



## 2023 SNOW CAMP INFORMATION SHEET

After sign-up, fill in the following:

**Group #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader's Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader's Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Snow Camp will be taking place the weekend of March 17-19, 2023 for most students with a possible smaller alternate weekend of March 25-26, 2023. (For those doing their Snow Camp on an alternate weekend, the same pre-trip planning events and requirements apply. However, you **MUST** wait until March 21 to pick up your snowshoes if renting from WBC).

### **Mammoth Snow Camp**

Many students will be choosing to go to Mammoth for their Snow Camp. This is only available on the weekend of March 17-19. There will be additional costs if you choose this option. In this case, we will be leaving by bus on Friday afternoon around 12:00 p.m., having a brief dinner stop en route, spending the night at Mammoth High School, and going to the trailhead on Saturday morning. The cost of the bus, the permit, Saturday breakfast and the Friday night lodging are included in your class fee plus a \$100 additional cost. In order to sign up for the Mammoth option, **you must show proof of this \$100 payment prior to signing up for the trip.** You may do this online or in class so it is reflected on your sign-up sheet. You may register online for Mammoth beginning on February 28. If you do not get on a Mammoth trip, your payment will be returned.

### **Other Locations**

Some leaders will be opting for other locations which they will detail on the website as well as during their introductory talk in class. Be sure to read the trip descriptions carefully to make sure that they are the right fit for your ability.

### **Snow Camp Sign Up**

Sign-up for snow camp is on March 7, 2023. **You must qualify to go on snow camp by having been on at least one backpack during the class.** Be sure to arrive early so you can meet with the different leaders and get some idea of what they are offering for their outing.



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1. You will briefly meet with your snow camp leaders after sign-up to discuss equipment requirements, tent and cooking group arrangements.
2. Make sure you obtain your leaders' emails and other contact information in case you need to contact this person outside of class time.
3. Each of you should have a copy of the snow camp equipment checklist which you can obtain from the WBC website. This sheet outlines the minimum equipment requirements for this trip. Your leader may have items to add to this list. If you have questions about this list, talk with your leader during the post sign-up meeting on this night.
4. On Tuesday, March 14, you will need to bring all of your equipment (and the equipment check sheet) to the meeting so your leader can check your equipment and sign off on it.

### Equipment

1. If you are renting snowshoes from WBC, you will need to go to our website beginning March 1 and register for the rental. If you are renting from a different vendor, you should do so long in advance from the outing. Vendor information can be found on our website. You will be reminded when our snowshoe rentals go online for rental.
2. If you are going on a cross-country ski outing, speak to your leader about rental options.

### Planning Meeting – Tuesday, March 14, 2023

1. Bring in all your snow camp equipment and clothing to your pre-trip meeting to be checked by your leaders. If you are renting some of your equipment, bring in the rental receipt. Be sure your boots are snow sealed.
2. Make sure that your tent and stove arrangements are confirmed.
3. Get all your questions answered tonight!
4. Many of you will be picking up your snowshoes or skis at this meeting. If you have chosen to rent your equipment elsewhere, do bring in your receipt so your leader can check it off.

### Snow Camp Outing

1. Pack any necessary liquids in your pack at the last minute to minimize the chance of leakage. You do not want your gear to get wet. If you are going to Mammoth, **do not** pack any liquids in your pack until you are at your trailhead. There will be boxes available on the bus for you to place those liquids.
2. Be sure to pack your sleeping bag and clothing in plastic bags for further protection from unnecessarily getting wet.



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3. For those of you going to Mammoth, you will be meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, March 17, at the Sabre Springs Park & Ride for the bus ride to Mammoth. The Park & Ride is located on Sabre Springs Pkwy, the first left after you turn left off Poway Rd. (You will see an ARCO station on your left as you pull into the small shopping plaza. The Park & Ride is on your right). You will arrive in Mammoth around 8:00 p.m. and will find a spot to sleep in the hallway or all-purpose room at Mammoth High School.
4. It is important that you eat a healthy breakfast to supply you with enough energy for your journey. Most groups will be traveling approximately 2 ½ - 3 miles to their campsites. Do bring high calorie snacks to give you an additional boost if you get tired (ex- trail mix, granola bars, etc.). Be sure to stay hydrated, both before and during your hike or ski to the campsite. Your leader will tell you how much water to carry in your backpack. A big mistake people make is to drink less because the weather is colder.
5. If you know that you have problems adjusting to changes in altitude, you should discuss this with your physician. There are medications which can be very helpful in facilitating this process. You will be going from sea level to up to approximately 9000 feet, so it is important you know your body.
6. After setting up your tents, your group will decide on any snow structures you plan to build and adventures you want to have. Each group will decide amongst themselves. Some groups may decide to visit some of the other groups to see what they are doing.
7. There are no outhouses where you are going, so you will need to discuss sanitation with your leaders (ex. Use of "honey bags," "wag bags," etc.)

### Returning to San Diego

1. Most of the more local groups will return to their trailheads around 1p.m. for the trip home.
2. The Mammoth Group will meet their bus by 1 p.m. for the ride back to San Diego. There will be a stop in Mammoth for lunch and rental equipment return, then a later stop for dinner on the way home. You should be arriving back at the park and ride around 9 p.m.
3. You are responsible for returning your rental gear to the appropriate vendor. If you obtained your gear from WBC, please bring it with you to the next class meeting on March 21, 2023. For those of you going on the alternate weekend, please return the snowshoes rented from WBC to your leader after your outing on Sunday.

### Additional Recommendations

1. Snowshoes and hiking poles with baskets will provide good traction on snow and ice. Students may want to bring additional safety equipment for walking on snow or ice, particularly for the skiers. Coiled metal systems (such as Yaktrax) or microspikes, can be purchased and taken along in your pack. These can be found at various outdoor and sporting goods stores as well as online.



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2. Be sure to bring enough food for your trip. Food is fuel, and will also help keep you warmer at night. You will need one breakfast, one dinner, and 2 lunches as well as snacks. The Mammoth group will need to pack 1 breakfast, 2 lunches and 1 dinner in addition to food for the bus trip to Mammoth. Along these same lines, be sure to stay hydrated. You will most likely be melting snow for your water. On low snow years, you will need to carry in adequate water for your needs.
3. If you should develop a severe headache or have problems breathing, talk with your leader immediately since it might be a result of being at elevation. Your leader will assess your condition and decide if you need to leave the trip and descend to a lower elevation for your own safety. WBC staff would assist you in this process.
4. **HAVE FUN!!!** This is a unique opportunity for an adventure that most people wouldn't dream of. Yet, it has been the highlight of the course for many of our students.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact [snowcamp@wildernessbasics.com](mailto:snowcamp@wildernessbasics.com).