

# 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

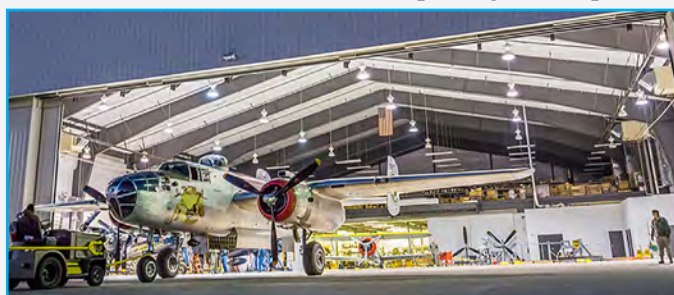
accreditation and graduated its first class of 207 June 3, 1959. In 1964, the authorized strength of the Cadet Wing increased to 4,417. The present authorized strength is approximately 4,000.

**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.**



**REUNION SCHEDULE**  
**51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION**  
**50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS**  
 DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO  
 October 1-5, 2025

**Wednesday, October 1**

10:00am — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration open***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
5:30pm — 7:00pm	<b>Welcome Reception &amp; Cash Bar</b>	Colorado Springs Ballroom
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Board Meeting	Red Rocks Boardroom
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites	Locations TBD

**Thursday, October 2**

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
8:30am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
1:00pm — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
9:15am — 12:15pm	<b>Garden of the Gods “Jeep Tour” Group ‘A’</b>	<b>~Assemble in hotel lobby</b>
1:15pm — 4:15pm	<b>Garden of the Gods “Jeep Tour” Group ‘B’</b>	<b>~Assemble in hotel lobby</b>
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	Colorado Springs Ballroom
7:00pm — 9:30pm	Dinner and program	Colorado Springs Ballroom
	Speaker ~ <b>General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado</b>	

**Friday, October 3**

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
7:45am — 8:45am	Group Meetings	Locations vary by groups
8:30am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
1:30pm — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration***	Academy—Hallway adjacent
9:45am — 3:00pm	<b>U S Air Force Academy Tour &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>~Assemble in hotel lobby</b>
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners	Colorado Springs Ballroom (5 rooms)

**Saturday, October 4**

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
8:30am — 5:00pm	Reunion Registration <b>Self-serve</b>	Academy—Hallway adjacent
8:45am — 10:30am	General Membership Meeting	Colorado Springs Ballroom
10:30am — 1:30pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting	Red Rocks Boardroom
12:15pm — 3:30pm	<b>National Museum of WWII Aviation*</b>	<b>~Assemble in hotel lobby</b>
6:00pm — 10:00pm	Cash Bar Open	
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program	Colorado Springs Ballroom
	Speaker ~ <b>General Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, US Space Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado</b>	

**Sunday, October 5**

7:00am — 8:30am	Breakfast on your own**	
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**\*The National Museum of WWII Aviation is self-guided!**

\*\*Breakfast is NOT included in our reunion package...please check times with hotel and/or surrounding restaurants.

\*\*\*Registration may be closed during the time scheduled for certain tours and/or group meetings.



**51st Annual 8th AFHS REUNION**  
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**DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO**  
**October 1-5, 2025**

**DoubleTree Hotel**  
**(Reunion Hotel)**

**Reservations: (719) 527-4693**

**Kaitlyn: Mon-Fri 8am – 4pm MST**

**Group rate code: AFH**

**Link below for DoubleTree reservations!**

**[DOUBLETREE Reservations](#)**

**Or on our website: [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)**

**—>OVERFLOW HOTELS<—**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites**

**(719) 576-1717**

**and/or**

**Courtyard Colorado Springs South**

**(719) 226-5006**

**Code: AF Historical Society**

**Link below for either hotel above!**

**[OVERFLOW RESERVATION LINK](#)**

**Or on our website: [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)**

The **DoubleTree Hotel** is located at 1775 E Cheyenne Mountain Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Just minutes from Downtown Colorado Springs, the hotel is a gateway to top attractions like the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum and the breathtaking vistas of Pikes Peak. Enjoy easy access to over 15 restaurants, a multi-plex movie theater, and shopping nearby. We offer 30,000 square feet of meeting space, on-site dining, and an indoor pool! **Airport shuttle: please call (719)576-8900 upon landing to check on availability.**

***Because we are anticipating a large turnout for this reunion, we have arranged for two additional hotels as backup:***

**Fairfield Inn & Suites** is located within easy walking distance of the DoubleTree, at 2725 Geyser Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Offers easy access to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Broadmoor World Arena, Pikes Peak, Fort Carson, Garden of the Gods, and Cave of the Winds Mountain Park.

**Courtyard Colorado Springs South, 2570 Tenderfoot Hill Street Colorado Springs, CO 80906.** Also has easy access to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, World Arena, Seven Falls, Fort Carson, Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, and Peterson AFB.

**ALL three (3) hotels offer complimentary parking and are within 15 minutes of the Colorado Springs Airport [COS].**

**RESERVATION INFORMATION**

**DoubleTree Hotel**

**Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society**

**Reunion Dates: October 1-5, 2025**

**Rate: \$189.00 + 10.27% = \$208.28 per night. Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites: \$139++ per night. Rates based on availability.**

**Courtyard Colorado Springs South: \$159++ per night. Rates based on availability.**

**Cut off Date: August 30, 2025**

**Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 72 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.**

**WHEELCHAIR/SCOOTERS/WALKERS RENTALS**

**ScoutAround: (888) 441-7575 or [ScoutAround.com](http://ScoutAround.com)**

**Reserve chair rentals early!**

**HOSPITALITY SUITES**

**HOSPITALITY SUITES are *very limited* and will be offered to groups on a first come, first reserved basis. We ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible and consider sharing with another group! Suites are located throughout the hotel, but we will post location information at the registration desk as to where each group is located!**

***PLEASE contact Debra to reserve your suite!***

**Call or email ASAP:**

**Debra Kujawa  
Managing Director  
912-748-8884**

**[ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org](mailto:ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org)**



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**50th Anniversary ~ Founding of the 8th AFHS**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton ~ Colorado Springs, CO October 1-5, 2025**

CUT-OFF DATE IS August 30, 2025	Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
DUES: The principal attendee <b>MUST</b> be a member of the <b>8th AFHS</b> to register for this reunion. If you are NOT CURRENT or a member, <b>please pay your yearly dues here:</b>	\$ 60	#	\$
<b>REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable): EVERY attendee MUST pay registration fee</b>	\$ 45	#	\$
<b>DINNERS</b>			
Thursday, Oct 2 — 7:00 PM~EVENING DINNER: Tuscan Chicken with Creamy Sundried Tomatoes, Mushroom, and Parmesan Sauce	\$ 63	#	\$
Friday, Oct 3—7:00 PM~RENDEZVOUS DINNER: Garlic Herb Roasted Chicken with Wild Mushrooms, Rosemary, and Chicken Jus	\$ 63	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19—7:00 PM~GALA BANQUET: <i>(Please select ONE entrée per person)</i>			
Grilled Ribeye with Crispy Shallots and Red Wine Aus Jus	\$ 75	#	\$
Almond Crusted Sole with Sauce Meuniere	\$ 75	#	\$
Vegetarian plate(s) Please indicate [how many]: Thurs # ____ Fri # ____ Sat # ____	\$ 63	#	\$
<b>TOUR OPTIONS</b>			
Thursday, Oct 2: 9:15 AM—12:15 PM: Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour <b>MORNING TOUR</b> (Includes bottled water & snacks!) Limit: 100 passengers	\$ 113	#	\$
Thursday, Oct 2: 1:15 PM—4:15 PM: Foothills & Garden of the Gods Jeep Tour <b>AFTERNOON TOUR</b> (Includes bottled water & snacks!) Limit: 100 passengers	\$ 113	#	\$
Friday, Oct 3: 9:45 AM — 3:00 PM: US Air Force Academy <i>(Includes lunch!)</i>	\$ 60	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 4: 12:15 AM — 3:30 PM: National Museum of World War II Aviation <i>(Self-guided — Lunch on your own!)</i>	\$ 55	#	\$
<b>Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS</b>			\$

Please PRINT. If registering a WWII veteran here, please list their name first. **MAXIMUM of FOUR [4] persons per registration form!**

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BG/FG (for name tag & seating): 351st BG

VETERAN? If yes—> WWII: \_\_\_\_\_ Post WWII: \_\_\_\_\_ (Conflict or Era): \_\_\_\_\_ (Branch of Service): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_ Military service: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Military service: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Military service: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PH #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PH #: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY PHYSICAL (*Wheelchair or hydraulic lift needed for tours?*) OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (a 3% convenience fee will be added):**

CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ *Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

**MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberlys Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769**

If paying by credit card, you may [register DIRECTLY on our website](#)