

51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

50th Anniversary of the Founding of the 8th AFHS

Colorado Springs, CO

October 1-5, 2025

In 1859, Colorado Springs history is marked with the founding of Colorado City, which became the first settlement in the Pikes Peak region. It was the territorial capital for a short period and served as a supply camp for miners traveling to the mining camps west of Denver.

In November 1806, American explorer Zebulon Pike traveled through the area and is credited for “discovering” Pikes Peak. He and his group attempted to reach the summit, but they were neither dressed nor equipped to climb the mountain that ultimately came to bear his name.

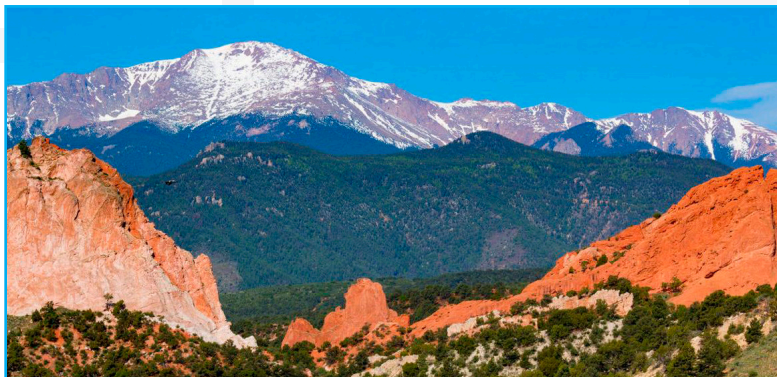
General William Jackson Palmer, a Civil War hero from Pennsylvania, ushered in a new era in Colorado Springs history in 1869. During his first visit to the area, he fell in love with its “most enticing scenery.” He predicted that there would soon be a great resort town at the base of Pikes Peak. One year later, he founded the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and purchased land to create Colorado Springs along its route.



In 1871, the Victorian spa resort town Palmer envisioned became a reality. We invite you to enjoy the incredible beauty of the Rockies “close up and personal” with our first tour offering: **Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour.**

Enjoy Cheyenne Canyon with Helen Hunt Falls, God Camp Road with the historic train tunnels, and the entire Garden of the Gods Park—all

while traveling in specially modified Jeeps with your personal driver/guide! Snacks and bottled water are included as well as an experi-



ence you will NEVER forget!

Note: This tour is offered either as a “morning tour” (Group A) or if you prefer, an “afternoon tour” (Group B). Seating is limited to the first 100 per tour departure time.

“Group A” Jeep Foothills and Garden of the Gods Tour Thursday, October 2, 2025 Jeeps load at 9:00am Arrive back at DoubleTree at 12:15pm

“Group B” Jeep Foothills and Garden of the Gods Tour Thursday, October 2, 2025 Jeeps load at 1:00pm Arrive back at DoubleTree at 4:15pm



Be sure to have your cameras ready for this incredible tour.

The United States Air Force Academy

The U.S Air Force Academy was established April 1, 1954, the culmination of an idea years in the making. Airpower leaders, long before the Air Force was a separate service, argued that they needed a school dedicated to war in the air, to train Airmen. After September 1947, when the Air Force was established as a separate service, this idea finally had the legitimacy of the new service behind it.

In 1948, the Air Force appointed a board, later named the Stearns-Eisenhower Board for its chairmen, to study existing military acad-

emies and the options for an Air Force academy. Their conclusions were strongly put: the Air Force needed its own school; they additionally recommended at least 40 percent of future officers be service academy graduates.



After Congress passed a bill establishing the Air Force Academy, the secretary of the Air Force appointed a commission to recommend a location. After traveling 21,000 miles

and considering hundreds of sites, the commission recommended Colorado Springs as its first choice. The secretary agreed and the purchasing of the thousands of acres began. The state of Colorado contributed \$1 million to the purchase of the land.

On July 11, 1955, the same year construction on the Academy began in Colorado Springs, the first class of 306 men was sworn-in at a temporary site, Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. Lieutenant Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, a key figure in the development of early plans for an Academy, was recalled from retirement by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to become the first Academy superintendent.

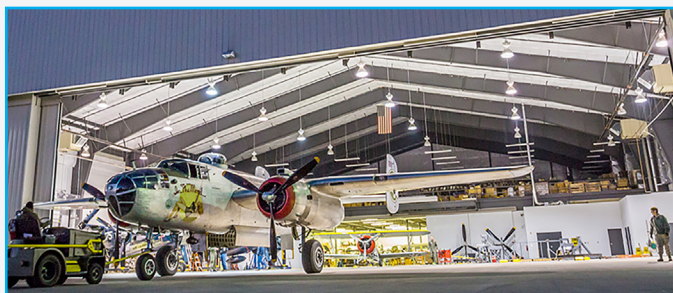
Two years later, Maj. Gen. James Briggs took over as the Academy's second superintendent. On Aug. 29, 1958, 1,145 cadets moved to the Academy's permanent site from Denver. Less than a year later, the Academy received academic

accreditation and graduated its first class of 207 June 3, 1959. In 1964, the authorized strength of the Cadet Wing increased to 4,417. The present authorized strength is approximately 4,000.

Friday, October 3, 2025
Busses board at 9:30am
Arrive back at DoubleTree at 3:00pm

No visit to "The Springs" is complete unless it includes a tour of the United States Air Force Academy. Our visit encompasses the splendor of the Chapel (*unfortunately, due to ongoing renovations, we will be unable to go inside*); the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center, B-52 display, Honor Court, Doolittle Hall, and more!

Lunch and a program at the Falcon Club is included in this package!



You won't want to miss this soul stirring experience.

National Museum of WWII Aviation

Opened to the public in 2012, the National Museum of World War II Aviation documents the role that

military aviation played in the emergence of our nation as a world power. The museum tells the story of the tremendous technological advancements in aviation during the War and the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who won the air war.

The museum offers a balanced mix of artifacts, archival material, interpretive narratives, maps and audio-visual systems; all intertwined with the museum's collection of flying World War II-era aircraft.

Saturday, October 4, 2025
Busses board at 12:00pm
Arrive back at DoubleTree at 3:30pm

In the first section of the museum, visitors learn about the events leading up to America's involvement in

World War II and how those events affected an aviation industry in its infancy. Visitors then explore galleries that tell the story of America's early involvement in the European and Pacific theaters of war, and the lessons learned by those fighting on the front lines. Finally, visitors discover how those costly but vital lessons guided the effort on the Homefront to design, develop and produce the aircraft that ultimately won the war.

While our tour is "self-guided", there will be numerous docents throughout the museum adding additional information as well as making our experience unique.

Note: You may want to eat lunch BEFORE this tour as the Museum does NOT have onsite food service.