



THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO (or Basic Bus Ski-trip Information)



Before the Trip

- *The trip letter you'll receive will describe the food, lodging, and skiing in detail. Contact the trip leader if you have questions.
- *Always contact the trip leader with special lodging or food requests, not the lodging or food places.
- *The trip letter usually lists the names of participants. You may wish to arrange for a bus seat mate before the trip if you are traveling by yourself.
- *Consider car-pooling to the Park & Ride lot. Use the list or contact the trip leader for possible car-poolers from your area.
- *Final payment for the trip is due to the trip leader 10 days before the trip.
- *If you have any medical conditions, let the trip leader know. This information will be kept confidential.
- *Add "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) names and phone numbers to your cell phone's contact list.

What to Bring

- *Items to bring: skis, boots, poles (if you need to rent equipment, it's best to do so before the trip, or look online to see if rentals are available at the ski areas), ski bag, waxes, face mask and Vaseline to protect your face from frostbite if it's bitter cold, ski clothes/long underwear/gloves/ socks/hat (non-cotton), watch, water bottle for rehydrating while skiing, sunglasses, health insurance card, ID, money, alarm clock, ear plugs if you are a light sleeper, swim suit, food, beverages, small cooler, etc. A book or cards are good ways to amuse yourself during slow times.
- *Trip leader's cell phone number.

Packing

- *Label all baggage with your name, including ski bag, snowshoes, cooler, and carry-ons.
- *Skis and poles should be placed in a ski bag (preferably) or tied together. Your skis will be placed in a compartment separate from your luggage. Don't pack clothes in with your skis, since skis are only unloaded from the bus when we stop to ski.
- *Bring only one suitcase to place in the luggage compartment. Storage space is limited, so pack light, but do pack for the expected weather.
- *Carry-ons such as coolers and liquids should be stored on the bus floor and not in the overhead bins, due to possible leakage. Bring a cooler that will fit under your seat, or there won't be any room for your feet. Glass bottles are not allowed on the bus.
- *The overhead bins above your seat are for storing items you'll need while traveling, such as food, reading material, your coat, pillow, etc. The remainder of your items will be stored below in baggage compartments.

Meeting the Bus

- * We depart from the Watertown Plank Park & Ride lot (10600 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa) located two blocks west of I-41 on the northwest corner of Watertown Plank Road and Swan Blvd. Please park along the outer edge of the lot on the east or south sides, so that the lot can be plowed if necessary.
- *Allow extra time to get to the Park & Ride lot in case of traffic jams or bad weather, because the bus does not linger long for late arrivals.

- *Arrive 30 minutes before the departure time to get a seat and load your gear. Participants will often place an item on a seat to reserve it as soon as they arrive. This is your seat for the trip.
- *Don't leave any valuables showing in your vehicle.
- *Make sure you board the correct bus, as other buses may be in the lot.
- *Check in with the trip leader when boarding.
- *Load your own gear into the baggage compartments, if necessary.

The Bus Trip

- *The bus has a bathroom, and we only stop if skiing is planned along the way.
- * A detailed itinerary and rooming assignment list are usually handed out on the bus.
- *Introduce yourself to the people sitting near you in the bus. We are a friendly group!
- *Help unload luggage by taking *any* bags into the hotel lobby.

Skiing

- *Ask other participants or the ski-area staff about the various trails available, so you find ones suited to your skiing ability. Try not to ski by yourself--it's safer, and besides, it's more fun to ski with others.
- *If trail maps are available, take one with you when you ski, or pay attention to the maps posted along the trails. Wear a watch when you ski. Choose your routes carefully to allow enough time to get back to the bus before departure time.
- *Ski lessons, whether skating or striding, are offered on most trips and are taught by fellow members. Take advantage of these lessons! No matter your skiing ability, you will find the pointers worthwhile.
- *Remember that one kilometer equals 0.62 miles.

While on the Trip

- *Be aware of the bus departure and arrival times, so you don't hold up the group's itinerary.
- *Notify the trip leader if you do not plan to ski that day, are receiving a ride back from the ski area by other means, or are not attending an evening event for which you had signed up.
- * Know how to check a hotel room for bed bugs by reviewing our [Bedbugs flyer](#). Report incidents immediately to the hotel staff and trip leader.
- *On the morning of the final day, your luggage needs to be packed up and carried to a designated "changing room" no earlier than 20 minutes before the morning bus departure. Male and female changing-room numbers are announced in advance.
- *We usually return to the changing rooms after the final day's skiing for quick showers and clean clothes before heading home. Usually 45 minutes are allotted for this. **If you return on the earlier bus, please be out of the changing room before the later bus arrives.**

Return Bus Trip

- *We make a quick stop for fast food on the way home - please help us keep it to 30 minutes.
- *We plan to arrive at the Park & Ride lot around 9:00 p.m.
- *Remember to check the overhead bins and under your seat for all of your belongings.
- *Help to gently unload the baggage compartments, if necessary.
- *Start your car right away, to make sure it works and warms up.
- *Take time to make sure you have everything you brought on the trip before you leave, and not anyone else's items.

These suggestions were prepared by the NSCM Program Committee. If you have additions or changes, please let the chairperson know. Thanks, and Happy Trails!

09/2019