

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY 2026 HANDBOOK

RMBL science. OUTSIDE.

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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

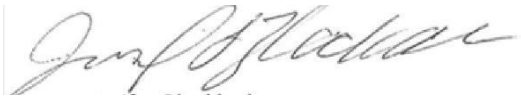
We're excited to welcome you to RMBL! Whether you're here for the summer or just passing through, you are part of a vibrant community of researchers, students, families, and staff who are all contributing to something meaningful.

Every person here helps shape the experience—and the impact—of RMBL.

This guide offers helpful information to support your day-to-day experience. There's a lot happening, but if you keep safety and respect at the forefront, you'll be in good shape. Be thoughtful when heading into the backcountry: plan ahead, travel smart, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need support. Also, please be mindful that shared housing and research groups often have different schedules and needs.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, feel free to reach out to me or any member of our staff.

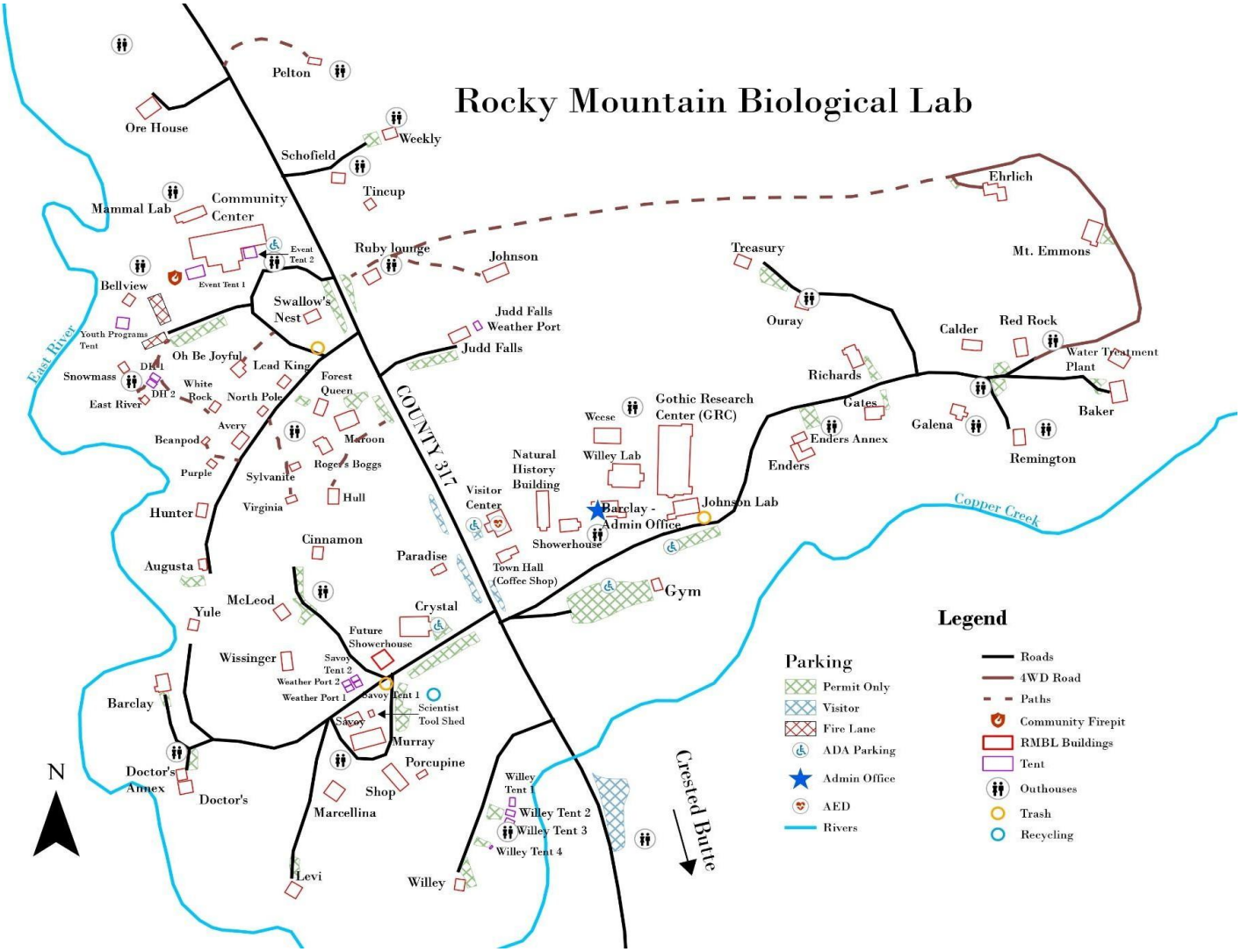
Enjoy your time here—and make the most of all the Gunnison Basin has to offer!



– Jeni Blacklock
Executive Director, RMBL

Quick Reference

Gothic Map 2026



Important Phone Numbers

Emergencies:	**911**
After Hours Emergency Phone:	(970) 200-8832
RMBL Main Line & Directory:	(970) 349-7231
Administration:	(970) 349-7231 Ext 2
Accounting:	accounting@rmbl.org
Facilities:	(970) 349-7770
Dining Hall	(970) 349-0892
Visitors Center	(970) 349-7156
Youth Programs	(970) 349-7231 Ext 4
GIS/GPS Office	gis@rmbl.org

Mailing & Shipping Addresses

US Postal Service Mail and Packages
Your Name
c/o RMBL
PO Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

UPS and FedEx packages: June - September
Your Name
c/o RMBL
8000 County Road 317
Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

UPS and FedEx packages: October - May
Your Name
c/o RMBL
615 Teocalli Ave.
Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

RMBL 365 (In the summer this address is reserved for guests staying at RMBL 365)
UPS and FedEx packages: All Year
Your Name
c/o RMBL
615 Teocalli Ave.
Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224
Stamps can be purchased at the Visitor Center

Who to Contact & What to Do

This guide is designed to help you quickly find the right contact or next step for common situations at RMBL. When in doubt about a safety or medical emergency, call **911**.

EMERGENCIES

Medical emergency

- Call or text **911** if someone needs immediate medical attention.
- Then contact RMBL Staff:
    - After Hours Phone: 970-200-8832
    - Or go to the Gothic Admin Office (Barclay Building) and press the RING doorbell.
    - Or go the front desk at RMBL 365

Uncontained fire

- Call or text **911** immediately.
- Report the fire to the Gothic Admin Office during office hours or the front desk at RMBL 365 during office hours.
- Otherwise: call the After hours phone 970-200-8832 or use the RING doorbell at the Gothic Admin Office.

Gas leak or water that will not turn off

- Email utility@rmbl.org . We will respond to this as quickly as we receive it.
- Include the location, time observed, and how big the leak is.
- If you see a gas leak and it is safe to do so, turn off the gas at the source. This usually involves closing the valve on the cylinder outside of your cabin.

Chemical spill

- Contact Jennie Reithel, Science Director, at sd@rmbl.org.
- If you do not receive an immediate response, contact Steve Jennison, Facilities Director, at plant@rmbl.org or notify the Admin Office.

Fire ban violations & reporting a controlled fire

- Confirm the fire is unlawful based on the current fire ban level.
- Call or text **911** and report the type and location of the fire.

FACILITIES

Water will not turn on

- Submit an online work order request: https://www.rmbl.org/work-order-request/

Something needs to be fixed in your cabin

- Submit an online work order request: https://www.rmbl.org/work-order-request/

Using tools or working at the Gothic Shop

- A community tool shed and work area are located north of the Murray Building.
- Tools are shared and donated by scientists.
- Use the sign-out/sign-in sheet when borrowing tools.
- Replace any tools you break.
- Tools are not RMBL property and are used at your own risk.
- Access to the maintenance shop is limited to RMBL staff only.
- Questions should be directed to Steve Jennison at plant@rmbl.org

CONNECTIVITY

Internet problems

- Email IT Support at helpdesk@rmbl.org
- Include your location, time of day, and what you were trying to do (e.g. check email, browse the web, download videos, etc.). This will help us to diagnose the problem.
- Please note that we like to track problems, but we can't always fix them.

Personal computer problems

You should contact one of the computer companies in Crested Butte.

Slopeside Technology	970-251-1080	www.slopesidetechnology.com
The Computer Guy, Crested Butte	970-209-8434	www.stanfordtechservices.com

Landline telephone problems

- Contact Billy Barr, Accountant, at business@rmbl.org

ADMINISTRATION

Changing the length of your stay

- Field visits without housing can be changed in the RMBL Community Portal.
- If you are in RMBL housing contact admin@rmbl.org.

Meal plan changes in Gothic

- Update your meal plan in the RMBL Community Portal.
- Or contact the Admin Office admin@rmbl.org .

Problems with cabin residents

- Contact Katie Harper, Admin and Director of Operations, at katie@rmbl.org .

Billing questions

- Contact Ben Calvin, Finance Director, at ben@rmbl.org .

Mail, packages, parking permits, or parking fees

- Contact the Admin Office at admin@rmbl.org .

RESEARCH

Running a grant through RMBL

- Contact Ben Calvin at ben@rmbl.org .

Research sites or research-related needs

- Contact Jennie Reithel, Science Director, at sd@rmbl.org .
- This includes lab and greenhouse space, storage, chemical safety, research sites, private property issues, animal care, metadata, invasive plants, and revegetation.

Research approval questions

- Contact Jennie Reithel at sd@rmbl.org .

GIS, GPS, or mapping questions

- Contact Amanda Henderson at amanda@rmbl.org .

Spatial data products or data curation

- Contact Ian Breckheimer at ikb@rmbl.org .

Research laboratory space issues

- Submit a work order for repairs: https://www.rmbl.org/work-order-request/ .
- If you have something complicated to handle (e.g., need to set up specialized equipment or modify space), contact Jennie Reithel, Science Director, at sd@rmbl.org.

Undergraduate Education Program questions

- Contact Rosemary Smith, Education Programs Manager and RMBL PI, at rsmith@rmbl.org .

FEEDBACK & POLICIES

Providing feedback

- Contact the appropriate staff member to schedule a meeting.
- Research and education issues: Jennie Reithel (sd@rmbl.org)
- Operations or Dining Hall: Christie Hicks, COO (christie@rmbl.org)
- Administration: Katie Harper (katie@rmbl.org)
- Physical plant: Steve Jennison (plant@rmbl.org)
- An anonymous survey will be conducted in late July.

Requesting a policy waiver

- Submit your request in writing to Christie Hicks at christie@rmbl.org.

Reporting inappropriate behavior or sexual harassment

- Contact Title IX Coordinator, Jo Ann Beine, at joann@rmbl.org

Difficulty communicating with a staff member

- Contact their supervisor, Christie Hicks (COO), or Berry Brosi (Board President).

ADA accommodations

- Contact Katie Lawn, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, at katielawn@rmbl.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Working at RMBL

- Staff positions: contact the relevant supervisor or see posted positions here.
- Working for a scientist: contact the scientist directly.

Funding ideas or financial support

- Contact Ben Calvin at ben@rmbl.org.
- Donations and development questions: dev@rmbl.org.

Volunteering

- Contact Rick Horn, Gothic Store Manager, at store@rmbl.org.

Questions not covered here

- Contact the Admin Office at admin@rmbl.org.



RMBL Policies

Fundamental Behavior Code

Everyone who is admitted to the various programs of RMBL is expected to show respect for others, even if they hold widely divergent opinions from yours. We try to provide a friendly and nondiscriminatory forum for the free and rich exchange of ideas. Receptivity to your fellow RMBL residents and consideration for them in every way possible helps assure a peaceful, productive, and non-threatening environment.

Quiet Hours

Many researchers and students must work early in the morning or late at night. We ask that you respect the needs of your neighbors by allowing them a full night's rest. While there are no set quiet hours in Gothic, we ask that people honor the general guidelines of keeping quiet after 10 pm during the week and 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday. At RMBL 365 quiet hours are from 10pm to 8am. In general, you should honor any reasonable request you receive to keep quiet.

Observance of Laws

Anyone in residence at or visiting RMBL is expected to obey all local, state, and federal laws. Specific attention should be paid to laws prohibiting driving while under the influence of alcohol, underage drinking, and possession of illegal substances. The possession or use of any kind of illegal drug is strictly prohibited. Smoking of any substance is prohibited at RMBL except on the county road.

The laws of Colorado involving the possession or use of alcohol state:

1. Anyone under the age of 21 who possesses and/or is drinking an alcoholic beverage, no matter where, is doing so illegally.
2. Anyone who serves an alcoholic beverage to someone under age 21, or to someone who is demonstrably intoxicated, is doing so illegally.

The laws of Colorado involving the use of tobacco state:

1. The minimum age of a person to whom cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products may be sold is 21 years of age. The laws of Colorado involving the possession or use of marijuana state:
2. It’s illegal for people under 21 to buy, have or use retail marijuana.
3. It is a felony for anyone to give or sell to or share marijuana with anyone under 21.
4. Adults over the age of 21 can buy and possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana at a time.
5. Only licensed retailers can sell marijuana products.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, where it's still classified as a controlled substance. Possession or use of marijuana on federal property, including US Forest Service, Wilderness and BLM property in the vicinity of Gothic is illegal.

In addition to these laws, the following rules are in effect at Gothic and RMBL 365:

1. No one may consume alcoholic beverages in the Community Center main hall or in other public lab areas, except for special events authorized by the Executive Director.
2. No firearms are allowed on RMBL property.
3. Taking food from the dining hall if you are not on the meal plan and have not signed up for a meal is prohibited. This is stealing!
4. Kegs are not allowed at RMBL without permission from the Executive Director.

Gothic is under the jurisdiction of the Mt. Crested Butte Police Department as representatives of the Gunnison County Sheriff.

RMBL 365 is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Crested Butte as representatives of the Gunnison County Sheriff.

Sexual Harassment – Title IX

Title IX states "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance"

Statement of Nondiscrimination and Title IX Compliance
The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) as a recipient of Federal financial assistance is subject to the provisions of Title IX.
RMBL provides equal opportunities in science and education and is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in relation to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or disability in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates.

Behaviors that Violate Title IX and/or the RMBL Fundamental Behavior Code

Sexual Harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, and offensive comments related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, and body size;

- **Sexual Misconduct** includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual exploitation, coercion, and other forms of non-consensual sexual activity;
- **Title IX Violation**: collective term used for incidents involving discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or retaliation;

- **Dating and/or Domestic Violence:** Emotional, verbal, and economic abuse with or without the presence of physical abuse;
- **Retaliation:** Adverse employment, academic, or other actions against anyone reporting or participating in an investigation of Title IX allegations;
- **Deliberately mis-characterizing a person's gender identity**, including through the use of a name that the person has rejected;
- **Gratuitous** or off-topic sexual images or behavior in spaces where they're not appropriate at the station;
- **Stalking** is repeatedly following, harassing, threatening, or intimidating including by telephone, mail, electronic communication, or social media;
- **Patterns** of inappropriate social contact, such as requesting/assuming inappropriate levels of intimacy with others;
- **RMBL follows the "Ask Once" behavioral guideline:** It is generally appropriate to ask someone out once, but no more than once. If you ask someone out once, and they do not say yes, you cannot ask them out again.

Reporting Procedures

No matter your home institution or affiliation, you can disclose an incident that you experienced, observed, or were told about.

1. The best option is to directly **report to the Title IX Coordinator**;
2. **Report to any RMBL staff person** if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable with the 1st option;
3. Directly **contact the police (911);**
4. Note: **All RMBL staff are required to disclose anything they experience, see, or hear to RMBL's Title IX coordinator**.

The next step in this process is that the Title IX Coordinator will conduct outreach to the individual who was harmed, which includes providing resources for support. They will then ask this individual if they want the office to move forward with an investigation.

The person affected is in control of the process. If they do not want an investigation to move forward, it will not.

The only way that an **investigation** will move forward **without the support of the individual affected** is if:

1. The incident was part of a larger pattern at RMBL;
2. There is a history of violence, sexual violence, arrest, or the incident was committed by multiple perpetrators;

3. The incident was perpetrated with a weapon, included physical violence (such as hitting, restraint, pushing, or kicking), or the threat of violence;
4. The affected individual is a minor.

Investigation Options

1. **None**
2. **Informal Investigation**: The Title IX Coordinator works with the Affected person and possibly with the Accused person to find an internal solution. The Title IX Coordinator may include RMBL's management team, depending on the situation. RMBL management has the ability and responsibility to take immediate action to ensure the safety of RMBL's scientists and students. This may include changes in housing or lab assignments, mediation, or other actions up to removal from camp of any staff member, contractor, member of the scientific community, or other resident;
3. **Full Investigation**: The Title IX Coordinator will bring in impartial and trained Title IX investigators to research the case. This is not a court case, but a process that investigates, whether RMBL's policies have been violated. If the Affected or the Accused person are affiliated with a home university, RMBL will involve the Title IX office of this institution;
4. **Involvement of Law Enforcement**: Involving law enforcement may be an additional option. In the case of sexual misconduct RMBL will automatically notify law enforcement.

For inquiries regarding the RMBL's compliance with Title IX, contact

Jo Ann Beine
Title IX Coordinator
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
PO Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224
call/text: 970-258-7943
joann@rmbl.org

Title IX Resources

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance COVA – is committed to fairness and healing for crime victims, their families and communities through leadership, education, an advocacy.

Project Hope – is supporting, educating and providing confidential advocacy to individuals affected by relationship violence and/or sexual assault.

CB State of Mind – an organization that provides general mental health support locally, including some subsidized or free services

Seek Then Speak provides victims and survivors of sexual assault answers to their questions, and informs them of their options for reporting when they are ready. This service is available to anyone in the Gunnison Valley. You may visit the website, call 1-888-865-9863 or download the mobile app.

You may call Law Enforcement Victim Services in Gunnison at 970-641-8299

Fire Safety in Gothic

At RMBL it is everyone's responsibility to protect the Gothic Townsite and the RMBL community from wildfires. It is your responsibility to know and follow RMBL's policy around fire use within Gothic. At RMBL we manage fires more conservatively than the Forest Service and the fire regulations set forth by RMBL must be followed within the Gothic Townsite.

Fire Flags

Fire flags communicate current fire regulations within Gothic to the community. The fire flags are flown out front of the Administration Office. There are three flag colors with an associated fire symbol: each representing a different level of fire potential and associated fire regulations.

- Green Flag = Fires are permitted in designated fire rings in Gothic. The fire must be registered, assigned a Responsible Party, overseen at all times, and put out fully at the end of the evening.
- Yellow Flag = Fires are only permitted in the Solo Stove at the bbcc. The fire must be registered, assigned a Responsible Party (RP), overseen at all times, and put out fully at the end of the evening. The RP must know how to operate and care for the Solo Stove.
- Red Flag = Fires are NOT permitted in Gothic.

Fire Procedures

Every fire within the Gothic townsite must be registered and assigned a Responsible Party (RP). You must assure that your fire is permitted at the desired location at the time of registration. An RP oversees the safety of the fire from start to finish and must maintain remain in a reasonable state of mind to oversee the safe operation of the fire. Each fire ring will be outfitted with an instructional sign and QR code to register your fire and assign a RP. You can register a fire at: https://rmbl.wufoo.com/forms/mwrr03l02ste9j/

Free Speech & Expression

RMBL has adopted the Chicago Principles for free expression, which can be found here: In summary, following the principle that education is intended to make people think, not be comfortable, RMBL encourages the community to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn from each other, even when that speech causes discomfort, but within a context of civility and respect and that recognizes that the focus of being at RMBL is to conduct field research.

Freedom of speech and expression at RMBL includes protests and demonstrations, except that any conduct, including protests and speeches, cannot disrupt RMBL operations or the research/educational activities of others, endanger the safety of others, or cause other individuals to feel threatened.

RMBL recognizes the importance of civil disobedience in regards not just to local, state, and national laws, but also RMBL regulations. However, our expectation is that acts of civil disobedience be practiced openly and civilly,

with a minimum of disruption, and that as a necessary part of the power of the act of civil disobedience, the individual/s committing the act/s willingly accept the consequences.

If RMBL has to decide whether a speech or action is threatening to a person, we will analyze the situation from the perspective of the individual who perceives a threat, and whether that perception of threat is reasonable given their circumstances and background. While the standard will be based upon the perception of the individual perceiving the threat, the comfort and personal beliefs of the individual will not be the standard. Meaningful engagement and personal growth are often accompanied by discomfort. This regulation will not be used to stifle the ability of individuals to express personal beliefs. Rather, to be judged as threatening, speech or action must cause an individual to reasonably be concerned about harm to themselves. Furthermore, while the standard will not be based upon the intent of the person generating the perceived threat, intent may be considered when determining how to move forward.

Statements that are not threatening to individuals but call into question or otherwise threaten categories of people, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, are not allowed and are considered violations of RMBL's Code of Conduct.

Violations of RMBL Regulations

RMBL reserves the right to interpret all policies and regulations. Written clarifications may be requested from the COO, Christie Hicks. Violations of policies and/or regulations may carry penalties such as expulsion, removal of research privileges, or a removal of prioritization for space assignments. This Handbook is subject to all Board approved policies and the Research Code. In the case of a contradiction, those documents shall prevail.

Grievance Procedures

Grievances should be directed to the COO, christie@rmbl.org . Decisions made by the COO can be appealed in writing to Executive Director, jblacklock@rmbl.org.

For anyone who does not have an approved research plan, RMBL reserves the right to ask such a person to leave, or to deny services, for inappropriate actions, including violations of our handbook, without any additional review or appeal. Recognizing the substantial investment by scientists in research programs operated through RMBL, we provide a higher level of review before denying services or asking someone to leave if they have an approved research plan, or if they have plans to be an active part of the RMBL research community.

1. A scientist may be denied services because s/he has violated the Code of Conduct given above, broken RMBL's regulations, failed to work in good faith with the Science Director to obtain appropriate approvals for research before conducting that research, failed to honor prior conditions of approval, or otherwise caused significant problems for RMBL. If the Executive Director determines that a denial should be considered for behavioral problems, s/he shall notify the individual. If the individual decides not to withdraw their application to work at RMBL at that stage, then the individual will be asked to pay a review charge as set by the Executive Director based upon the extent of the situation to demonstrate their good faith in having the situation reviewed. Upon receipt of payment, RMBL will generate in writing

a review and analysis of the issues. That information will be provided to the individual, who will be given the opportunity to respond in writing within a reasonable amount of time as set by the Executive Director. The Executive Director will then make a decision based upon the information. The Executive Director will provide the initial analysis, any response by the individual, the final decision and any additional supporting information to an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board of Trustees' President. That committee can let the decision stand by taking no further action, remand the decision back to the Executive Director for further consideration, or recommend to RMBL's President that the Board of Trustees intervene.

2. The Executive Director can deny or withdraw services without review to a scientist at any time if s/he believes allowing the person to use RMBL services (including staying at RMBL), creates a significant threat to individuals or RMBL, or is likely to result in serious legal, liability, or behavioral problems. In cases involving sexual harassment, the Executive Director can immediately remove individuals from the community for serious incidents, for evidence of recurring behavior, or for less serious incidents in which the individual does not demonstrate a willingness to correct behavior. If the Executive Director denies services without review by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board President, the Executive Director will notify the Board President in writing of the action taken and the basis for the action. The individual who is affected by the decision may appeal the decision in writing to the Board President.

Pet Policy

Pets, such as dogs or cats, are not allowed at Gothic Campus any time of the year. Pets should not be inside the RMBL fence line, even within vehicles. Please park vehicles with pets at the Visitor Center parking lot or on the county road. People violating these restrictions will be warned once, and then fined $50/incident.


Photo by Dave Basden

Health & Safety

General Health & Safety

Emergencies: Health, Fire, Water, & Gas

Serious Life and Facility Threatening Emergencies

Call 911

For life and facility threatening emergencies, call or text **911** and inform dispatch about location and type of emergency. Next, if you are able, notify the Gothic Admin Office in the Barclay Classroom Building during office hours, the front desk at RMBL 365 during office hours, or call the after-hours support phone at (970) 200-8832.

If appropriate, raise an alarm: a good strategy is to find the nearest car and honk its horn. There are fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in every building, and escape ladders on all second floors. In case of fire, exit the building immediately, and try to raise an alarm.

Health Emergencies

Call 911

If you believe you or someone else is in need of medical attention, it is always best to call **911** and have an ambulance in-route as a first step. Ambulance response could take up to 25 minutes in Gothic and it is better to have it on the way early. If you decide it is not needed, you can always call and cancel. Also note, an ambulance arriving does not always mean a ride and hefty bill! There is no charge for an ambulance simply showing up and EMS staff will advise as to whether transportation for further care is needed.

Fire Emergencies

Call 911

- Exit the building through the nearest door or window.
- Inform **911** dispatch about the location and size of the fire.
- If the fire is small and safe to put out, use a fire extinguisher.
- Inform the Gothic Admin Office in the Barclay Classroom Building during office hours, the front desk at RMBL 365 during office hours, or call the after-hours support phone at (970) 200-8832.

Water Not Shutting Off or Leaking Gas

Shut off water or gas, if possible, and email RMBL staff at: utility@rmbl.org . Expect an email response within 2 hours during business hours Monday - Friday; or by 9:00 AM the following day on weekends.

Water Not Turning On

For water that will not turn on, please fill out a work order request: https://www.rmbl.org/work-order-request/

After Hours Emergencies

After Hours Phone (970) 200-8832

ADA & Section 504

If you need to request an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or have other questions about accommodations please contact Katie Lawn, RMBL Section 504/ADA Coordinator at katielawn@rmbl.org. If you need ADA residence facilities, please indicate this in your housing reservation by checking the box provided and providing details on the requested accommodation.

Gothic Health & Safety

After Hours Emergencies

After Hours Phone (970) 200-8832
RING Doorbell in the Gothic Admin Office (Barclay Classroom Building)

24 HOUR EMERGENCY PHONE LOCATIONS

Willey Building- First floor, East entry, first door on the left. Landline.
Barclay Classroom Building – Admin Office, first floor. Wi-fi phone.

FIRST AID KIT LOCATIONS

- **Admin Office (Barclay Classroom Bldg.):** The first aid kit is accessible 24 hours a day. This location also has 2x Epi-Pens for anaphylactic emergencies. VOIP phone available for emergency use 24 hours a day.
- **Dining Hall/Kitchen:** The kitchen has a first aid kit available to staff and residents with help from the kitchen staff. There is currently 2x Epi-Pen available for anaphylactic emergencies. VOIP phone available for emergency use. (Dining Hall is open from 7 am - 7 pm)
- **Visitor Center:** This is the campus-wide AED location. The Visitor Center has a first aid kit available for staff, residents, and visitors passing through. There is currently 1x Epi-Pen available for anaphylactic emergencies. Visitor's Center hours vary. Analog phone available for emergency use.
- **Maintenance Shop:** The maintenance shop has a first aid kit available for use with help from the facilities staff. There is currently 1x Epi-Pen available for anaphylactic emergencies.
- **Laundry Room:** A community first aid kit is accessible 24 hours a day, as well as a “community chest” of personal items community members may need, including sexual health supplies.

Evacuation Procedures Gothic

In Case of an Evacuation or a Station-wide Emergency:

- You will hear air horns or car horns.
- You will see a **BLACK, WHITE**, or **RED FLAG** on the southwest side of the TOWN HALL/COFFEE LAB to indicate that an evacuation is underway or that some other station-wide emergency is happening.
- If you see a **Black flag**, we will be evacuating people to Rainbow Park, 300 8th Street, Crested Butte, Colorado. That is where we will set up a Communication Center. Please evacuate there where you can receive additional information.
- If you see a **White flag**, we will be evacuating people to the first bridge up valley, just beyond the Avery picnic ground. We will have a Communication Center there as well. Please evacuate there where you can receive additional information.
- If you see a **Red flag**, it means that an emergency other than an evacuation to one of those two spots is happening and further instructions will be provided at Town Hall/Coffee Lab.
- During the event, direct your questions to an Incident Team Member. An Incident Team Member is wearing an Orange Vest.
- Because not everyone has transportation, if you have a vehicle with extra space, we ask that you bring your vehicle to Town Hall and the Visitor Center and pick-up extra individuals.
- If you need transportation, we ask that you proceed to a location just south of the Town Hall and stand off the road to flag down a carpool.
- We will collect the names and information of people who check in with us at the Communication Center at the place of evacuation.

RMBL 365 Health & Safety

After Hours Emergencies

After Hours Phone (970) 200-8832

FIRST AID KIT LOCATION

Ground Floor near the community kitchen and bathroom: first aid kit is accessible 24 hours a day.

Local Physicians & Mental Health Centers

Crested Butte/Mt. Crested Butte

GVH Mountain Clinic – (970) 349-0321

12 Snowmass Road Axtel 100, Mount Crested Butte, CO 81225 Urgent care center, walk-ins, closest facility to Gothic

Gunnison Valley Family Physicians – (970) 349-6749

214 6th St. Suite 1 Crested Butte, CO 81224 Family practice physicians

Sopris Clinic- (970) 355-9686
419 6th St. #202, Crested Butte, CO 81224 Medical Clinic

Alpine Orthopedic/ VSON-(970) 349-1046
405 Elk Ave, Crested Butte, CO 81224
Orthopedic surgeon

gO Orthopedics-(970) 349-5103
433 6th St, Crested Butte, CO 81224
Orthopedic doctor

The Center for Mental Health/ CB State of Mind- (970) 252-3200
214 6th St Ste 4, Crested Butte, CO 81224 Mental health and substance abuse services

Gunnison
Gunnison Valley Hospital Emergency Room- (970) 641-1456
711 North Taylor Street, Gunnison, CO 81230 Emergency room

Gunnison Valley Health Urgent Care- (970) 648-7105
707 N Iowa St, Gunnison, CO 81230
Urgent Care Center

Gunnison Valley Health Family Medicine- (970) 642-8413
707 N Iowa St, Gunnison, CO 81230 Medical office, family practice

The Center for Mental Health- (970) 252-3200
710 N Taylor St, Gunnison, CO 81230
Mental health and substance abuse services

Cabin & Facility Safety Policies

Thank you very much for adhering to the following RMBL safety instructions to keep RMBL a safe place to live.

- **Space Heaters:** Need to be arranged properly and away from any flammable materials. Do not move space heaters between cabins without permission. More information on space heater safety can be found here: Space Heater Safety Sheet
- **Stove Fires:** If you do not know how to build a fire properly in your wood stove please ask the work crew for a demonstration. Your first fire should be small in case of a problem in the stove or stovepipe. Do not use anything but paper and kindling to start fires. Go to www.woodheat.org or www.epa.gov/burnwise/best-wood-burning-practices for instructions on safe operation of stoves. Make sure your fire is out before leaving your cabin. Do not remove the battery from your smoke alarm;

instead learn to make a fire that does not set it off. Also, never burn coal in RMBL stoves. There is a stack of winter wood next to the Forest Queen cabin that you may use.

- **Candles:** Do not burn incense or candles in cabins and do not use hotplates in non-cooking cabins.
- **Smoking:** The RMBL campus is smoke-free, and there is no smoking allowed within the RMBL fence line. Smoking is allowed on the county road only.
- **Valuables:** RMBL is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Locking of offices, labs, and autos is the responsibility of the individual. Do not store valuables in your cabin.
- **Electricity:** Electrical outlets in older cabins should not be used for heat-generating devices, such as heaters, electric blankets, irons, etc.
- **Mice and Hantavirus:** There is some concern about whether hantavirus exists at RMBL. We have no evidence that it does but have provided the means of taking precautions for everyone who wishes to do so. While we do not wish to alarm anyone unduly, prevention is a much saner strategy than the alternative. There is a kit (including respirator) in the cleaning shed in Johnson Lab for cleaning mouse feces and nests. Please ask for assistance if needed. More info on hantavirus can be found here: https://www.rmbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FS-2018- Hantavirus-Prevention.pdf
- **Trapping Mice:** The best prevention is to not attract mice to your cabin in the first place. Please store food in mouse-proof containers and do not store trash in cabins. Residents are responsible for mice removal in their cabins throughout the summer. Traps can be found in the Johnson Lab supply closet. Bait the traps with a small amount of peanut butter, roughly the size of a pea, being careful not to catch your fingers in the spring-loaded traps. Place traps against the walls in areas where you suspect mice may be entering your cabin. Continue to trap for at least one week after you catch the last mouse. To dispose of trapped animals, wear protective gloves. Spray the dead rodent with a disinfectant or chlorine solution. After soaking the rodent thoroughly, take it out of the trap by lifting the spring-loaded metal bar and letting the animal fall into a plastic bag and seal the bag. Then place the bagged rodent into a second plastic bag and seal it. There is a signed box in the freezer in the Sample Processing Room in the Gothic Research Center, where you should put your dead mice to be used for research.
- **Bat Policy:** Bats have inhabited Gothic cabins for the past 90 years. We do not know of a bat in Gothic that has tested positive for rabies. Housing in Gothic is full most of the summer. If people have a bat in their cabin, we generally will not be able to accommodate requests to relocate to other cabins. If a bat free cabin is desired, please look for alternative housing opportunities offsite, but you will be held to the RMBL cancellation policy and fees. If you find a bat in your cabin, there are several courses of action that you could take. In most cases, the bat is healthy, found a crack in the foundation of your cabin through which it could enter, and is using it as a day or night roost. Getting the bat to escape and plugging up the entrance hole should do the trick. More information about bats in Gothic and their removal can be found here: https://www.rmbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FS-2018-Bat-Information.pdf
- **Lead Paint Disclaimer:** Section 1017 of the Housing and Urban Development Guidelines, Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Action of 1992 requires that RMBL disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards. While we are unaware of any lead-based paint onsite, paint put on buildings constructed before 1978, and especially prior to 1960, is likely to be lead-based paint. Intact, lead-based paint on most walls and ceilings is not a hazard, though if its condition is deteriorating or flaking off, or if it is on an accessible, friction, or impact surface, it could become

hazardous. If you see flaking paint that likely dates before 1978, need to conduct activities which would disturb such paint, or if you see such paint on a surface that could cause deterioration, we ask that you notify work crew promptly.

Environmental Safety

Hiking

The Store in the Visitor Center carries excellent hiking guides for the local area. The RMBL Travel & Safety Policy is online here. Please familiarize yourself with safety procedures and routes before you head out. An important part of hiking and camping safety is letting a friend, roommate, or staff member know where you are going and when is the latest you should be back by. For example, "I should be back by 6 pm but be concerned if I am not back by 7 pm." As a final step, be sure to let this trusted individual know when you return. Alternatively, if you are entrusted with someone's hiking plans, set an alarm on your phone and if they do not check in with you by the time they were set to return, try to reach out to them first, if that doesn't work consider alerting staff and/or calling 911.

Fishing

Gunnison County has great fishing. You can get a fishing license at fishing stores in Crested Butte. Note that fishing is not allowed within the Gothic townsite because scientists are doing experiments in the streams with fish and other organisms. Make sure you are on public land if you are going fishing. Gunnison County assessor's map on the web is a good resource for determining which land is private and public. Free phone apps, such as GAIA GPS and CalTopo also have layers that indicate public/private land boundaries.

Lightning

Thunderstorms can occur daily during the summer. If lightning approaches get off a ridge immediately. Do not stand under a tree or boulder. Squat on the slope a distance at least twice your height down from the top and do not place both hands and feet on the ground at the same time. If you do you could provide a path for the lightning that passes through your heart.

Tick Removal Guide

Information about proper tick removal can be found here: FS-2018-Tick-Removal-Guide.pdf (rmbl.org)

Wildlife Encounters

One of the joys of living and working in Gothic is the opportunity to see wildlife; however, it is important to remain respectful of wildlife and give them a lot of space, both for safety reasons and to minimize impacts on research. Many animals in the townsite are study organisms for research projects. There are laws governing the humane treatment of vertebrates and RMBL follows this structure and these laws.

Within the townsite of Gothic you may see a variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
Do NOT approach, touch, or feed any animals, including but not limited to birds, marmots, ground squirrels, chipmunks, fox, or deer. This is especially important when pups are emerging. Marmots and ground squirrels

often like to hop up in car engines, so it is important to check vehicles (pop open the hood) to make sure you are not driving away with an animal. This can be harmful to the animal and your car.

There are many resources available to help if you are experiencing conflicts with wildlife. If you experience wildlife conflict issues involving big game species, you should contact the Gunnison Parks and Wildlife Division at: 970-641-7060 or law enforcement. Big game species include deer, elk, pronghorn, sheep, goats, bear, and moose. A wildlife conflict is one in which there is immediate danger to people.

MINIMIZING HABITUATION OF WILD ANIMALS: Wild animals may be habituated to people in the townsite. RMBL discourages behaviors that further habituate wild animals, for human safety, animals' safety, and to respect on-going research. The goal is for wild animals to stay wild. To minimize habituation, we ask that everyone in Gothic follow these guidelines:

- Do not feed wild animals.
- Do not put food in open dumpsters.
- Pick up food scraps and food/beverage containers when eating outside.
- Do not approach wild animals, unless it is a part of an approved research project.
- Do not touch wild animals.

Questions about RMBL's policy to minimize habituation of animals, RMBL research with animals, or encounters with wild animals in Gothic should be directed to the Science Director.

BLACK BEARS: Black bears are curious, smart and very adaptable. They are not fussy and will eat just about anything with calories. Bears want to get the most energy they can with the least amount of effort. Every bear's goal is to get fat enough to live through the winter. Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to easy-to-get-at human food, garbage, pet food, bird seed or other attractants. When people allow bears to find food, a bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its wariness of humans. Bears that get too comfortable around people can destroy property or even become a threat to human safety. Habituated bears must often be destroyed. Please don't let bears die needlessly. Do your part to properly dispose of trash, recyclables, and keep your food secure within cabins. If you store food outside or go camping, purchase a bear proof container. Also make sure to place the bars over dumpsters and lock the doors to your cabin. Black bears are not naturally aggressive, but they are strong, powerful animals. A bear intent on getting a meal can easily injure someone who gets in its way, particularly if they feel trapped.

Before You Go into the Field:

- Any signs of bear scat and shredded logs are signs you are in bear country.
- Be alert at all times and do not wear headphones. Be extra cautious at dawn and dusk, when the wind is in your face, visibility is limited, or you are walking by a noisy stream. A firm clap or quick shout warns bears that humans are in the area.
- In late summer and fall, bears need to forage up to 20 hours a day, so avoid trails that go through berry patches, oak brush, and other natural food sources.

- Double bag food, and never leave any trash or leftovers behind. Finding treats teaches bears to associate trails with food.
- Never approach bears or offer food. If you're lucky enough to see a bear, watch from a safe distance, enjoy this very special experience and take a picture. If your presence causes the bear to look up or change its behavior in any way, you are too close.

If You Encounter a Bear:

- Black bears are highly intelligent, with individual responses to people and situations. Wild black bears seldom attack unless they feel threatened, cornered, or are provoked.
- If you Encounter a bear on a trail, stand still, stay calm and let the bear identify you and leave. Talk in a normal tone of voice. Be sure the bear has an escape route.
- Never run or climb a tree.
- If you see cubs, their mother is usually close by. Leave the area immediately.

If the Bear Doesn't Leave

- A bear standing up is just trying to identify what you are by getting a better look and smell.
- Wave your arms slowly overhead and talk calmly. If the bear huffs, pops it jaws or stomps a paw, it wants you to give it space.
- Step off the trail to the downhill side, keep looking at the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight.

If the Bear Approaches

- A bear knowingly approaching a person could be a food-conditioned bear looking for a handout or, very rarely, an aggressive bear. Stand your ground. Yell or throw small rocks in the direction of the bear.
- Get out your bear spray and use it when the bear is about 40 feet away.
- If you're attacked, don't play dead. Fight back with anything available. People have successfully defended themselves with pen knives, trekking poles, and even bare hands. There have only been 25 fatal bear attacks in North America in the past 20 years.

MOUNTAIN LIONS: Mountain lions are generally calm, quiet, and elusive. They tend to live in remote, primitive habitat with plentiful deer and adequate cover. Such conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes, and open spaces. Recently, the number of mountain lion/human interactions has increased.

People rarely get more than a brief glimpse of a mountain lion in the wild. Lion attacks on people are rare, with fewer than a dozen fatalities in North America in more than 100 years. Most of the attacks were by young lions, perhaps forced out to hunt on their own and not yet living in established areas. Young lions may key in on easy prey, like pets and small children. There have been less than 12 fatalities from mountain lions in 100 years.

If You Encounter a Mountain Lion: Every situation is different with respect to the lion, the terrain, the people, and their activity.

- **Go in groups** when you walk or hike in mountain lion country and make plenty of noise to reduce your chances of surprising a lion. A sturdy walking stick is a good idea; it can be used to ward off a lion. Make sure children are always close to you and within your sight. Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.
- **Do not approach** a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- **Stay calm** when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.
- **Stop or back away slowly** if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.
- **Do all you can to appear larger.** Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, **throw stones**, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.
- **Fight back** if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up!

MOOSE: It may be hard to believe, but until 20 years ago hardly anyone ever saw a moose in Colorado, let alone hunted one. Today the state's moose populations are thriving, thanks to successful reintroduction efforts by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Colorado's Shiras moose (Alces alces shirasi) are Colorado's largest big game animal with adults weighing 800 to 1,200 pounds. Bulls stand up to 6 feet at the shoulder.

If You Encounter a Moose: Any moose, at any time of year, may respond aggressively if provoked by your presence, though the chances of a confrontation increase during certain times of year. Cows with calves are particularly protective, especially in early summer when their young are most vulnerable. In the fall, bull moose often act more aggressively as they compete with other males for breeding opportunities. But no matter what the season, the best strategy is to avoid a confrontational situation in the first place. Keep your distance. If a moose is on the trail, wait for it to move along. You need to give moose time to get out of the way.

If a moose feels threatened by your presence, it does one of two things. Often the moose simply leaves the area to avoid the threat. But sometimes it responds aggressively to make you leave the area instead. The minimum safe distance from a moose varies widely depending on the surrounding environment and the temperament of the animal. As a general rule, if you are causing the moose to change its behavior in any way, you are too close. Even if the moose appears undisturbed by your presence, you must still be able to evade the animal should it abruptly charge you.

Anxious or agitated moose can display a range of warning signs:

- Lay their ears back

- The hair on the back of the neck and above the hips might stand up
- They may smack their lips
- Show the whites of their eyes
- Toss their head upward
- Urinate

If you see any of these warning signs, it is a clear indication that you are too close and in a potentially dangerous situation.

If You are Charged by a Moose: An aggressive, confrontational moose is trying to do one thing: drive you off. So, if a moose approaches you, back away. If it charges, RUN! Do not stand your ground. If possible, place a tree or other nearby object between you and the moose as you retreat. Once the moose has driven you far enough away, it will leave you alone. If it makes contact and knocks you down curl up in a ball until it stops and leaves the area.

Camping in the Gothic Corridor

The US Forest Service (USFS) has made the final decision on camping and vehicular traffic. Dispersed camping in the Gothic Corridor is not allowed. Campsites must be reserved online.

Camping in Gunnison County

For information on where to camp and how to be an ethical camper, we recommend looking at the guide found here: https://crestedbuttemountainbike.com/camping/

Please note that as of 2021 the USFS adopted new camping and fire regulations in our area. Know before you go!

Always let someone know where you plan to camp and when you plan to be back.

Backcountry Hiking & Camping Safety

Gothic, Colorado and its backcountry is a great location for exploring the West Elk Mountains on your days off. Some of the most famous mountain biking and hiking trails in Colorado are literally right outside your door and RMBL encourages you to enjoy them. For information on how to safely explore, see our guide here: www.rmbl.org/field-station-info/backcountryhikingandcamping/

Remember to always check the weather before going into the backcountry.


Photo by Jimmy Lee

Arrival & Departure

Travel to Gothic & RMBL 365

RMBL operates two housing locations for researchers, students, and guests:

- **Gothic Campus (Main Campus)**: RMBL's historic field station and primary research location.
- **RMBL 365 Building (Town of Crested Butte):** Year-round housing located in the town of Crested Butte.

Gothic and RMBL 365 are approximately a 25–30 minute drive from each other. For differences between living in Gothic and RMBL 365, see the Housing: Gothic + RMBL 365 page.

Gothic Campus Physical Address:
8000 County Road 317, Crested Butte, CO 81224

RMBL 365 Building Physical Address:
615 Teocalli Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224
(~25–30 minutes from Gothic main Campus located in the town of Crested Butte)

Driving

From Denver to Crested Butte

Take I-70 West to exit 470 West, then take 285 South to Fairplay, then to Poncha Springs. Take Highway 50 West to Gunnison, then follow Highway 135 North 28 miles to Crested Butte.

From Montrose to Crested Butte

Take Highway 50 East to Gunnison. From there take Highway 135 North into Crested Butte.

From Crested Butte to Gothic

Upon entering Crested Butte, proceed through the 4-way-stop at the intersection at Elk Avenue and follow the highway (also called Gothic Road or County Road 317) up the mountain past the ski area and through Mt. Crested Butte (4 miles). The road will change from paved to dirt as you leave Mt. Crested Butte. Follow it another 3 miles into Gothic.

Gothic is a 5-hour drive from Denver or Colorado Springs and a 4-hour drive from Grand Junction. Please note that you cannot drive through Marble to get to RMBL.

Car Rentals
Denver – contact the rental company, or try airportrentalcars.com
The Gunnison Airport has three rental companies, Hertz, Avis, and Budget.

Ride Board
Check the RMBL Ride Board if you need a ride or are willing to offer one. RMBL offers an online Ride Board service. You can post to this ride board or check it if you need a ride. Be sure to include details such as your name, phone/email, dates, departure city and travel route.

By Airplane
Denver, 800-AIR2DEN
If you fly into the Denver International Airport (250 mi./5 hrs from Gothic) you can rent a car, arrange pick up, or take the bus to Gunnison. See details below under "Bus". If you plan to fly to/from Denver and use the bus service to/from Gunnison, please arrange your flights accordingly to make the connection. Once in Gunnison you can ride one of the shuttle options Alpine Express, Black Canyon Limo, Dolly's Mountain Shuttle, or Rocky Rides.

Gunnison, 970-641-2304
United Airlines serves the nearby Gunnison Airport (34 miles/50 min. from Gothic). Flights come mainly from Denver. There are typically two flights a day.

Montrose
After Gunnison, the next closest airport is located in Montrose (70 miles/1.5 hours from Gunnison). Flights into Montrose come mainly from Denver. There are car rentals from Montrose to Gunnison,
and Alpine Express does offer a Charter Bus service for approximately $200 round-trip or $120 one-way.

Aspen
No shuttles are available from Aspen. If you drive from Aspen do not drive through Marble.

Gunnison to Gothic Shuttles
Alpine Express
Black Canyon Limo
Dolly's Mountain Shuttle
Rocky Rides

By Bus
There is a twice-a-day bus service between Crested Butte and Denver, CO. The service is operated by Bustang, and the cost is about $55.00 one-way. Tickets can be purchased on the Bustang Outrider m-Tix mobile App (Android/iOS) The bus arrives/departs from Union Station (1701 Wynkoop St. Denver, CO) and arrives/departs the Crested Butte 4-Way Stop (North of 6th and Elk Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224). Travel time is approximately 5 ½ hours.

Denver to Crested Butte

- Morning Trip: Depart Denver: 6:30 am & Arrive in Crested Butte: 12:30 pm
- Afternoon Trip: Depart Denver: 1:50 pm & Arrive in Crested Butte: 7:35 pm

Crested Butte to Denver

- Morning Trip: Depart Crested Butte: 5:15 am & Arrive in Denver: 10:50 am
- Afternoon Trip: Depart Crested Butte: 1:15 pm & Arrive in Denver: 7:00 pm

Traveling between Denver Union Station and Denver International Airport (DIA)

Every 15 minutes the University of Colorado A-line bus travels between Denver International Airport (DIA) and Denver Union Station. The cost is $10.50 one way, and the trip takes 37 minutes. Go to the Denver RTD for more information. Please plan accordingly.

Checking In

Gothic

Please plan to stop by the Admin Office when you arrive. If you arrive after hours, be sure to **read your check in email carefully**, it contains all the information you need and complete your check-in first thing the next morning. The Admin Office is located in the Barclay Classroom Building. Staff will be happy to get you settled with paperwork, oriented, tell you of anything new happening this summer, take your picture for the photo board, and generally welcome you to campus.

Location: 8000 County Road 317, Crested Butte, CO 81224

Accessibility

The Administration Office has a three-step entry and tight doorway that could be difficult for individuals in wheelchairs or with other physical disabilities. Please contact admin@rmbl.org to make other checking-in plans if the entryway could cause a challenge for you. We are happy to meet in another location.

RMBL 365

Please review your pre-arrival check in email carefully, it contains all the information you need. Check-in at RMBL 365 is typically a self-check-in unless otherwise noted. If you need any assistance with check-in, please contact admin@rmbl.org .

Location: 615 Teocalli Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224 (~25–30 minutes from Gothic main Campus)

Parking

Parking Fees in Gothic

Principal Investigators and Visiting Scientists	$7.47 per day / $437.75 per summer
Undergraduate Students, Guests, Research Assistants	$12.36 per day/$741.60 per summer

Parking fees are in effect between June 1 and August 24. Everyone driving a car to Gothic for research, education, or work will need a parking permit. Parking permits are not required for the Visitors Center, public tours, youth program drop-offs, or the Coffee Lab.

There are separate parking rates for Principal Investigator (PI) Research Vehicles and for Student/RA/Guest Vehicles. PIs can purchase parking permits at the 'Research Vehicle' rate for vehicles that are used by the research team, regardless of who owns the vehicle. This is allowable on the condition that the vehicles are primarily used for research. Parking permits may be transferred between individuals, for example, between members of a carpool group or from a PI to members of his or her research team. Scientists owning vehicles through RMBL are required to pay parking fees in Gothic.

Parking at RMBL 365

Parking at RMBL 365 in the town of Crested Butte is included with your stay, and no parking permit is required for the RMBL 365 building. However, guests who drive to the Gothic campus **must** obtain and pay for the required Gothic parking permit. Anyone operating a vehicle in Gothic for research, education, or work, including those commuting daily from RMBL 365, **must** have a valid Gothic parking permit.

Parking Assignments in Gothic

Parking assignments will be made by the RMBL Administration Office. Please contact admin@rmbl.org to make reservations. Parking assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Commuters and residents not expecting to park in Gothic on a daily basis may communicate with the Administration Office on how to track and report their days.

Parking will be assigned to our main parking and limited parking spots at cabins. Only authorized parking spots at cabins may be used and once they are full, all parking must be in the main lots. Parking on the county road is for short term needs (loading and unloading) and approved special events only.

Display of Permit

All RMBL Users parking in Gothic will need to display a parking permit on their vehicles.

Alternative Parking & Prohibited Areas

Free overnight parking is again available in Mt. Crested Butte at the Snodgrass trailhead. Contact the Admin Office for a permit. Parking on non-RMBL private property close to Gothic is by permission of the landowner.

Parking on the County Road in Gothic, Forest Service Land within 1 mile of RMBL, or the Judd Falls parking lot is a violation of RMBL parking policy.

Individuals caught parking on Gothic Road within the 1-mile limit will be warned one time and then fined $50.00 per violation. Parking on Gothic Road is for the general public only.

Shipments & Mail

NOTE: NEW ADDRESS

Due to our new building, **RMBL 365**, please note that the **308 Town Office** is **no longer monitored** by RMBL staff. If you need to send **UPS or FedEx** packages before the Gothic Road opens, please send them to **615 Teocalli Ave.** The full address is listed below.

Receiving Mail

- Be sure your friends/family put your name on the address. We won't know who the mail is for if it's only addressed to RMBL.
- Do **not** subscribe to magazines or catalogs using RMBL's address. We will not forward them after the season is over.
- Your mail will be forwarded for 3 weeks only.
- The Crested Butte Post Office does **not do street delivery**. All mail coming through the United States Postal Service (including mail from other countries not sent by an independent parcel service) needs to have PO Box 519 on it. If you're not sure if it is coming USPS or another carrier, include both the street address and the PO Box.

Addresses:

US Postal Service Mail (including letters and packages)- All Year:

Your Name c/o RMBL PO Box 519

Crested Butte, CO 81224

*Tip: If the sender goes to a Post Office to send it or if they put it in a blue mailbox, it is coming via US Postal Service.

Address in the summer from road opening (typically end of May) – September - GOTHIC:

UPS and FedEx packages:

Your Name c/o RMBL

8000 County Road 317

Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

Address in the winter from October – Road Opening - GOTHIC:
UPS and FedEx packages:
Your Name c/o RMBL
615 Teocalli Ave.
Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

RMBL 365 (in the summer reserved for guests staying at RMBL 365)
UPS and FedEx packages:
Your Name
c/o RMBL
615 Teocalli Ave.
Box 519
Crested Butte, CO 81224

Shoulder Seasons
Before the road opens, all packages and mail will be delivered to RMBL 365 located in the town of Crested Butte (615 Teocalli Ave, CO 81224).

During the summer UPS and FedEx deliver to Gothic as a courtesy. During the shoulder seasons this service cannot always be guaranteed, so you may have to pick up your packages RMBL 365 located in the town of Crested Butte (615 Teocalli Ave, CO 81224) or Crested Butte Post Office. If you do not know where you can expect your delivery, please ask the Administration Office, admin@rmbl.org. If you are missing a package, please contact the carrier directly.

If you are expecting a large shipment or a very important package, please coordinate with the Admin Office, so that RMBL staff can make sure the delivery gets to you in time. We do not have much space at RMBL 365. Please help us by limiting advance shipments and picking up packages promptly.

April and May mail/delivery service
Make sure to add your name to the package as well as RMBL so we know who it goes to

If you plan on sending larger shipments, please coordinate with the Admin Office: admin@rmbl.org to make sure there is room to store your items. Large shipments may have to wait until UPS and FedEx begin delivering to Gothic. If your delivery is not time-sensitive, we encourage you to schedule shipments so that items arrive after June 1st (e.g., shipping bicycles).

Packages delivered to RMBL 365 in Crested Butte can be picked up during business hours of Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please email admin@rmbl.org to coordinate this with the Administration Office.

Telephone

There is no cell reception in Gothic. Most residents are able to use wi-fi calling on their cell phones, as long as they set it up with their provider before arriving to Gothic. If you need to make a domestic call on a RMBL phone, please stop by the Admin Office.

Billing

Students - payment is due upon arrival for tuition, room, and board.

Researchers - We will send monthly invoices throughout the summer. Ben Calvin is the primary point of contact for all financial questions. If you need to make other invoicing arrangements, please get in touch with Ben in his office or at ben@rmbl.org .

All summer residents of Gothic are encouraged to check out with Lisa Lucas, Billing Specialist (Gothic Admin Office, lisal@rmbl.org) before leaving for the summer. Any remaining charges accumulated during the summer will be put on your summer bill. Postage and shipping, sign-up meals, parking, and other charges are all recorded. If you are staying at RMBL 365, you may also review or discuss your bill in person in Gothic with Lisa Lucas, or you can contact her by email.

Payment of summer bills not received by Dec. 31, 2026, will be charged interest dating back to the invoice date at a rate of 18% per year. Payments not received by April 1st of the following year may invalidate any research application until payment is made or a payment plan is developed with the Chief Operating Officer.

Checking Out

Please ensure your departure date is accurate in the RMBL Community Portal and contact admin@rmbl.org with plenty of notice if you need to make any changes.

Gothic

Check Out Steps

1. **Be sure to read your check-out email carefully, as it includes all the essential details for your check-out.**
2. Make an Appointment to Pay Your Bill
   At least two days before your departure, notify Lisa Lucas (lisal@rmbl.org) so she has time to prepare your bill. Charges may include housing and station fees, meal fees, store charges, guests, cleaning charges, or any other fees.
3. Schedule a cabin check with the Admin Office
   If you are living in Gothic housing, you must clean your cabin before you leave. To ensure that you have cleaned before departing, you must have a member of the Administrative Staff inspect your cabin. If you

have roommates residing in your cabin, you must communicate with them about what common areas and tasks you are responsible for and which areas and tasks they will complete. If you are uncomfortable discussing this with your roommates or have difficulty resolving these matters, please talk to Admin and Director of Operations, Katie Harper.

4. Check out of cabin before 11 am
   Please note: Damage or Cleaning fees will be assessed for cabins not cleaned to RMBL standards. If your cabin requires cleaning after you depart, you will be assessed a minimum fee of $55 per hour.

RMBL 365

Check Out Steps

1. **Be sure to read your check-out email carefully, as it includes all the essential details for your check-out.**
2. Make an Appointment to Pay Your Bill
   At least two days before your departure, notify Lisa Lucas (lisal@rmbl.org) so she has time to prepare your bill. Charges may include housing and station fees, Gothic meal fees, store charges, guests, cleaning charges, or any other fees. You can discuss your bill in person in Gothic with Lisa Lucas, or you can contact her by email.
3. Check out of your room/apartment before 11 am
   Please note: Residents are collectively responsible for working together and keeping their assigned rooms and all shared common areas (including kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms) clean throughout their stay and upon departure. If rooms or common spaces are not left in a clean and orderly condition at checkout, all residents sharing the space will be charged a cleaning fee of $250 per hour, with a one-hour minimum. If you are uncomfortable discussing this with your roommates or have difficulty resolving these matters, please talk to Admin and Director of Operations, Katie Harper.


Photo by Sam Woodward

Research in Gothic

RMBL's goal is to make it as easy as possible for scientists to get their research programs up and running quickly. RMBL offers numerous advantages, including coordination with permitting agencies, long-term relationships with landowners and other important stakeholders, access to a wide variety of research sites, access to shared research equipment and modern laboratory space, staff support, a substantial amount of accumulated scientific knowledge, the opportunity to interact with national and international scientists, and financial support. Scientists working through RMBL are covered under the RMBL Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service on the Gunnison, Paonia, and Aspen Districts and have access to millions of public lands for research. The sheer number of scientists conducting work at RMBL, however, requires a considerable amount of coordination to make certain that projects do not interfere with each other.

Staff Support

One of the primary responsibilities of the Science Director, Jennifer Reithel, is to assist scientists. She can be particularly helpful for new scientists in developing a research plan, identifying research sites, and coordinating with existing scientists. Consequently, please do not hesitate to ask her for assistance: sd@rmbl.org, Ph: 970-379-6802. Our GIS/GPS Coordinator, Amanda Henderson, amanda@rmbl.org, is also available to support scientists who wish to use our GPS devices to map sites and use our GIS system to conduct geospatial analyses and make maps. Ian Breckheimer is a staff scientist whose expertise is in spatial data. Please contact him for spatial data products ikb@rmbl.org. For operations and logistics please contact Katie Harper or Christie Hicks in the Administrative Office at admin@rmbl.org Ph: 970-349-7231 ext 2. You can direct policy questions or questions about running grants through RMBL to Ben Calvin, Finance Director, ben@rmbl.org.

Research Applications

All research and collecting must be reviewed by the Research Committee comprised of peer scientists. They review proposals to help manage potential conflicts between projects, assure that proposed manipulations to the environment are appropriate, and to review the productivity of returning scientists. The only projects that have been turned down are projects up for renewal that have been unable to generate a decent research plan and that have been unable to demonstrate significant productivity.

Researchers who are new to the field station fill out a 'New researcher application' and may request a 1 year 'Exploratory Approval'. Collectors fill out a 'Collectors' Application'. See the website or contact the Science Director for instructions on writing project descriptions.

Research and Collecting applications are due February 1 annually. Late applications can be reviewed, but there is a late fee.

Approvals are given for up to five years. However, approval is given to specific methodologies and if the methodologies change, you will need to submit an amendment to your research plan for review.

Animal Care

RMBL has a USDA-approved animal care committee that reviews all projects involving vertebrates. Our committee reviews projects even if they have been approved by your home institution's animal care committee, though we are sensitive to minimizing unnecessary complications. Our committee is not an NSF-approved committee. Consequently, our review will not suffice if you receive NSF funding that requires approval of an animal care committee. The deadline for animal applications is Feb.1. Late applications can be reviewed, but there is a late fee. We grant approval for up to 3 years.

Choosing Research Sites

Scientists establishing new sites must do three things:

1. Choose sites that do not conflict with ongoing research.
2. Understand property ownership and if necessary, work with the Science Director to assist in getting permission.
3. Keep the Science Director informed of new sites.

When choosing new sites for yourself or your students, check the research map in the Research Center, the Community Center, or online to make sure that no one is working in or near your new site. If another researcher is working nearby, talk to the Science Director and/or coordinate with that researcher to prevent conflicts. Please note that many private property in-holdings are not marked in the field and you will have to consult a map to understand property lines. Please coordinate with the Science Director as questions arise.

The Science Director must be consulted before establishing new research sites. Amanda Henderson, our Research Support Specialist, can also help you explore potential research sites by making some maps. Because we manage approximately 3,000 research sites in a typical year, we require that scientists map their sites using a handheld units that we provide.

Working in the East River Valley and surrounding areas involves some special situations that you may not be familiar with coming from your home institution. The East River Valley is grazed by cattle starting around the 4th of July. Cattle begin grazing near the Kettle Ponds in early July, with cattle gradually being moved up valley as the summer progresses. Please respect cattle and ranchers; do not chase cows or scare them. Related to this, using rebar and other metal markers on non-RMBL land is prohibited because cattle and horses can be severely injured, if they step on rebar. The RMBL fence attempts to keep cattle out of the main RMBL townsite; however, we cannot guarantee that cattle will never escape onto RMBL property. If your sites must exclude cattle, you should consider fencing them. RMBL rents corral fences to scientists.

Scientists working within the RMBL townsite should choose sites carefully. Sites in the immediate townsite can be disturbed at any time. Sites in utility corridors or in buffers of current and future- planned buildings are particularly vulnerable. Consulting the Facilities Master Plan can be helpful when choosing sites in the townsite.

The East River Valley is a popular tourist and recreation destination. Please be polite to tourists and other Forest Users when interacting; use it as an opportunity to educate and engage in a positive way. Feel free to direct interested parties to the RMBL Visitor Center, Kiosk, or website for more information about RMBL and our outreach programs. In order to avoid direct conflicts with bikers, hikers, and outfitters, please choose field sites that are well away from roads and trails whenever possible; 25-50 meters is a good ballpark distance. When setting up non-RMBL sites, try to keep a low profile by rolling flags when possible and using camouflaged flagging and markers. Being invisible reduces the likelihood that curious passers-by will be attracted to your site and accidentally interfere with your experiment.

Research in wilderness areas requires special permission and documentation. The nearest wilderness area is the Snowmass Maroon Bells Wilderness area; the boundary is just past Judd Falls and continues along the Copper Creek trail. Another entry point is up Rustler's Gulch.

Group size in this wilderness area is limited to 10 people. It is not permissible to put up flags or markers in wilderness without express permission. It is especially important that research in the wilderness area, once it is approved, is off the trail by 50 meters, if possible, and is as invisible as possible. The US Forest Service takes pride in protecting the wilderness experience for all visitors to the wilderness area. Highly visible research markers and gear are thought to detract from the wilderness experience. If any RMBL user notices highly visible flags or markers in the wilderness area, please contact the Science Director.

Research Site Markers

The approach to marking sites differs depending on your location. Sites on RMBL land should be very well marked. Because there are so many scientists, students, and staff working in a small area, it is best to use plenty of flags and markers to clearly mark your site. However, when working on National Forest Service land, it is preferable to keep visual impacts to a minimum, as described above.

All research markers should include your name or initials and the date. Abandoned research markers lacking this information will be cleaned up. It is your responsibility to completely remove all research markers and equipment from sites at the completion of your study. If RMBL staff has to clean up abandoned sites, you will be charged for their time.

Mapping Research Sites

All research sites must be mapped with RMBL GPS units and appropriate metadata must be submitted. This allows us to track where you work, prevent conflicts, and obtain proper permits for your research. Please contact the GIS office (gis@rmbl.org) to set up a training session with the RMBL GPS units.

Permitting

RMBL scientists work with the Science Director to ensure that their research sites are properly permitted. Because some permits require a year lead time, scientists are encouraged to talk with the Science Director about potential research sites as far in advance as possible. RMBL scientists conduct research on RMBL-owned and managed land, on USFS land on which RMBL has a special use permit, and on some private land. New research sites must not conflict with existing research. Sites on public land, including wilderness areas and research natural areas, as well as sites on private land, come with different types of restrictions. Work involving significant ground disturbance on public land could require NEPA review by the USFS. The Science Director can help with research site permitting.

Safety in the Field

People who are new to the Rocky Mountains may wonder if there are dangerous animals or plants. Black bears, moose, and mountain lions are common in the Rocky Mountains, and you may encounter them in the field. Read the 'Wildlife Encounters' section of this binder to learn more about how to handle yourself if you encounter these large animals. Do not approach any animals, regardless of their size, unless you have been trained to do so. Even small animals bite when threatened and bites can be vectors for disease. There are no poisonous snakes here. The only reptile living here is the garter snake and it is not poisonous. Many plants and mushrooms are poisonous and should not be ingested. The plant, stinging nettle, can cause a burning sensation for 10-20 minutes after you touch it, but the sensation is typically short-lived. Poison ivy and poison oak do not grow here. At some field sites, there are black flies that bite and mosquitoes that sting. Bees and wasps will sting if they are trapped, but if they are simply flying around, they will typically ignore people. If you are allergic to bees, you should always carry an epi-pen with you. There are no killer bees here. Some ants will bite and squirt formic acid if you grab them, but there is no poison that is injected. There are no fire ants here.

The group size of field teams is variable. Some individuals may do field research on their own and other groups may be more than 4 people. Cell phone reception is unreliable in the back- country. Satellite phones work in the backcountry. If you are working alone in the field, you should make sure that someone knows where you are and when you will return. Good contacts include someone from your lab group or someone you are sharing a cabin with.

Check the weather forecast before you go out and be prepared for unexpected weather. Forecasts do not always predict local rainstorms. Thunderstorms are common and can arise quickly. If lightning approaches, get off the ridge immediately. Do not stand under a tree or boulder. Squat on the slope a distance at least twice your height down from the top of a mountain or from a tree or boulder. Do not place both hands and feet on the ground at the same time, as this could provide a path for lightning to pass through your heart. As weather moves in, be prepared for rain and dropping temperatures. Bring rain gear, warm layers, and a warm hat.

The RMBL website has a thorough list of items to bring with you in the backcountry.

In summary, you should bring water, food, rain gear, extra clothing, good shoes/boots, sun protection, a map, a watch, first aid supplies, and toilet paper/trowel to dig a cat hole/baggie for used toilet paper to 'pack it out'. You may also want to bring a flashlight, matches, rope, and duct tape. The Gothic Visitor's Center has maps and some of these supplies.

Mentoring Students

RMBL operates an education program in which students conduct independent research under the supervision of a scientist. We have a scientist who coordinates the logistics of the program so that mentors can focus on science. Mentors include senior scientists, postdocs, and graduate students. Mentors receive a small stipend for each student. Students are funded through a combination of mechanisms, including an REU site grant, RMBL scholarship money, personal funds, and funds from their home institution. It is possible to hire a research intern through this program. Interns work as research assistants approximately 35 hrs/week. If you would like to mentor a student, or want more information, the Science Director oversees the program.

Lab Space & Equipment

RMBL has bench space in multi-use rooms and private lab spaces available for rent by the day or by the year. We have small research rooms, as well as bench space in a wet lab with chemical fume hoods and deionized water, a microscope/balance room, and a sample processing room. Common use spaces, such as the tables in the Sample Processing Room, the outdoor potting bench, and the large outdoor sink and drain are available at no cost for day use only. Everything must be cleaned up and gone by the end of the day. For more information contact the Science Director.

RMBL maintains some general use equipment, including microscopes, computers, balances, cameras, a Li-COR, incubators, drying ovens, thermal cycler, mapping equipment, ultra-cold freezer, standard refrigerator and freezer, autoclave, biosafety cabinet, and plant growth chambers. We also have a new gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer, which is available for use on a fee/sample basis if you have previously been trained on this equipment or are taking the GC-MS class at RMBL. Contact the Science Director for more details.

Collections

We have an herbarium, insect, and mammal collections in the Natural History Building behind the Visitor's Center. The Science Director can train people in how to handle collections. Rick Williams is a volunteer curator of the Herbarium and can answer some questions about the collections, including how to contribute vouchers to collections.

Station Fees & Parking Fees

RMBL scientists and their lab team members pay a daily station fee for the duration of their stay, regardless of whether the research group stays in RMBL housing or not. The station fee covers the cost of permitting, research site coordination, and other administrative expenses. Scientists driving to the field station will also have parking fees in Gothic. If you have questions about RMBL fees, contact the Administration Office at admin@rmbl.org .

Grants and Fellowships

Scientists, postdocs, and graduate students may apply for small fellowships. Fellowship applications are due Feb 15. We ask that scientists provide a copy of grant proposals for work associated with RMBL. These are not made public without the permission of the scientist. If you provide a copy of the proposal before it is submitted, we can review it to ensure that we see no red flags in terms of the work that is being proposed. No research is approved, however, until the research committee has reviewed it. If sufficient notice is given, we can ask the Research Committee to approve a research plan before a proposal is submitted.

Scientists can run grants or subcontracts through RMBL. We can often offer a lower overhead rate. Additionally, our financial staff is very responsive and easy to work with. Contact Finance Director at ben@rmbl.org for more information.

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Informal Science Education

RMBL sponsors many programs for the public. These include the Youth Science Programs, with week- long camps for K-12 children that introduce them to outdoor education, field biology, and research projects, and Summer Science Tours for adults. In addition, RMBL sponsors the local nonprofit radio station (KBUT), and various other educational and social events in Gothic and throughout the valley. Your participation in all RMBL programs is encouraged. For more information on RMBL's programs and events go to https://www.rmbl.org/students/ or https://www.rmbl.org/visitors-center/ .


Photo by Sam Woodward

RMBL Housing

General Housing Information

Housing Options

RMBL operates two housing locations for researchers, students, and guests:

- **Gothic Campus (Main Campus):** RMBL's historic field station and primary research location.
- **RMBL 365 Building (Town of Crested Butte):** Year-round housing located in the town of Crested Butte.

Gothic and RMBL 365 are approximately a 25–30 minute drive from each other. For differences between living in Gothic and RMBL 365, see the Housing: Gothic + RMBL 365 page.

Housing Assignments & Requests

We take all housing requests received by **April 1** and start filling in spots. When we have conflicting requests for cabins, we prioritize long-term residents, scientists with approved research plans, families, research teams associated with priority research projects (e.g., projects with NSF funding which is administered through RMBL or projects prioritized by RMBL's Research Committee), and individuals with clearly defined special needs. In 2016 we updated the Prioritizing Housing Criteria, where we identify our process for assigning housing. Requests that come in after April 1 are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Work Orders

You may submit work orders for the Facilities Crew online here: Work Order Requests

Make verbal requests only in an emergency, as they are easily forgotten otherwise. Only emergencies will be responded to after hours and on weekends. For emergencies, such as leaking gas or water, please email utility@rmbl.org .

Housing & Field Work Date Changes

After housing is assigned, you may change your on-site dates once without charge, but after that, there will be a $25.75 processing fee for each additional change of dates affecting the period between June 1 and August 24. Please notify the Administration Office (admin@rmbl.org) of any changes in your dates. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Any date changes that result in a total reduction in length of stay of more than 7 days during the period of June 1 and August 24 will result in a charge of 100% of the lost revenue associated with station fees, laboratory fees, and housing to RMBL (after the 7 days have been subtracted).

If you need to change your field work dates and do not have housing, simply do so in the RMBL Community Portal before your set departure date has passed.

Guests

Please contact admin@rmbl.org if you would like to invite a guest to stay with you in Gothic.
Anyone who has an unregistered guest will pay a $50 penalty, and the guest will be asked to leave. If a surprise guest arrives, email or leave a note in the office ASAP with the Administration
Office admin@rmbl.org.

Living in Gothic

Housing History

One of the defining characteristics of RMBL is its funky buildings. We have 3 buildings from the founding of Gothic in 1880, two buildings from an attempt to revive mining in 1914, and numerous buildings constructed after the founding of RMBL in 1928. Seven buildings have historic designation: Town Hall (1880, renovated 2003), Swallows Nest (1880, renovated 2004), Mammal Lab (1914, renovated 2004), Ore House (1914, renovated 2005), Barclay (1935, renovated 2009), Richards (1930, renovated 2011), McLeod (1936, renovated 2013). These cabins have been designated at the county level and are not on state or federal registrars of historic buildings. In the 1970s an application was put into design Gothic as a historic district, but the State of Colorado was not interested. We are thinking of designating some more buildings as historic. A building must be 50 years old to be eligible. Many of our existing structures will be replaced, but RMBL is committed to maintaining representative structures from each of the various eras and styles.

Location: 8000 County Road 317, Crested Butte, CO 81224

Packing Guide

When deciding what to bring to Gothic, keep the climate and rustic conditions in mind, living at RMBL is a lot like staying at summer camp. Casual and rugged clothes are the rule and clothes that can be layered are key. Expect rainy days, possibly snow, but also remember how strong the sun's rays can be at 9,500' elevation. During the day it can be as warm as 75 degrees F, but once the sun goes down it cools rapidly and can freeze any night of the summer. Below are the must haves but please see a more comprehensive list on the website here.

Must-Haves in Gothic

- Sleeping bag comfort-rated to at least 20 degrees F (we provide a mattress)
- Fitted sheet (size single), pillow, and pillowcase. Bring a top sheet if you like. (RMBL does not provide linens)
- Broken-in, waterproof hiking boots

- Shower shoes & towel
- Toiletries (body wash/soap, toothpaste, toothbrush) Rain jacket
- Warm clothing, including coat, gloves, and a hat (it could snow!) Lightweight long sleeve shirt and long pants (for the biting flies) Day pack
- Water bottle
- Field notebook, pencils, pens, paper, etc. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and sunhat Quarters for the laundry room
- Laundry detergent Flashlight/headlamp and batteries
- Chapstick and body lotion (the air is very dry) Contact lenses/glasses
- Personal prescriptions

What Else to Bring

You may want to go camping during the summer, so consider bringing your tent and other backpacking gear. Other suggestions include a camera, binoculars, and field guides. We do have outdoor stores in nearby Crested Butte, but these shops can be expensive. At our elevation, the humidity is very low, and our roads are unpaved and dusty. You will also notice that the air dries out your nose, lips, and skin so consider bringing moisturizers and lip care products. If you have a mountain bike and are able to drive out, consider bringing it to get around the townsite.

The Exchange Closet

It might be helpful to new residents to know that there is an exchange closet full of dishes, cookware, silverware, books, games, clothes, and other items left by past residents. If you forget something or do not have space in your luggage, you may be able to find what you need here.

Outhouses, Shower House, Laundry

RMBL has multiple outhouses around the townsite, which residents will use. RMBL will regularly service the 3 forest-service style outhouses by the Barclay Classrooms, by the billy barr community center and in Happy Valley. All single outhouses need to be maintained by the nearby residents. Please remember to always shut the lid to prevent critters falling in. Extra toilet paper can be found in the laundry room.

Built in 2025, the Shower House, located near Crystal Cabin, includes five showers (four standard and one accessible) and two sink areas. Please be respectful of shared spaces and clean up after yourself. Before leaving, take a moment to double-check that you have everything you brought with you.

Built in 2025, the Laundry Room has washers and dryers that are coin operated. You can get quarters from billy barr's office and the Visitor Center. If you are having trouble getting quarters during the daytime, please let the Admin Office know and they will help you.

Cleaning Expectations & Supplies

Residents are expected to keep their living situation clean and orderly, particularly if they have roommates. Cleaning regularly and properly storing food will also help to deter mice and bugs. Cabins are stocked with basic supplies at the beginning of the field season and residents can find extra supplies in the cleaning closet by Johnson Lab, including mouse traps. If you need something that is not already stocked or supplies have run low, please contact admin@rmbl.org . If you have conflicts with your housemates that cannot be resolved without mediation, please contact katie@rmbl.org .

Trash & Recycling

Please dispose of all food and non-recyclables in the bear proof dumpsters located next to the Johnson Lab, Workshop, and Happy Valley/Dining Hall entrance.

Waste Management is no longer requiring recycling to be separated. Recyclable plastics, tin, glass, cardboard, and paper can now be combined. A large recycling dumpster will replace the Recycling Shed this year and will be located near the Workshop. Please note that recycling in our county may not be as robust as that of your hometown. Be aware of what can and cannot go into our recycling bins.

What Can Be Recycled

- Plastic: Empty plastic bottles, tubs, & jugs. Not allowed – plastic bags, trash bags, plastic wrap or film.
- Metal: Empty tin, aluminum, and steel cans.
- Glass: Empty glass bottles and jars.
- Cardboard & Paper: Flattened cardboard, paperboard, clean paper.
- For more information on the specifics of recycling in Gunnison County, please visit the Waste Management website here: Recycling 101

Camping- Maxfield Meadow

Two designated camping spots are available for use at the Maxfield Meadow – a research meadow about 1 mile south of the field station. This is RMBL's private land and there are no facilities. We will first look for housing options within the Gothic Townsite. If no room is available in any of the Gothic cabins, we may assign a camping spot at Maxfield Meadow in agreement with the user. Each camping spot is assigned, marked, and the ground may be bumpy and sloppy. Every user will need to check-in and check-out with the Administration Office. Upon departure from the campsite, leave it as you find it, remove all trash. There is no charge other than the daily station fees (see more info under station fees). One marked parking spot is available adjacent to the camping site.

Living at RMBL 365

About RMBL 365

RMBL 365 is a newly acquired lodging space designed to support year-round programming, collaboration, and community engagement while advancing RMBL's scientific mission. Located in the town of Crested Butte, RMBL 365 offers a more comfortable, less rustic housing option than our Gothic facilities, making it well suited for researchers with families and guests seeking additional amenities. RMBL 365 is set up hostel-style with many rooms having a shared kitchen, bathroom, and living space.

Distance to Gothic

RMBL 365 is not located at RMBL's main campus in Gothic. RMBL 365 is located in the town of Crested Butte at 615 Teocalli Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224. The drive from RMBL 365 to the Gothic campus (main RMBL campus) is approximately 25–30 minutes in the summer. Guests staying at RMBL 365 who are conducting research in Gothic must have access to a personal vehicle. Transportation is not provided, and there is no public transit between Crested Butte and Gothic.

Location: 615 Teocalli Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224 (~25–30 minutes from Gothic main Campus)

What to Bring

RMBL 365 provides residents with linens, pillows and a towel. However, for doing field work we recommend reviewing the packing guide under Living in Gothic and what to bring summer packing list on the website.

Communal Living: Kitchen, Bathrooms

RMBL 365 operates in a hostel-style format, with most rooms sharing common spaces, including bathrooms, kitchens, and living areas.

Kitchen

The shared kitchen is fully equipped with two stoves/ovens, two full-size refrigerators, a microwave, a coffee maker, and an electric kettle. Meals are not provided, and guests are responsible for purchasing and preparing their own food. We ask that all residents label their food with their name and the current date. Guests may still opt into meal plans at Gothic, but please note that this requires driving to and from the Gothic dining hall (~25-30-minute drive, see map). The local grocery store, Clark's Market Crested Butte, is conveniently located nearby (3-minute drive or 11-minute walk) from RMBL 365.

Living Room

The shared living room is a comfortable space to unwind after a day of fieldwork. Amenities include smart TV, fireplace, books and board games, and comfortable seating. Please note that RMBL events or gatherings may occasionally take place in this space. Guests will be notified in advance of any events that may occur in the space.

Bathroom

Shared bathrooms include showers and toilets.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are not included on-site at RMBL 365. A public laundromat is located next door to RMBL 365 at Crested Butte Laundry. Ask RMBL staff for more information.

Cleaning & Expectations

RMBL 365 is a shared living environment, and we ask all guests to follow the RMBL 365 House Rules (posted at RMBL 365) and RMBL policies. These guidelines help ensure a safe, respectful, and comfortable experience for everyone. Residents are collectively responsible for working together and keeping their assigned rooms and all shared common areas (including kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms) clean throughout their stay and upon departure.



Dining Hall Gothic

Meals are only available at Gothic campus. The Dining Hall, also known as the billy barr community center, will open Wednesday, June 5th.

Meal Hours
Breakfast 7 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Lunch 12 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Dinner 6 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Meal Plan & Meal Reservations

Meals are only available at Gothic campus. Meal sign-ups must be completed through the RMBL Community Portal under *Community Actions → Submit a Meal Reservation* at least 24 hours in advance. Even if you selected meals when you requested housing or registered for the summer, you must still sign up for the specific days and meals you plan to attend. You can make a meal reservation for consecutive days, or on an individual basis. Meal Reservations allow the Dining Hall staff to plan accurate quantities and reduce food waste.

Food Allergies & Dietary Restrictions

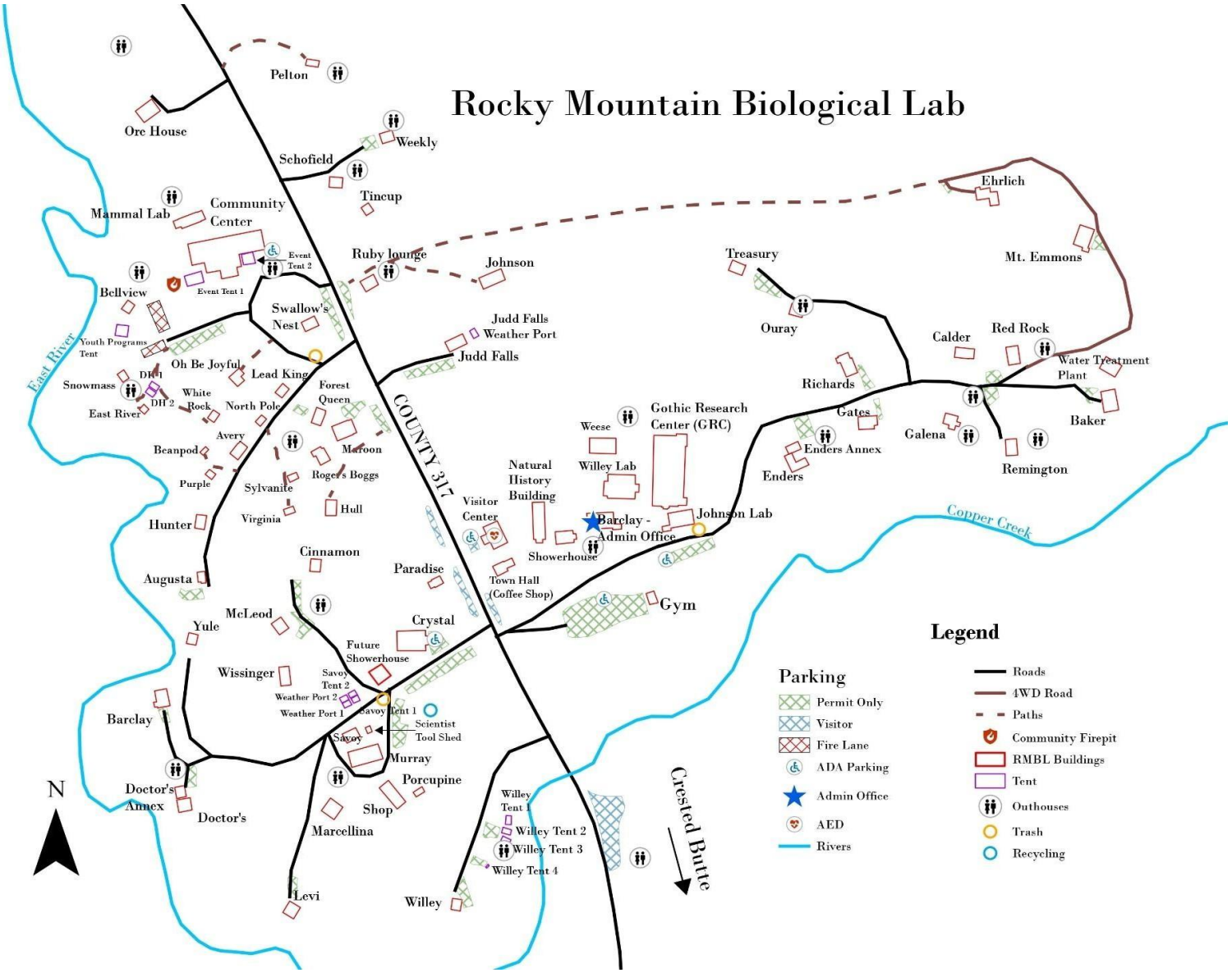
Our meals are prepared from scratch by a dedicated culinary team and served buffet-style, with both meat and vegetarian options available. While we strive to offer a variety of choices at most meals, RMBL does not guarantee regular vegan options. More restrictive diets, including vegan and complex allergy-related needs, cannot be guaranteed. If you plan to eat in the Dining Hall, it is your responsibility to communicate your food allergies and dietary restrictions. To do this, go into your profile on the RMBL Community Portal and update the Dietary Information section. It is also recommended that you verbally communicate with Dining Hall staff to ensure you are getting the correct meals. both meat and vegetarian options available.

Domestic Kitchen

Within the Dining Hall is a shared kitchen that can be used upon request and approval by the Admin Office. Email admin@rmbl.org to request access. This is primarily for researchers that do not have a meal plan and were put into non-cooking cabins due to space restraints and for researchers that need to prepare meals away from their cabins due to food allergies.

Gothic Facilities

Gothic Map 2026



Barclay Building: Admin Office, Computer Lab, & Classrooms

The Barclay Classroom Building is where you will find the Admin Office, it should be one of your first stops in Gothic. It is on the first floor and walk-in guests are welcome. Also on the first floor is the Computer Lab, which is open to researchers at Gothic. On the upper level of the building are two classroom spaces used for the Education Program, Graduate Student Programming, conferences, and any other groups that need a place to meet. If you would like to reserve time in one of the classrooms, contact admin@rmbl.org.

billy barr Community Center & Boardroom (bbcc)

The bbcc acts as the Dining Hall, community gathering space, and seminar space. This is where you can find the RMBL Photo Board and a nice place to get some work done between meals. The Boardroom is available upon request for groups that need an uninterrupted meeting space or if you need to have a conference call. Email admin@rmbl.org if you would like to reserve time in The Boardroom.

Gothic Exchange

The Gothic Exchange is located behind the Town Hall (The Coffee Lab) and is a great place to find useful items for your cabin, kitchenware, extra bedding, camping and hiking gear, games, books, and clothes. We only ask that you leave it in good shape after looking through and please only add useful items that you no longer want.

Gothic Research Center (GRC)

The GRC is where several private lab spaces, the shared Wet Lab, shared Sample Processing Lab, shared Precision Techniques Lab, and the GPS/GIS Office are located.

Johnson Laboratory

The Johnson Lab is where several private lab spaces and one combined lab space are located. Attached to the front of the Johnson Lab is the Supply Closet, which has cleaning supplies, mousetraps, and other re-stocking supplies for cabins. Please Note- Toilet Paper is located in the Laundry Room, not the Supply Closet.

Graduate Student Supply Closet

Attached to the front of the Johnson Lab, next to the Supply Closet, you will find the Graduate Supply Closet. This space is a take-some, leave-some closet for field supplies. Please help keep this space tidy. Prior to leaving items in the closet, please contact the Science Director sd@rmbl.org, who must approve the items you are leaving are appropriate for the space.

Murray Building

The Murray Building mainly houses private storage spaces and also the Facilities Director's office.

Natural History Building & Collections

The natural history building houses the herbarium, insect collection, and vertebrate collection. There is a sign-up sheet in the building to track use. If you have never used a herbarium before, please reach out to Rick Williams willcha2@isu.edu, who voluntarily curates the RMBL herbarium. If you've never used an insect or vertebrate collection, please contact the Science Director sd@rmbl.org to schedule a time to learn how to handle specimens correctly.

Ruby Lounge

Ruby Lounge is a hangout space for residents with a tv, games, books, and more. Loud parties that disturb other residents of Gothic are discouraged. Please cooperate with other users to keep the area clean. Accumulation of garbage and recycling materials may result in adoption of access restrictions. From 8 am – 4 pm, Ruby Lounge is reservable space. After 4 pm, it is an open communal space.

Scientists Toolshed

The Scientists Toolshed is located North of the Murray building. Scientists have donated tools and/or are sharing their tools. You are welcome to contribute quality tools to the tool shed. Please be respectful and use the sign in/out sheet when borrowing tools. If you break something, please replace it. The tools and equipment in the shed are not RMBL property and we make no claims to their reliability or safety. Use at your own risk.

Town Hall & Coffee Shop

One of RMBL's historic buildings, The Town Hall/Coffee Lab is a great place to meet friends, study, and caffeinate. This is one of the areas of campus that is open to the public.

Visitor Center

At the Visitor Center you can find historical and scientific displays, an interactive table, RMBL merchandise, scientific and educational books, maps, snacks, and drinks. You may also get stamps, change for the laundry room, and air up your bike tires. This is one of the areas of campus that is open to the public.

Weese Youth Science Building

RMBL is fostering the next generation of researchers with its robust summer camp for grades K-5, its Project Eco-Stem camp for middle schoolers, and its High School Intro to Field Biology course. The Weese Building is the hub of activity for youth programming.

Willey Building: Offices, Library & Mail Room

On the first floor of the Willey Building, you will find the Mail Room (collect and send your mail & packages), The Library (browse scientific publications or use as a workspace, no borrowing), Ian

Breckheimer's Spatial Ecology Office, the Science Director's office, the Director of Strategic Project's office, the Chief Operating Officer's office, and the Executive Director's Office. Students in the Education Program can also find a closet exclusively for their use with backcountry gear to borrow located outside the East entrance door.

The upper floor of the Willey Building houses some private lab spaces, staff offices, and billy barr's Accounting Office, which you will likely need to visit for invoicing, quarters for the laundry room, and chocolate.


Photo by: Katie Adler

Connectivity & I.T.

Wireless Internet

RMBL has recognized the increased demand for reliable and fast internet within Gothic. And RMBL 365 RMBL is currently working with Brian Brown, Slopeside Technology, to ensure that internet access within the Gothic townsite continues to work well and handle the demand of scientists every summer.

Please connect your devices at Gothic Campus and RMBL 365 to 'RMBL-Net' wireless network (password: rmblscience). Many devices are still connecting to the 'RMBL' network. The 'RMBL-Net' network offers a higher level of security and will offer a higher level of performance over the RMBL network, which will soon be configured as a low priority guest network and will be limited to the Community Center and Visitor Center areas.

Where is the best and worst Internet access in Gothic?
Currently, the best Internet access within the townsite is located in the billy barr community center, the Gothic Research Center, and the Willey Building. Internet access within most cabins is good however, there is currently no or limited internet in the following cabins: Marcellina, Sylvanite, and Virginia.

What can I do to ensure the internet works because I have critical data and bandwidth needs for my project?
Use the locations above when doing important or large data transfers. If you are still having problems, please reach out to helpdesk@rmbl.org as there may be additional configuration that we can do to ensure you get the resources you need.

Can I unplug the power adapter in my cabin?
To ensure that the internet works properly in cabins do NOT unplug power-injectors to plug in other appliances. A power-injector is typically a device inside a cabin that will look like a power-block for an electronic appliance that will be plugged into the wall and will have a network cable from the power- injector going into the wall. Unplugging these devices will cause internet issues to your cabin and other cabins in the area. Some cabins have other networking devices. Please do not unplug the devices as they likely feed Internet access for other cabins.

What do I do if I cannot get the Internet to work?
If you are having internet issues, please email helpdesk@rmbl.org. Be sure to indicate where you were having problems, what type of computer/device you are using, as well as the time you were having internet issues.

Check the weekly newsletter. When there are planned Internet maintenance activities, information will be posted in the weekly newsletter.

What should I not do on RMBL Internet?
Please do not use the internet to download/stream movies as it interferes with other scientists being able to complete their work. Please do not use VPN or other technologies unless it is for scientific research purposes. VPN services add significant overhead to your Internet traffic which makes bandwidth problem worse. Do not download illegal content, such as illegal torrents of games, movies, or other content. These activities put RMBL's Internet service at risk.

Some tips for reducing network congestion at RMBL

1. Power down or shut off the Wi-Fi radio on smartphones when they are not in use.
2. Power down or shut off the Wi-Fi connection on laptops when not in use.
3. Only allow PC's, laptops, and smartphones to download updates outside of peak hours (5pm - 10pm).
4. Do not stream videos or music from the internet. Because inappropriate video downloads have made it difficult at times to browse the web or check email, we do not allow such downloads.

Make sure you have current anti-virus software on your computer before you connect to the RMBL network. If you have any questions, please contact our Internet Consultant at helpdesk@rmbl.org.

Barclay Computer Lab Gothic

The Barclay Computer Lab has 4-8 networked computers for student and researcher use. RMBL has a file/print server as well as a special server running ESRI's GIS software. All networked buildings have lightning surge protection. The computers in the Barclay Computer Lab have Microsoft Office with Word and Excel along with Firefox, Internet Explorer, several statistical packages, such as "R", "R Studio" and "JMP" and a selection of other software including Arc View GIS software and "Distance".

Barclay Computer Lab Gothic Guidelines

- Backup all your work! Use flash drives. Flash drives are available at the Gothic Store.
- Classes and research take precedence over email and web surfing.
- No eating or drinking is allowed in the Computer Lab.
- Please close the windows if you are the last person out, to keep the dust and weather away from the computer equipment.
- If you experience an occasional failure in the computer lab email helpdesk@rmbl.org Always remember that computers often "fix" themselves when they are rebooted.

Printing, Copying, & Scanning

Gothic

RMBL has a black and white networked laser printer in the Barclay Computer Lab in Gothic to print and to make free photocopies. If you have a very large job, or need copies made on a more sophisticated machine, please see

one of the Administration staff. Black and white printing is available in the computer lab. in Gothic Color printing is available, when necessary, with help from the Administration Office.

All Barclay Computer Lab computers have scanning capability. To scan, place your document in the appropriate printer's scanner bed. After placing the document, go to one of the computers in the lab and open the program 'MF Toolbox' and select Scan from the menu. The printer will send a copy of the document to the computer you are using. Detailed instructions are posted by the printers.

RMBL 365

If you need to print and you're staying at RMBL 365 please email admin@rmbl.org

Reporting an Issue

If you are experiencing internet issues, problems with the Computer Lab or printers, or have other IT-related questions at Gothic or RMBL 365, please email helpdesk@rmbl.org and indicated where you were having issues, what device you were using, and the time of day.

Privacy

Currently RMBL does not save logs of user activity. We reserve the right to monitor or log user behavior when troubleshooting the network and when monitoring our broadband bandwidth; however, that has not been necessary in the past. (RMBL does not sell or trade or provide any user info except as required by law.)


Photo by: Hillary Xu

RMBL Governance

Board of Trustees

RMBL is a private nonprofit corporation governed by a Board of Trustees elected by RMBL's voting membership. The Board of Trustees appoints other trustees to assist them in their task of setting policy directions for RMBL. The trustees hire an Executive Director to carry out the operations. During the summer months some trustees are in residence in Gothic and are very interested in meeting with students, researchers, staff, research team members, and other users of RMBL.

Please contact either Jeni Blacklock, RMBL Executive Director or Berry Brosi, RMBL President about scheduling a meeting with one or more trustees during this period. We encourage you to seek out trustees and discuss your interests in and opinions about RMBL; it will assist them in their governance duties.

A full list of current trustees can be found here: Our Board of Trustees. If you would like to reach out to a specific Trustee and need contact information, please email admin@rmbl.org.

Voting Membership in RMBL

There are two forms of membership with RMBL. All members of RMBL agree to support the mission of the organization and make an annual donation. "Friends of RMBL" are any individuals, organizations or businesses that are interested in supporting the RMBL but are not interested in voting for trustees or on other RMBL matters. "Voting Members" are individuals interested in voting on RMBL issues, and who meet one of the criteria listed below. All applications to become a "Voting Member" are voted on by RMBL Members. Those requesting Voting Member status will automatically be accepted as "Friends of RMBL" until voted into membership. To remain an active RMBL Voting Member, you must maintain a donation, in any amount within the period of the last 24 months.

Voting Membership Requirements

Voting members must meet one of the following criteria:

- Professional in a biological discipline or other science bearing directly on biological problems and has been in residence at the RMBL for a minimum and continuous period of two weeks.
- Has been in residence at Gothic for at least four weeks in each of two summers after age 18
- Has served at least one year as an Officer or Appointed Trustee of the RMBL

- Is dedicated to the aims of the RMBL and has asked two current RMBL Members to provide letters of recommendation attesting to their commitment.

Membership applications can be found here: Voting Membership Application