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Gear Guide: Hike

Featuring: Poco Series

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Gear Guide

Rugged trails, high altitude, and unpredictable weather make packing a key part of any Rocky Mountain adventure. Here are 21 field-tested picks from the editors of BACKPACKER, our sister magazine.

Osprey Poco Plus

This pack is lighter and more customizable than most child haulers, and both parents and tots were fans. "The higher seat placement gives my 1-year-old an unobstructed view," says one tester. "And resizing the torso length (15 to 22.5 inches) and hipbelt is superfast, so it's easy for my husband and I to trade Sherpa duty." The Poco borrows the same light yet supportive suspension used in Osprey's Atmos backpacks. It's rated for loads (kid and gear) up to 48.5 pounds, and testers shouldered that comfortably. The child compartment adjusts in height and girth, and stirrups reduce kids' tendency to kick dad in the kidney. Bonus: Ventilation is excellent; a climb in intense Colorado sun didn't steam our tester's back. **\$259; 5 lbs. 13 oz.; ospreypacks.com**

