



## ***ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK AUGUST 22-27, 2017***

Mark your calendars!!! Our first national excursion for the Akron Metro Parks Hiking Club will be to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, approximately 80 miles north of Denver airport. This will be a major undertaking and I will need help with the planning process. There are over 300 trails in this park rated from easy to strenuous! The challenge will be choosing from so many! Flying to Denver round trip from Cleveland is reasonable on several airlines (check out Frontier and United). I have arranged lodging at the Deer Creek Resort located right outside the town of Estes Park near the entrance to the Park. It's a smaller property with lovely grounds right next to the Falls River and I think perfect for our group. Adults only – no children. It is away from the center of town but close enough to walk to or take a shuttle for restaurants and shopping. The rates are reasonable and it gets great reviews by travelers on Trip Advisor website. There are Adirondack chairs to sit out by the river in the evening, a fire pit and hot tub. Our group will probably be occupying most of the motel. We may even see an elk or two walk by! Late August is a good time to visit; the weather is nice and it's not as crowded as earlier in the summer.

Everyone will be responsible for their own transportation to Estes Park. There are 8 riverfront queen rooms (2 queen beds) facing Fall River with outside seating, and 10 waterfall/deluxe king rooms (1 king bed) facing river with private patio/balcony. There are also 5 mini suites with kitchenettes facing garden area (1 king bed) available. You can check their website for more information: [www.deercreekresort.com](http://www.deercreekresort.com). The owners have informed me that since they are a smaller property they are not comfortable with blocking a group of rooms. They will be giving us 2016 rates which are:

Riverfront Queen: \$818.10 total including tax for 5 nights  
Riverfront Waterfall/Deluxe King: total \$845.70 including tax for 5 nights  
Mini Suites with Kitchenettes: total \$900.97 including tax for 5 nights

Please make your own individual reservation by calling the owners Carrie and Ken at 970-586-2324. Check in is Tuesday, August 22, 2017, and checkout Sunday, August 27. The owners recommend you get your reservation in by the end of 2016. Tell them you are with the Akron Hiking Club. They will call you back in mid-January at which time you will make your 50% deposit. The balance will then be due 30 days prior to arrival. The rooms have 32" flat screens, refrigerators, microwaves and free wifi. Our tentative itinerary each day will be: morning long hike, lunch on your own, shorter afternoon hike OR exploration of area on your own -- rest time, then all of us can gather for dinner. There may be some optional group side trips planned (horseback riding, tour of famous Stanley Hotel) in the afternoon or evening as well. Hikes will range from easy to moderate.

I am setting a limit on this trip of 20 people. I think it may be difficult to manage a group any larger. Please call me at 330-524-9415 after you make your reservation so I can keep track of the number of people that will be on our trip. If we don't have 20 people by January 15, I will be opening this up to the Canton club. Many people have expressed an interest so please get your reservation in early. Remember no money is due until January. A planning committee will be set up in the upcoming months. If you have questions, suggestions or ideas please call me or talk to me on a hike. We're going to have a great time in Colorado!

Chris Tiedemann