

Snowshoeing FAQs



What should I bring?

- Signed Assumption of Risk Form
- Water (plan for 1 liter for every 2 hours of activity)
- Foul weather gear: Rain gear-jacket and pants
- Sunglasses
- Small daypack/fanny pack

What should I wear?

- Wool or non-cotton socks
- Non-cotton layers are essential. **Jeans and sweatpants are not recommended**
- Waterproof/breathable jacket (Gortex recommended)
- Winter boots or waterproof hiking boots
- Ski, snow, or rain pants (non-cotton, the more water resistant the better!)
- Cold weather gear: hat, gloves, layers

What should I (my group) do before the trip?

Check the weather forecast specific to the outing location. Set aside the appropriate equipment and clothing for the temperature and conditions predicted for the duration of the outing including travel time to and from the site. Review the meeting location address and directions on how to get there.

When should I arrive?

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time for check in. This gives the Trip Leaders enough time to collect Assumption of Risk Forms from every participant and start the trip on time.

Cancellation/Refund Policy:

If the group would like to cancel their outing because of inclement weather, they must do so at least 72 hours before the outing to receive a full refund. If they cancel later than 72 hours, the Venture Outdoors office will keep the original deposit (50% of the total cost). If your group cancels less than two hours before the outing, your group will be expected to pay the full amount.

Will the trip be cancelled if there is no snow?

Snowshoeing is dependent on proper snow conditions. It will be determined by the Custom Program Coordinator the day before the outing whether or not there is likely to be enough snow to snowshoe. If there is not enough snow, the Trip Leaders may offer a hike instead. The group may contact the Custom Program Coordinator about rescheduling if there is no snow on the day of the program.

What if there is a thunderstorm in the forecast?

Thunderstorms are a potential reason for the cancellation of a trip. The Custom Program Coordinator and Trip Leaders try to monitor local radar and forecasts to assess when, where, and for how long a thunderstorm is predicted to occur. This information is used to decide whether to cancel, continue, or modify a scheduled trip.

If a trip is cancelled due to the weather forecast, the group will be notified by the Custom Program Coordinator. If this happens, the Custom Program Coordinator will contact the group regarding an alternate date.

Will there be bathrooms?

The Trip Leaders make every attempt to plan outing routes to include bathroom stops at or near the meeting location or during the activity. The type and availability of a bathroom facility is dependent on the time of year and outing location. Urban settings and many parks offer flush toilets or port-a-johns. The Trip Leaders will share specifics about bathrooms at the beginning of the outing.

What if I get lost along the way or will be late?

It is the participant's responsibility to arrive at the meeting location 15 minutes prior to the outing start time. Please review directions in advance of the outing date and plan your route to allow ample time for travel and onsite preparation. The Trip Leaders' cellphone numbers are provided as a courtesy, but leaders may not be available by phone during check-in. Please contact the Trip Leaders directly if you have any concerns regarding late arrival.

What if there is no snow?

Snowshoeing is dependent on proper snow conditions. It will be determined by the Custom Program Coordinator the day before the outing whether or not there is likely to be enough snow to snowshoe. If there is not enough snow, then the Trip Leaders may offer snowshoe practice by walking on foam in addition to a hike. The group may contact the Custom Program Coordinator about rescheduling if there is no snow on the day of the program.