Climb With a Purpose!

More than an estimated 500,000 hikers attempt to climb one of Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks each year. This high level of use has resulted in dramatic impacts to the peaks’ fragile alpine environments. CFI’s educational programs attempt to minimize future recreational impacts by encouraging hikers to practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics. The Peak Steward Program provides Fourteener enthusiasts with the opportunity to “climb with a purpose” by hiking high-use Fourteeners, collecting valuable information, and educating fellow hikers about minimum-impact climbing ethics.

What is a Peak Steward?

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative’s Peak Stewards are a group of select volunteers who are trained to patrol high-use Fourteeners. Peak Stewards initiate contact with other climbers and provide educational information about Fourteener-specific Leave No Trace minimum-impact principles for Colorado’s alpine environment. Peak Stewards also document human and wildlife encounters, user behaviors, compliance with Forest Service regulations, and trail and resource conditions.

Potential volunteers must have significant experience hiking at high altitudes, strong outdoor ethics, and a desire to educate others about responsible recreation. Volunteers attend a Peak Steward training, that will include 14er specific Leave No Trace and topics such as alpine ecology, mountain safety, Authority of the Resource training, and Forest Service regulations. Once trained, Peak Stewards commit to volunteering a minimum of four days throughout the summer on the Fourteener(s) of their choice.

How Can You Become a Peak Steward?

For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact Jerry Mack at 303-278-7650 or Jerry@14ers.org.