

Open Daily May 15th - October 15th
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SOUTH PARK CITY

A RESTORED 1880s MINING TOWN

Preservation of the past and education for the future
4th and Front Street, Fairplay, Colorado

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**Living History
Days**

2nd Weekend of
August



South Park City Museum in Fairplay A must-see

By Laura Van Dusen

Visitors from all over the world find their way to South Park City in Fairplay to tour the 1880s mining town museum. They leave comments - including "excellent," "awesome," "love it!" and "amazing" - relaying their enjoyment of time well spent. Other guests express thanks for the museum's preservation of South Park history.

In October alone, guests from Australia, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Hawaii, Samoa, Germany, Italy, Spain, several mainland U.S. states, many Colorado cities and towns, and locals from Fairplay, Jefferson, Bailey and Pine signed the guest book. Those who have only seen South Park City by looking over the fence on Front Street might wonder what all the fuss is about.

The South Park City Museum is a collection of 42 buildings assembled to depict life in an 1880s Colorado mining town. Seven of the structures are on their original site, including the Summer Brewery, the blue pioneer home where the Summer Family lived, and the yellow house, home of buffalo hunter and Civil War drummer boy Frank Mayer. He lived there the last 12 years of his life, from 1942 to 1954, and died in the old Fairplay Hospital at age 104.

All structures date from the 1860s to the 1890s. Guests are invited to walk into each building, to touch the furnishings, to try out the furniture and in the process to get a real feel for life back then. Among the sights are dentist and doctor offices; a bank, drug store and territorial courthouse; the Masonic Lodge; the Stage Stop Inn - moved from atop Mosquito Pass - and a restored stage coach. Visitors can also climb aboard the narrow gauge train engine, walk through the caboose, visit the depot, ring the school bell and wander into Rache's Place Saloon. The museum, located at 100 4th Street in Fairplay, is open from May 15 to October 15.