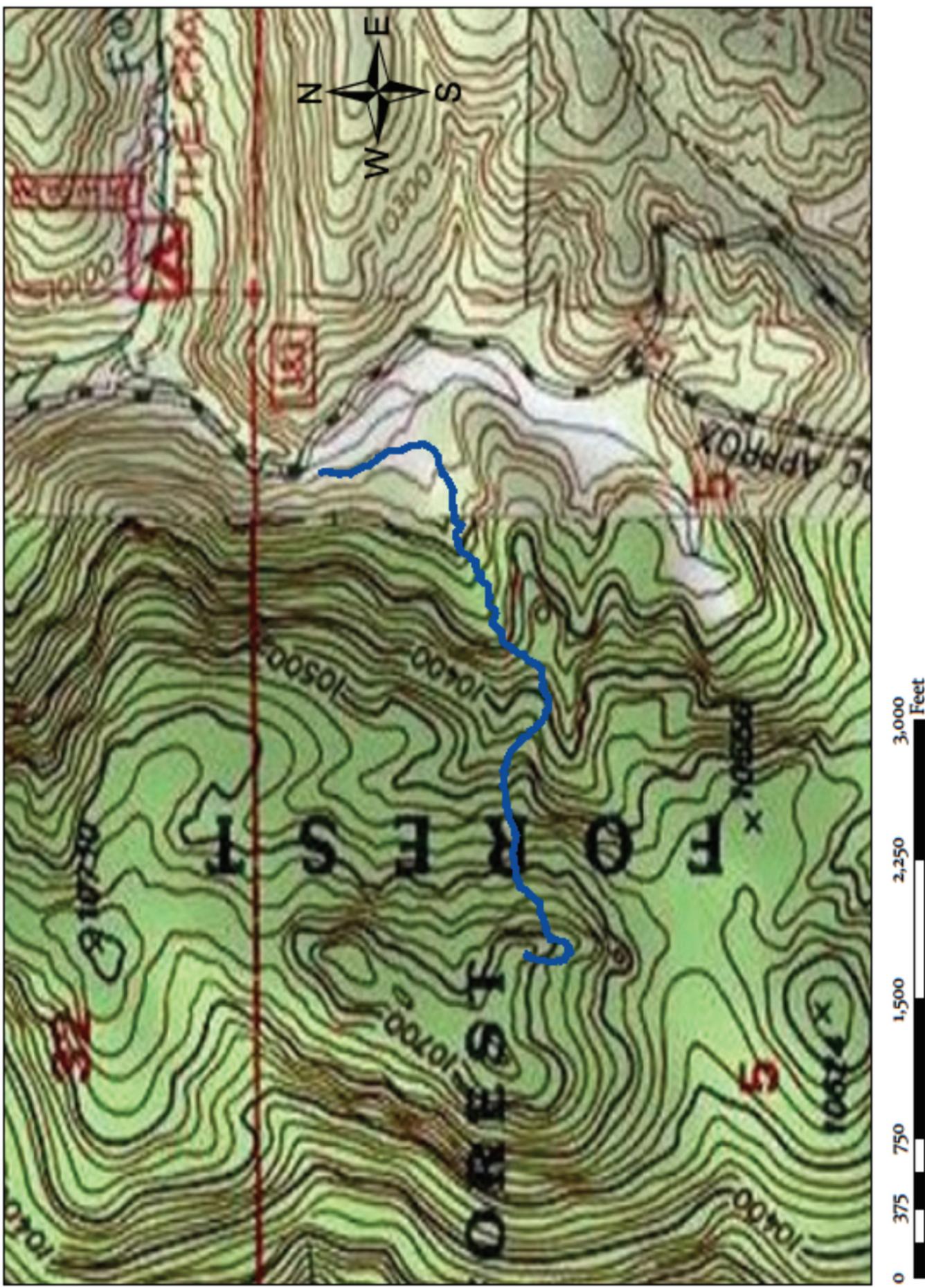
Variation 2: (Ice Falls)

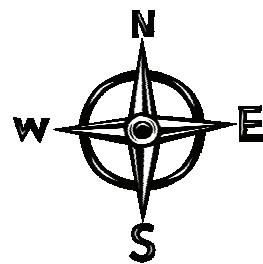
Right before the Ring the Peak trail switchbacks up the ridge there is a good trail which goes up a valley. This trail climbs up past Ice Falls and disappears. Follow the valley to its terminus at 10,500 ft. Pick up a faint trail which meets up with the cairned trail to Sentinel at a very large cairn. This route cuts off .5 miles one way.

Variation 3: (South Slopes)

For more adventure and bushwhacking try the south slopes. This is a good route in spring when the north route is covered in snow. Follow the Ring the Peak trail to the Horsethief Falls trail. There may be some high water in the creek after spring runoff. Follow the trail to the falls. Cross the creek and head up the steep slopes towards Sentinel. The vegetation is not very thick and the footing is generally good. Reach treeline at 11,800 feet. Look for a notch in the south ridge which will provide

Solution Pools





Solution Pools (10,730) (11)

Difficulty: Class 2+

Distance: 1.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 600 ft.

Time: 35 RP

Introduction:

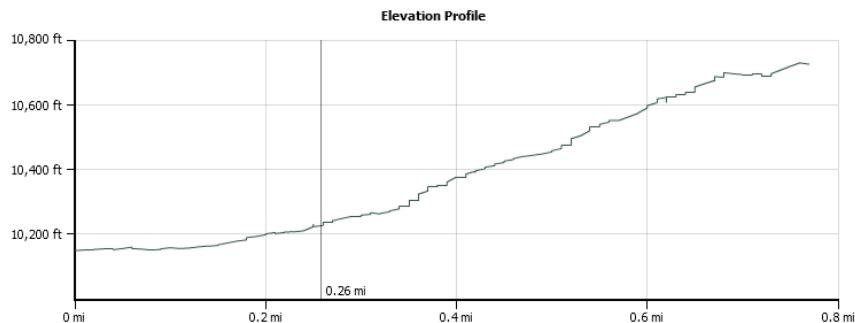
Solution Pools gets its name from the pools of water on the boulders. Only one pool remains. We do not recommend getting in the water as there are high amounts of methane and sulfur in it. Solution Pools is at the southern end of a long ridge extending from Old Baldy.

Description:

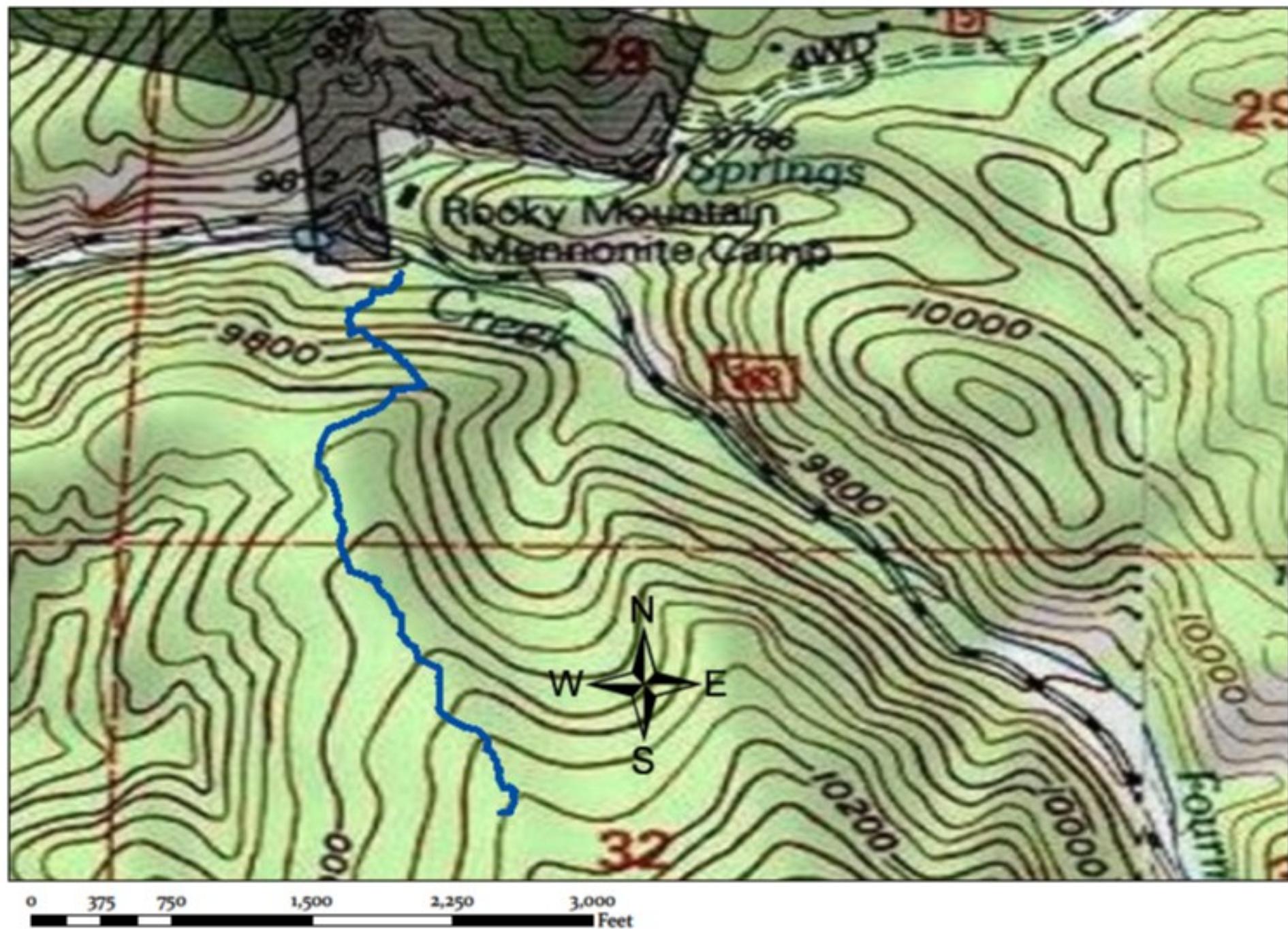
Start at the pull off right after the Crags campground. Hike past a couple of campsites through a meadow. The trail is faint in this section. Make a turn to the right and follow the trail up the small drainage. There are many cairns to help guide you. Soon you will reach a flat spot below a cliff band. Follow the cliff band south until a cairn marks the way up the cliff band (class 2+). Once on the rocks head north to the pools (class 2).

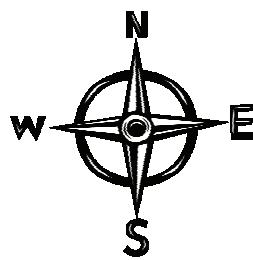
Extra Credit: Unnamed 10770 ft., class 2, 0.2 miles, 10 RP, 50 ft.

From solution pools head east across a large flat area and up the easy slopes to yet another ranked summit in the camp area. There are two candidates for the high point .2 miles apart. Visit both to be sure to bag the high point.



Sun Rock





Sun Rock (10,160) (3)

Difficulty: Class 1

Elevation gain: 540'

Distance: 1.6 miles roundtrip

Time: 35 RP

Introduction:

Sun Rock is one of the easiest hikes in the area. While it is steep at the beginning, it levels out into a pleasant ridge walk rather quickly. The view is rather limited to a wedge of the western horizon where one can see snowcapped peaks in the Sawatch Range of the Rocky Mountains. On the ridge after the steep initial climb are several mine tailings. These were mines constructed in the late 1800 to early 1900's. The miners were looking for gold but were not successful in this particular area. About 10 miles south of RMMC in Cripple Creek was where the gold was found.

Description:

From main camp, go across the bridge over the creek to the chapel side of camp. Go behind the Aspen bathhouse on the left side and go up the hill. The trail should be visible only a few yards beyond the bathhouse. The trail steeply ascends the ridge for about .3 mile then follows a gentle ridge for about .4 mile past old mine tailings. If you bushwack about 400 yards to the east (left) you will encounter the trail to Old Baldy. The trail is well cairned all the way to Sun Rock. Hop up and enjoy the views westward.

