



**McCOY FIELD TRIP: A Family Fossil-Collecting Trip  
August 17, 2019**

What to Find: McCoy is famous for Pennsylvanian marine fossils. The area abounds with crinoids and brachiopods. Also found are bryozoans, horn corals, shark teeth, snails, bivalves, and other sea creatures from 300 million years ago. Additionally, plant fossils, including the early conifer *Walchia*, can be found.

General Information:

We plan to visit the cemetery area, south of the town of McCoy. In the morning, we will be collecting on BLM land and in the afternoon we hope to have permission to collect at one area on private property that is full of crinoids, named Crinoid City. Please note that it is illegal to keep any vertebrate fossils, including shark teeth, on BLM land. However, you can keep any shark teeth found on private property.

At both collecting areas, we will be walking  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 mile over uneven ground. The area is high desert - sagebrush, pinon pines, and junipers. Elevation is about 6,500 feet. Be sure to bring the sunscreen and lots of water, but be ready for rain and colder weather.

When: **Meet at the old McCoy school (now the McCoy Community Center) at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 17.** We plan to finish around 3 p.m. unless a thunderstorm chases us off the outcrop earlier.

Directions: Take I-70 west of Vail to the Wolcott Exit 157. Head north on Colorado 131 past State Bridge and Bond to the town of McCoy. The school is on the north side of the road at McCoy and can be seen from the highway. It is 21 miles from I-70 to McCoy. Total mileage from the intersection of I-70 and US-6 in Golden is 127 miles and takes 2 hours and 20 minutes, according to MapQuest.

What to Bring: The fossils are mostly loose on the ground and will require little or no digging. A rock hammer and chisel are useful for extracting fossils found in outcrops. Bring water, protection from the sun or inclement weather, hiking shoes (no open toe shoes), food, and packing materials for your fossils.

McCoy can be hot this time of year, so plan accordingly. However, it can be rainy and cool, too.

Trip Leader: Dennis Gertenbach  
Trip Coordinator: Donna Anderson