







Follow the Leave No Trace Seven Principles

Follow the Leave No Trace Seven Principles to help keep our parks, trails, and open spaces healthy and sustainable. Learn more at Int.org

	<p>Plan ahead and prepare. Stop by our Visitor and Nature Center to pick up a free park map, and plan your route. Please bring plenty of water and dress appropriately for the current weather. Colorado's weather changes fast, so dress in layers.</p>
	<p>Travel on durable surfaces. Please stay on established trails at all times. With well over 4 million visitors a year it does not take much off trail activity for our sensitive vegetation to quickly die off. You must have a climbing permit and technical climbing gear to rock climb. All chalk and chalk substitutes are banned from the park. Familiarize yourself with seasonal climbing route closures before you get to the park.</p>
	<p>Dispose of waste properly. There are bear resistant trash cans throughout the park for your use. Pet waste must be picked up and disposed of. Disposing of waste properly not only makes the park more enjoyable for the visitors that come after you, but also protects wildlife from the spread of disease.</p>
	<p>Leave what you find. There are plenty of wonderful sights around Garden of the Gods and many people want something to help remember their trip. The best memento to take with you is a picture of your trip. Please don't take any rocks or plants with you. Due to our high visitation, even removing one pebble or small stick quickly adds up and deprives the park of needed resources.</p>
	<p>Be careful with fire. No solid fuel fires are allowed in Garden of the Gods. The park gets very little precipitation throughout the year which makes it dry and incredibly easy for fires to quickly spread. There is also no smoking allowed on park trails.</p>
	<p>Respect wildlife. Use the "Rule of Thumb" to give wildlife appropriate space. Outstretch one arm and stick your thumb up, closing one eye. If you can't completely cover an animal with your thumb, then you might be too close. Keep all pets on leash and on trail. Please leave the area if your pet appears to be stressing and frightening wildlife. Never attempt to feed or touch wildlife. Doing so can result in serious injury or death for you and the wildlife.</p>
	<p>Be considerate of others. Be observant of other visitors in the park and be mindful of the "Yield Triangle". Horseback riders always have the right-of-way, while cyclists must always yield to walking pedestrians and horseback riders. Be sure not to take up the whole trail, and allow others to pass if they are moving quicker. Please don't listen to music or loud phone calls at a level where others can hear it.</p>