Snowshoeing

Application

This standard applies to club-sponsored trips where snowshoes are used except for alpine scrambles and climbs that may use snowshoes for travel in winter conditions. This standard applies to any committee or branch sponsoring a snowshoe trip, including, but not limited to: Snowshoeing, Lodges, Singles, and Under-the-Hill-Rovers.

Trips

Trips will be rated using this scale, and the rating must be available to participants when they sign up.

Easy (E)	As determined by the Committee or Branch sponsoring a trip
Easy+ (E+)	500-2000 feet of elevation gain and less than 10 miles round trip, no ice axe required
Moderate (M)	500-2000 feet of elevation gain and less than 10 miles round trip, ice axe required
Strenuous (S)	Over 2000 feet of elevation gain and any distance

Intermediate ratings, such as E-M, may be used to describe trips that could be rated two ways.

The maximum party size is 12 unless other party limits apply.

The Leader may require safety equipment appropriate for the trip such as shovels, beacons, probes, ice axes, or crampons.

Leaders

Leaders must be approved to lead trips by the sponsoring committee.

Sponsoring committees or branches must be satisfied that Leaders of E-, M-, and S-rated trips have competence in the following as appropriate for trips they are approved to lead:

- Winter travel skills
- Group leadership
- Use of topographical maps, compass, and altimeter
- Mountain safety, including identification of avalanche hazards, route selection, and group dynamics associated with decision making
- Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (Graduation from a MOFA course or equivalency)
- Emergency preparedness (including winter bivouacs and how to summon help should it be needed)

Participants

There are no prerequisites for E-rated trips as long as the participant is able to competently travel on snowshoes and is properly equipped.

The following prerequisite applies to participants on E+ rated trips:

- Graduation from a club-sponsored Basic Snowshoe Course (or Equivalency); or
- Graduation from a Basic Climbing or Alpine Scrambling Course (or student status in one of those courses); or
- Leader permission

The following prerequisite applies to participants on M- and S-rated trips:

- Graduation from, or student status in, a club-sponsored Backcountry Snowshoe Skills Course (or Equivalency); or
- Graduation from a Basic Climbing or Alpine Scrambling Course (or student status in one of those courses); or
- Leader permission

Participants are responsible for signing up only for trips that are within their capabilities, wearing suitable clothing, and carrying appropriate equipment including the ten essentials.

Courses

Activity committees and branches may offer courses in snowshoeing and require them as prerequisites for trips. Established courses and their minimum content are:

<u>Basic Snowshoe</u>

- Equipment and clothing selection
- Trip selection based on conditioning and skill level
- Snowshoe travel (on-snow practice)
- Avalanche hazards and safe travel principles
- Basic emergency preparedness (Including preventing hypothermia and frostbite, summoning help if needed, and protecting and injured or ill person until help arrives)

<u>Backcountry Snowshoe Skills</u>

- Equipment and clothing selection
- Trip selection based on conditioning and skill level
- Snowshoe travel (on-snow practice)
- Avalanche hazards and safe travel principles
- Using an avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel (on-snow practice)
- Ice ax use on steep slopes (on-snow practice including self-belay and self-arrest)
- Use of topographical maps, compass, and altimeter
- Emergency preparedness (including winter bivouacs and how to summon help should it be needed)

Instructors

Snowshoe Course instructors must be:

- Graduates of the course they are instructing (or have equivalency), or
- Approved Snowshoe Leaders, or
- Approved by the sponsoring committee to instruct

Related Minimum Club Wide Standards

- Mountaineering Oriented First Aid (MOFA), under development

Comparable Standard

UIAA Standards for Voluntary Leaders and Instructors, October 2006

- Activity Standard 2: Winter Mountain Walking and Snowshoeing