

Altitude Matters

Welcome to beautiful Lake County -
Home to Leadville, Twin Lakes and Colorado's highest peaks!

Our environment appears vast and rugged, but it's also highly vulnerable to overuse and abuse. Here are important safety tips to help you make the most of your time in Lake County while preserving this precious landscape for future generations.



Getting around Leadville & Twin Lakes

- ▣ Pay attention and drive the speed limit.
No U-turns on Harrison Ave.
 - Speed limit in Leadville city limits is 25 mph
 - Speed limit on Hwy. 82 through the Village of Twin Lakes is 30 mph, village side streets are 15 mph.
- ▣ Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and use the crosswalks to safely cross busy streets
- ▣ Watch for domestic animals and wildlife
- ▣ No hitchhiking in city limits
- ▣ Driving under the influence is against the law
- ▣ Public restrooms are available at Zaitz Park on Harrison Ave. and behind the Twin Lakes Visitor Center

In Lake County, we break the chain. Enjoy locally owned and operated restaurants and merchants. Be sure to make reservation inquiries during peak times.

Please be patient, polite and embrace the small-community style of life.



Pet Safety

Yes, this is a paradise for pets, but be sure to take the necessary steps to keep your animals healthy and safe.

The air is thin, the landscape is dry and rocky and the sun is intense. Make sure animals are in the proper physical condition to join you on your adventures. The top of a 14,000-foot peak or going for a swim near whitewater are NOT ideal areas for your best pal. Obey leash laws and learn about potential encounters with local wildlife. Lake County requires pets to be on a leash no longer than ten feet in length.

What are other options?

✗ Just hope they make it

Colorado search and rescue teams spend many hours and resources each year rescuing dogs in backcountry, sometimes with tragic endings.

✗ Leave pets in the car

✗ Tie pets up somewhere

✓ Be prepared and check out the amazing pet day care options offered at locally owned pet care locations.



Planning to hit the trail?

- ▣ Be sure to acclimate before participating in physical activities.
- ▣ Learn about any trail restrictions and have a plan B. Check the weather forecast → scan code on right.
- ▣ Stop into the Leadville/Lake County Visitor Center and take the Adventure By Nature Pledge to keep our natural environment wild and clean.
- ▣ Dress in layers and bring rain gear, plenty of water and healthy snacks
- ▣ Stay on the trail
- ▣ Begin early in the morning and depart the summit by noon
- ▣ Purchase a Search & Rescue (SARS) card
- ▣ Pack in, pack out
- ▣ Turn it down and tune into nature. Please keep speakers, phones and other electronic use at minimum volume and/or use headphones.

Smile, you're in one of the friendliest mountain areas on the planet!



Rivers and lakes

- Use extreme caution near creeks and rivers, especially with young children and pets. Fast river flows during peak runoff can exceed 30 mph through freezing cold water. Hypothermia occurs as body temperature drops below 95 degrees.
- Always wear a personal flotation device while recreating on the waterways. Stay close to shore on kayaks and SUP boards as extremely high winds can pick up at any time.



Putting out your campfire

- Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Be sure your match is out cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.
- Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet.
- Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out and cooled.
- Feel all materials with your bare hand to make sure that no roots are burning.
- Campfires may be banned if wildfires are likely. Watch for signs and obey any fire restrictions.



For real-time local information
Fire Danger • Emergency Plans
Avalanche • Road Hazards • Weather
Scan code or visit:
<https://www.lakecountyoem.org>
Call 911 in Emergencies
For non emergencies:
call dispatch at 719-486-1249



Don't trash the place!

If you pack it in, plan to pack it out (this goes for animal waste, too)!

- Don't litter
- Don't leave animal or human waste, waste bags and/or toilet paper on trails, beaches, public streets and lands
- Prepaid yellow trash bags can be purchased at the Leadville-Lake County Visitor Center on Harrison Ave. or at BigHorn ACE® on North Poplar St.
- Recycle! Two locations offer free recycling and dumpsters specifically for prepaid bags.
 - McWethy Drive and CR 4 in Leadville by the soccer field
 - CR 10 / 24 by the new fire station
- The Twin Lakes Visitor Center offers use of its dumpster for a fee: \$3 for kitchen-size bags, \$1 for small grocery bags.



Camping etiquette

Last year, Envision Chaffee County, GARNAs and numerous volunteers piloted the Campsite Collector app and surveyed 2,842 dispersed road-accessible campsites in the Upper Arkansas Valley, finding 3,998 gallons of trash, roughly 400 sites with human waste and roughly 5,500 damaged trees.

- Camp in designated campgrounds
- Know the fire danger
- Don't start fires in high winds

For dispersed camping:

- Research, read the signs and do not trespass
- Dispose of all trash and waste responsibly



Be kind, respectful and patient.