

Garden of the Gods Geology



Registration for this trip includes snacks, water, and transportation. Lunch will be on your own before the trip.

Leader: Maggie Silvertooth, Geologist with US DOI

The Garden of the Gods' red rock formations were created during a geological upheaval along a natural fault line 80-55 million years ago during the Laramide orogeny, in which a number of plates began to slide underneath the North American plate. The angle of subduction was shallow, resulting in a broad belt of mountains running down western North America.

Archaeological evidence shows that prehistoric people visited Garden of the Gods about 1330 BC. At about 250 BC, Native American people camped in the park; they are believed to have been attracted to wildlife and plant life in the area and used overhangs created by the rocks for shelter. Many native peoples have reported a connection to Garden of the Gods, including Apache, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Lakota, Pawnee, Shoshone, and Ute people.

Photo Courtesy of Ron Ruhoff and Visit Denver