**ITINERARY**

Mt. Sherman 14er Trip

Leavick Town Site, CO, Hike w/ Car Camp Overnight \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_

TBD (\_) Trailmaster

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_ is hiking to the summit of Mount Sherman 14,036', 14 miles southwest of Fairplay, CO. The trip is of moderate difficulty due to altitude. The two day one night trip total mileage is approximately 8 miles (four up, four down). The high/low elevations are 14,036' and 11,240'. It is never summer above 11,000' so BE PREPARED.

Water is expected at camp. This is a simple camp in the parking lot so that we can get an early start (first light) on Saturday. The alpine environment is very harsh with heavy weather expected most summer afternoons. Also, this is a mountaineering climb that will tax even the strongest hikers...there is no air up thar!

**Trailhead Directions** - From Fairplay in Central Colorado, head south on CO 285 from its intersection with CO 9. Just past CO 285's split with CO 9 south of Fairplay, turn west/right on Four Mile Creek Road (Co 18). Continue on Fourmile Creek Road for about 12 miles to the Leavick Town Site/Fourmile Creek Trailhead. Camp in the parking lot.

**SCHEDULE**

Friday Day 1,

8:00 pm arrive Trailhead and make bivouac (bivy) style camp

8:30 pm talk about how incredibly cool we are

9:00 pm lights out for the smart people who know that morning is coming early

10:00 pm you had better not keep me up this late or I will be grumpy during the climb, which means a death march for all.

Saturday Day 2, (8 miles, 4 to summit)

5:00 AM up and about, breakfast, stow camp

5:30 Leave camp and head up trail (dirt road at first) (4 mi apx, up)

9:00 Stand on summit of Mt. Sherman, photos and general coolness

9:30 Depart summit for cars

11:30 Cars

12:00 Head home

**WEATHER** (expected)

Likely to be anything, it's high Colorado. Be prepared for 90 degrees to 20 degrees and snow, it is never summer in the mountains. Oh yeah, these peaks are often windy. While not in the jet stream, the wind on the top is almost always blowing. Be prepared.

**WHAT TO TAKE**, a check list

Make no mistake, this is a mountaineering experience. As such, proper gear balances speed (light) with preparation for atrocious weather. Below is my gear list.

**Backpack**-heavy duty **day** pack that can carry all your gear for the day.

**Shoes** - trail running shoes, boots if snow is anticipated Socks - synthetic/wool. I use expedition weight for more padding in trail running shoes

**Gators** - if deep snow or mud is expected. Doubtful on this trip

**Base Layer** - I use full length capilene from Patagonia. Lots of competitors, mostly cheaper. I've had the same pair for 20 years and swear by them.

**Shorts** - multi pocketed, synthetic shorts. Almost never need more than this but sometimes the windy cold will make longs a better choice.

**Shirt** - most often, just my capilene top. Sometimes I might wear a long sleeve, synthetic shirt (Patagonia or ex-officio type).

**Warmth Layer** - I use snug fitting fleece. Top and bottom. Bottoms are overkill until you get benighted high up.

**Shell** - top and bottoms. This is wind and water proof.

**Sunglasses** - absolutely must have above tree line. The rocks are as white as snow and will pound your eyes.

**Hat** - I use a wide brim and a fleece watch cap

**Food** - I use a well stocked goodie bag that covers for lunch and extra in case we get stuck on the mountain.

**Water** - 2 quarts. I use nalgenes rather than blatter. There is unlikely to be a stream for water filling on the trail.

**First Aid Kit** - Mine is tiny but can handle everything short of brain surgery. Ask Todd Pedretti to critique yours.

**Rope** - 50' of 3 mm line. Never had to use this but I know I can get up or down anything with it.

**Tarp/Bivy** - I carry this for emergencies. If I have to bed down, I am waterproof.

**Possibilities Bag** - in this are my spare glasses, contact stuff, Advils, head torch (NOT FLASHLIGHT), lighter, matches, whistle (must have this), claritin and SUNSCREEN.

**Other** - map, compass, GPS, altimeter, pencil, knife, cell phone and camera. Trekking poles are also becoming more common on 14ers. The terrain is uneven and these can help with balance.

That's my non technical peak bagging setup. Crampons, helmets and ice rigging is for a different level of commitment.

As for the night before, I suggest you bring a sleeping bag and pad. This, along with your bivy sack or tarp will cover your sleeping gear. Stoves and eating equipment if you plan a warm breakfast. For this, I will go with instant oatmeal in my plastic cup. This way I am only heating water. I will eat dinner at home or on the road so I will only snack on Friday night.

**REMEMBER**, backpacking teaches you to take care of yourself in a wilderness setting and to enjoy it.

If your mother packed your pack, you have way, way too much stuff. Light is right.

The outdoor Code, the 4 c’s; CLEAN IN YOUR OUTDOOR MANNERS, CAREFUL WITH FIRE, CONSIDERATE IN THE OUTDOORS, CONSERVATION MINDED.

**COSTS**

Gas

Personal food

**WHO's Going**

Fill this in with names and cell phone.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

Pike San Isabel National Forest - 719.553.1400

**ATTACHED**

8.5"x11" Topo