

# Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Sign Garden

In addition to maintaining historic signs along the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, the Friends have also created a Sign Garden to show guests the signs they will see along the railroad and what they mean. The Sign Garden was installed in 2023 and will have additional signs added in the future.



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# Railroad Signs

Signs on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad include historic signs and modern signs. The signs you see all communicate important messages to passengers, railroad employees, and the public.

The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad have a team of volunteers who repair, preserve, and reconstruct historic signs along the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.





# Historic Signs

## Mileposts

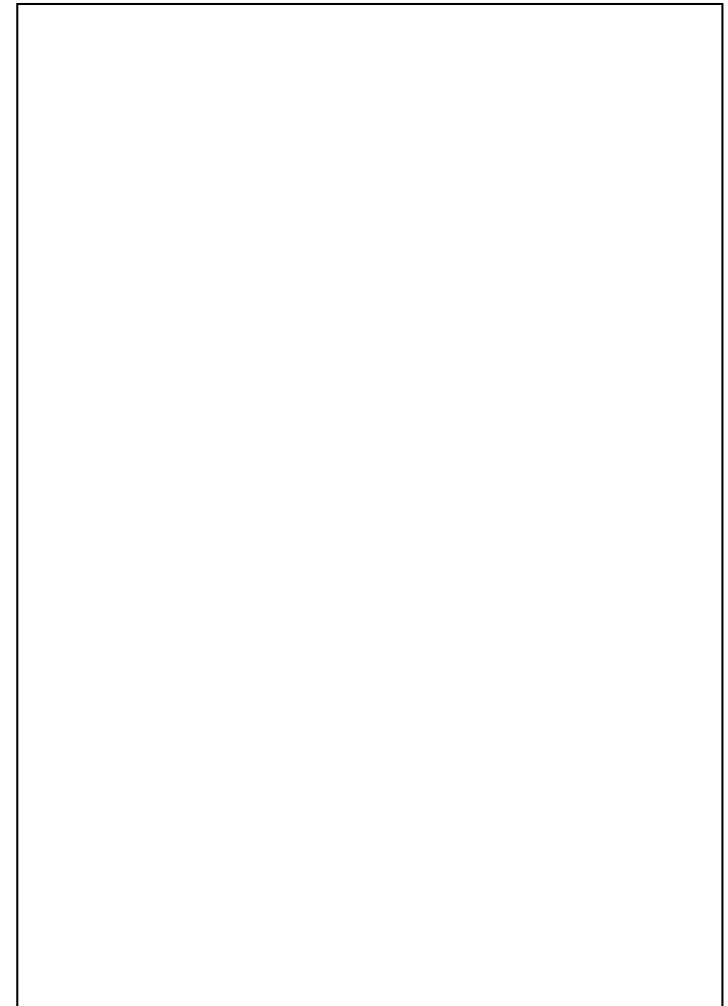
Signs on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad tell you how far from Denver via the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad you are. Denver, Colorado was the headquarters of the Denver & Rio Grande (D&RG) and Denver & Rio Grande Western (D&RGW). The Cumbres & Toltec was a part of the D&RGW until 1970.



Mileposts can be small metal signs with painted numbers or large wooden posts with the distance in miles to Denver. Mile markers can also be attached directly to a bridge or trestle. The "D" you see on some mileposts stands for Denver.

## Create Your Own Milepost

Pretend your house was on the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. With your parents permission, use the internet or a map to figure out how many miles it is from Denver, Colorado to your house. Draw your own milepost sign with the distance from your house on it.



# Which Sign is it?

Draw a line to match each sign type with its description and photo.

**Whistle Post**



A sign that informs train riders/employees how far they are from Denver

**State Line Sign**



A sign that warns drivers they are approaching train tracks and should watch out for trains before crossing the tracks.

**Grade Crossing**



A sign that tells you the name of a station just ahead.

**Station Sign**



A blue metal sign that signals STOP to railroad workers.

**Mile Post**



A sign that lets the engineer know they need to blow the whistle.

**Blue Flag**



A sign that shows train riders/workers that they are crossing the state line.

## Whistle Boards aka Whistle Posts

Whistle boards tell the engineer when to blow the train's whistle. Along the Cumbres & Toltec, these signs will have one of three letters.



"S" lets the engineer know the train is approaching a station. This tells the engineer to blow the whistle to signal that they are coming to the station.



"X" lets the engineer know the train is approaching a road crossing. The engineer then blows the corresponding whistle signal until the leading locomotive is in the road.



"W" is short for whistle/warning. These signs let the engineer know to blow the whistle for other things such as tunnels, bridges, trestles, blind curves, and other hazards.



## Station Signs

Station signs have a station's name. On the Cumbres & Toltec, locations with station signs include active stations as well as places that were stations or section towns in the past.

## State Line Signs

Because the Cumbres & Toltec crosses the state line 11 times, you will see signs that say "Enter New Mexico" or "Enter Colorado" along the line.

## One-of-a-Kind Signs

The Cumbres & Toltec has several one-of-a-kind historic signs along the line including the small sign near the Garfield Monument. The modern-day sign is a replica with the historic wording, "Passengers are requested not to throw any rocks in the gorge as fishermen are likely to be below."

## Modern Signs

### Grade Crossing Signs

Grade Crossing signs or railroad crossing signs are highway signs that let drivers know trains may be crossing the road at any time. These signs remind drivers to look both ways and proceed with caution.



### Blue Flags

Blue Flags or Blue Signals are required any time crew is working on railcars or locomotives, for cars on display, and other times when workers may be in danger of moving trains.

Blue Flags are blue metal signs that are placed on the rails. The wording on these signs may vary. These signs signal STOP to railroad employees. Blue Flag violations are one of the most serious violations in rail safety.

