PRESENTATION AND DATA SHEET
The Colorado Trail (CT) and The Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF)

"The Colorado Trail"®

- Colorado's premier long distance trail
- Mile for mile, the most beautiful Trail in America https://youtu.be/6rW-hqnnGl0
- 486 miles end-to-end between Denver and Durango
- 567 miles in all with the added CT Collegiate West alternative
- Educational, recreational, family oriented trail for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians
- Crosses 8 mountain ranges, 5 National Forests, 6 wilderness areas and 5 major river systems
- Planning and building began in the 1970's
- Connected end-to-end in 1987
- Enjoyed by thousands each year
- Trail access exists at many roads
- Access roads vary, requiring passenger car, high-clearance vehicle, or 4-wheel-drive with low range
- Most is single-track, but there's some double-track and short road sections
- CTF work includes moving the Trail off of roads
- Average elevation is over 10,300 feet
- Low point is 5,520 feet at the Waterton Canyon Trailhead, the Denver terminus
- Highest point is 13,271 feet at Coney Summit in the San Juan Mountains above Lake City
- Shares 314 miles with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (from Georgia Pass in Segment 6 to the ridge above Elk Creek in Segment 24, following the CT Collegiate West)
- Users need a guide, typically a book or maps
- Best planning and in-the-car resource is ***The Colorado Trail, The Official Guidebook,*** available from the online CT Store via shop.ColoradoTrail.org
- ***CT Databook*** is best for on-the-trail, pocket sized, details the navigation and water sources, etc, shop.ColoradoTrail.org
- ***CT Map Book*** and ***CT Collegiate Loop Map Book*** include precise Trail and topo detail, available only at shop.ColoradoTrail.org
- Opportunities for day use, multi-day and thru-trips
- Typically takes 4-6 weeks to thru-hike from end to end
- Season on most of the Trail is July, August and September
- Completers report that the CT "changed their lives"
- CTF furnishes Completion Certificates via http://www.coloradotrail.org/completers.html

The Colorado Trail Foundation

- The CTF builds and maintains The Colorado Trail, in cooperation with the US Forest Service
- Volunteer driven, founded in 1986
- Recruits and organizes volunteers for Trail Crews and the Adopt-A-Trail program
- Informs and assists CT users
- Offers supported Trekking, ColoradoTrail.org/treks
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation funded primarily through many private contributions by individuals and corporations (tax deductible 84-1057336)
- The CTF also receives limited funding from grants and the US Forest Service

Friends of The Colorado Trail

- Friends of the CT are the many volunteers and contributors who preserve the Trail
- About 670 volunteers and 1,500 donors assist each year
- Friends enjoy being part of the CTF community, including Foundation events like the *Annual Fall Picnic* and *Holiday Party*
- Volunteers accomplish annual maintenance (all 567 miles) including clearing of downed trees (400-500/year)
- Volunteer Trail improvements include adding the 80-mile Collegiate West, constructing the 80-foot Clear Creek Bridge, and rerouting 17 miles onto the non-motorized Cataract Ridge
- Volunteers help on Trail Crews, by Adopting a Trail section, and assembling mailings
- Contributors make donations to sustain the CTF stewardship
- Donations are made by check or electronically, including via ColoradoTrail.org or shop.ColoradoTrail.org
- Contributors arrange matching gifts from their employers
- Contributors include the CTF in their will or trust
- Contributors provide obituary mention, "Memorial Donations may be made to The Colorado Trail Foundation."

Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund

- GGEF was established in 1998 to recognize Gudy Gaskill, the Mother of The Colorado Trail
- Fund insures that the CT will remain forever available to future generations
- Provides money in perpetuity for the maintenance, protection and preservation of the Trail
- GGEF donations can include stocks, bonds, and cash

History of the Trail

- Conceived in 1973 as a partnership involving the US Forest Service and private business
- Volunteers were to survey, locate, and construct it
- Trail would fill a void in a growing segment of outdoor enthusiasts, including individuals and families
- Gudy Gaskill and countless volunteers, from 1974-1987, worked to map, mark and build The Colorado Trail
- Early efforts were 'under the roof' of the Colorado Mountain Club Trails and Huts Committee
- The Colorado Trail Foundation was founded in 1986 as a stand-alone nonprofit
- The Colorado Trail was connected end to end in 1987 between Denver and Durango
- Since 1987, CTF volunteers have continued the work, maintaining and improving the CT

How Can I Get Involved?

- Add yourself to the CTF mailing list and get 'in the loop,' ColoradoTrail.org/mailing-list
- Become a Friend of The Colorado Trail by volunteering and/or donating, ColoradoTrail.org
- Volunteer on a Trail Crew, ColoradoTrail.org/crews
- Volunteer to Adopt your own section and maintain it every summer with friends and family, ColoradoTrail.org/aat
- Volunteer in the CTF office and assist with mailings, etc, ctf@ColoradoTrail.org