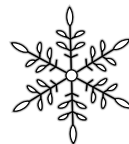


You're invited to Winter Trek 2022!



The U. S. Forest Service, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, and Great Basin Institute are excited to announce the return of our high mountain Winter Trek Conservation Education Program!

Where and When: Our 5th grade snowshoe program takes place Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting Tuesday, February 8th and continuing through Wednesday, March 30th, weather permitting. Program dates are subject to change. We meet at the Heavenly Village Transit Center - home of the Explore Tahoe Visitor Center near Stateline. The Heavenly Ski Resort provides us with a free gondola ride to the top of the mountain. The U. S. Forest Service provides the snowshoes and ranger guides. Classes arrive at 10:00 am and depart at 1:00 pm. We can only accommodate one class per day (we have snowshoes for 30 students/ chaperones). ***Please contact Elisa C. Escobar (email below) if you would like to make a reservation request.***

Program Overview: A pre-visit/post-visit educational and information packet is electronically mailed to interested teachers prior to the visit. Curriculum includes geology and ecology of the Basin, forest health, winter animal strategies and natural history topics. We present a 20-minute introductory program before taking our 12-minute, 2.4 mile ride in the gondola. After a quick stop at the mid-station for a breath-taking view and an educational opportunity, we continue to our destination at the top of the mountain (9,000 ft. elevation) for our snowshoe adventure. Students quickly learn snowshoe techniques and off we go looking for signs of wildlife, discussing adaptive behaviors of animals and understanding the importance of snow. The weather and your schedule will determine if we eat our lunches at the top of the mountain at a scenic overlook (in the snow) or in the gondola as we return down the mountain.



Health & Safety Requirements: Because our snowshoe adventure is at an elevation of 9,000 ft., extreme low temperatures and high winds dictate that participants must wear proper clothing: waterproof jacket, waterproof boots (no snowboarding boots please; they do not fit in the bindings), a warm hat, waterproof gloves, sunglasses and sunscreen. Waterproof pants are not required but highly recommended; cold, wet denim pants are not comfortable. Due to COVID-19, USFS and Heavenly are requiring masks to be worn indoors including inside Explore Tahoe, gondola cars, and Heavenly's facilities, and social distancing will be maintained as much as possible.

Cost of Program: ***Please see the attached letter from our partner nonprofit association, Great Basin Institute (GBI) as the procedures and cost of the Winter Trek program may be different from previous years.***

Teachers new to the program or who want more information may check our Forest Service website for more information at <http://fs.usda.gov/ltbmu> and navigate to the "Winter Trek" link on the homepage

Each gondola car can carry eight people. We must have one adult per gondola car with up to seven students in each gondola car. Including the two U. S. Forest Service naturalists and one teacher, we require one to three adult chaperones dependent on your class size. We cannot accommodate extra chaperones.



If you would like to join us for this special field trip, please email Elisa C. Escobar at elisa.escobar@usda.gov with your name, school name and address, class grade level, and the number of students in your class. Elisa will respond to reservation requests on a first-come, first-served basis. Please send your reservation requests as soon as possible. Thank you and we look forward to your trip!

Sincerely,

Elisa C. Escobar, Winter Trek Program Coordinator elisa.escobar@usda.gov
Adilene Negrete, Winter Trek Support Staff, adilene.negrete@usda.gov

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