



2025 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 14-16, 2025 for most students with a possible alternate weekend of March 22-23, 2025. (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 18 to pick up your snowshoes if renting from WBC).

Mammoth Snow Camp

Some students will choose to go to Mammoth for their Snow Camp. This is only available on the weekend of March 14-16. There are additional costs if you choose this option, with a Friday morning start. In this case, the bus will leave on Friday at 6am with a brief lunch stop en route, and end at Mammoth Lodge area trailheads where you will backpack to your campsite for two nights. A fee of **\$100** per student offsets part of the costs of the bus and permit. **This fee is non-refundable.** 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 March 1st. If you do not get on a Mammoth trip, your payment will be refunded.

Other Locations

Some leaders will be opting for local trips which will be detailed in the Outing Summaries online 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. All local trips are for one night only (Sat-Sun) vs two nights at Mammoth.

Snow Camp Sign Up

Sign-up for snow camp is on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. **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 leader's email address 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 your trip. Your leader may add items to this list. If you have questions about the list, talk with your leader during the post sign-up planning meeting.
4. On Tuesday, March 11th, you will need to bring all of your equipment (and the Equipment Checklist) 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 1st and register for the rental. **Snowshoe rentals from WBC are non-refundable.** If you are renting from a different vendor, you should do so long in advance of the outing. Vendor information can be found on our website. You will be reminded when our snowshoe rentals go online for rental.

Snow Camp Planning and Gear Checkoffs – Tuesday, March 11, 2025

1. Bring in all your snow camp equipment and clothing to your planning meeting to be checked by your leader. If you are renting some of your equipment, bring in your rental receipt(s). If you do not have waterproof boots, make sure they 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 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 5:30 a.m. on Friday, March 14th, at the **Scripps Poway Parkway Park n Ride**, for the bus ride to Mammoth. The Park & Ride is located at **12016 Scripps Highlands Drive, 92131**. Exit east on Scripps Poway Parkway and take the first left at the stoplight. (You will see the 7/11 fuel station on your left and head toward it. The Park & Ride is behind the 7/11). You will arrive in Mammoth around 2 p.m. and will head out to your campsites after a brief stop at Mammoth Lodge to change clothes and use the restroom.
4. It is important that you eat a healthy breakfast and lunch to supply you with enough energy for your journey. Groups will be snowshoeing 1 to 2 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 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. The most important thing you can do to prevent altitude sickness is to hydrate!
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 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 among 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. "wag bags," etc.)

Returning to San Diego

1. Most of the local groups will return to their trailheads around 12 p.m. for the drive home.
2. The Mammoth buses will pick up groups at their trailheads near the Mammoth Lodge.
3. There will be a stop in Mammoth for lunch, then a later stop for dinner on the way home. You should be arriving back at the park and ride around 9 p.m.
4. 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 18, 2025. For those of you going on the alternate weekend, please return the snowshoes rented from WBC to your leader after your outing on Sunday, BEFORE you drive home.

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 ice or packed snow. Spiked or coiled metal traction systems can be purchased and taken along in your pack. These can be found at various outdoor and sporting goods stores as well as online. A caveat about coiled metal systems, while they are less expensive than spiked devices they are not as sturdy or reliable when carrying loads over uneven terrain.



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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. For local trips you will need one breakfast, one dinner and 2 lunches, as well as snacks. The Mammoth group will need to pack 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners 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 the 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.