

# 2022 Snowshoe Summit - Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Saturday April 24th, 2022

**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** Zoom

Topic: Snowshoe Summit 2022

Time: Apr 24, 2022 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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**Attendance:** KD, Hillary S, Jill, Danny C, Ethan, Sara

**Branches with active Snowshoeing programs:**

- Everett
- Foothills
- Olympia
- Seattle
- Tacoma
- Kitsap
- Meany

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## Agenda:

### 9:00am - Welcome and Around the Room

- Intros
- Branch Updates

### 9:30am - Annual review of [Clubwide Activity Standards - Snowshoeing](#).

- Please review in advance of our meeting and flag specific items you would like to address with the group.
  - [DRAFT April 2022 Clubwide Snowshoeing Standards](#) - To track changes.
  - Leaders: experience level? Minimum # of snowshoe trips? (Seattle)
    - Tacoma requiring 3 trips at the level that they're becoming a leader
      - Equivalency - requiring equivalent skills from another org (ie NOLS)
    - Seattle - 6 trips for basic, 8 for intermediate (with 3 at the intermediate level), 2 seasons of experience
      - Moving to 4 club trips for basic (minimum of 2 basic), 6 for intermediate (4 must be intermediate)
    - Summary: Not feeling a need to update standards to include this, having venue to share/collaborate across branches is valuable.
  - How long before a leader must refresh their skills or renew their badges? (Gabrielle)
    - Seattle is figuring out how to evaluate/reintegrate inactive leaders.
  - - How do branches ensure the soft/technical skills (Avy Rescue & Group Decision Making) of Intermediate Snowshoe leader are current? (Gabrielle)
    - Not currently looking at a change to standards, community discussion on how to incorporate

### 10:00am - Snowshoe Council Charter (Ethan)

- Overview of the charter purpose.
- Discussion of key items (membership, quorum, decision-making).
- Membership
  - It may be hard to have an additional committee with general size of committees
  - Leaning towards snowshoe chairs (or proxy)
- Leading towards group governance
- Quorum
  - Discussion around  $\frac{2}{3}$  of branches with snowshoe committees (4 out of 6)
  - Keeping in mind future programs (ie if Bellingham begins a snowshoe committee)
  - N-1?
    - Defining what N means
    - Is N the number of branch committees that have a stake in the decision?
  - Abstaining
- Decision-making

- Different requirements for smaller operational decisions vs. larger core changes
- Is a consensus required for just the quorum present or for every stakeholder?
- Determining time frames for no response and moving forward in decisions

**10:30am** - Break

**10:45am** - Group Discussions

- Please add other topics that we'd like to cover and Ethan will organize into an agenda
- Are Ice axes required on all intermediate trips? Many leaders have that impression. Decided at this level or branch level? (Seattle)
  - Seattle leaders are taking ice axes on intermediate trips
  - Ultimately becomes a safety concern
  - Proposal for putting this into standards
    - Ethan and Sara can put language together for standards
- Should helmets be required with ice ax and worn with ice ax?
  - If you're in terrain requiring an ice axe, helmets should be required
- Should shovels /beacons be required on intermediate trips?
  - Leaders vs. all participants
  - Tacoma - asks students to have them, has worked with local guide services to provide transceivers for courses (not trips), looking at it through the lens of a leader getting buried
  - Leave to individual committees for now, conversations to be had at committee level
- Impact of weather on courses and solutions. Especially in December.
  - Weather is changing, harder to schedule december courses
  - Do we bother scheduling December courses?
    - Tacoma: second year in a row they've had to cancel/reschedule
      - All classwork/lecture content will be held in december
      - Testing gear
      - Pushing field trips to Jan/Feb
- Trip rating process for when a route is mislabeled
  - Mowich Lake as example (changing to basic)
  - Seattle: plan to email leaders towards beginning of season if they see something mislabeled, how to proceed
  - Tacoma: Danny willing to review list of route places
  - Process that's been used
    - Once it's been kicked up to staff
    - Staff will send out to Summit Group/Council for review
    - Jeff can make changes
  - Jeff can export to a Google Sheet with ratings and criteria
    - Compare with sheet from previous Summit
- Winter camping course: badge indicates snow caves, should it be amended?
  - Seattle has not been doing snow caves during COVID
  - Tacoma also put off snow caves during COVID

- Looking to do next year and calling it out in course listing
    - Look at editing language to fall more in line with the Course Badge, more generalized for other structures
      - Course badge:
        - <https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/badges/course-badges/winter-camping-course>
      - Skill badge:
        - <https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/badges/skill-badges/snow-camping>
- Snowshoe Leader badges: There are 3 badges that are active and we should only be having two: [Basic SS Leader](#), [Intermediate SS Leader](#). Recommend to remove [SS Leader badge](#) (KD)
  - Follow up with committees to get rosters updated with beginner and intermediate leader badges
  - Sara & Ethan will support to build new sub-committee rosters
- What about the skills badge for snow camping? It mentions snow caves and tent camping. See: <https://www.mountaineers.org/membership/badges/skill-badges/snow-camping> (Gabrielle)
- Which branches have intermediate snowshoe courses? What use of beacon is covered? What else is in the curriculum?
- Avalanche Awareness- on-demand option
  - There is a current online course
  - Travis was working on creating slides with permissions
  - KD to follow up with Travis
- I would like to propose a new activity (not a new course) called “Winter Backpacking” that utilizes the skills learned in Winter Camping and Snowshoe courses. Many graduates of Winter Camping ask, now what? This would be an outlet to address that question, (Danny)
  - Seattle offers winter camping trips for grads
    - Currently listed as a snowshoe trip
    - Or listed as a winter camping field trip
  - Creating a separate Winter Camping Activity?
  - Process would involve drafting language for standards
    - Once approved, trip templates can be created
    - Determining requirements for leaders
  - Sub-group to workshop

#### 11:45am - Wrap-Up

- Good of the order
- Summarize action items.
- Schedule 2023 Summit Meeting.
  - April 23 or April 30, 2023?

- Preference for the 30th
- Stick with Zoom or consider in-person?
  - Will reserve PC space
  - Circle back in January

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## Branch Reports:

- **Seattle:** Our Early basic course in Dec was canceled due to lack of snow. We had 18 registered and most were able to join the January course dates. The January course had 36. Our intermediate course had 18 students and the course ran as planned. Winter travel/trip planning course had 13 students with 4 seminars and a field trip. Winter camping had 13 Students. Weather canceled a field trip but 2 make-ups were scheduled and most students were able to attend.
  - **Getting instructors was tough, committee members leading a lot of trips**
- **Tacoma:** We offered Basic Snowshoe, Intermediate Snowshoe, and Winter Camping courses. Basic Snowshoe enrolled 91 participants; 28 canceled, 12 graduated, and 51 are pending graduation. The December field trip was canceled due to lack of snow. The field trip was successfully rescheduled to January. Intermediate Snowshoe enrolled 38 participants; 1 has graduated and 18 are pending graduation. We saw a total of 19 cancellations. Many commented that they were uncomfortable on steep terrain or being near avalanche risk - two criteria expressly called out on the registration page. Late season field trips reduced the ability for first year graduates. Winter camping enrolled 22 students; 19 canceled (mostly prior to the lecture), 3 have graduated, and 7 are pending graduation. Each course held a single lecture with an accompanying Google Classroom plus multiple field trips. From a logistics perspective, our challenges this year were a limited core instructor team of 5 people across all three courses and that the schedule was spread over 5 months. We continue to face students who come into Intermediate Snowshoe unprepared with the Basic Snowshoe skills and conditioning needed to complete some of the trips or an understanding that the course is preparing students for backcountry travel. We have had fewer issues this year but they still exist. We piloted a Basic Snowshoe equivalency course, but most of the applicants were using this as a means to skip Basic so they could enroll in Intermediate without any real understanding of layering systems, 10Es, or techniques taught in Basic Snowshoe. We did have 1 graduate from this program. Our lesson learned was that "equivalency" needs to be well defined upfront. If we do this again, a prerequisite will likely be graduation from an equivalent course with another organization or guiding experience in lieu. This year saw 5 new Basic Snowshoe leaders with 1 more on course to complete requirements very soon. No new prospective leaders were identified this season.

- **Olympia:** Basic Snowshoe course was run in January in conjunction with the Basic Cross Country Ski course.
- **Foothills:** Our Basic snowshoe course (offered 1x with multiple field trips) was successful. 48 people registered and 38 graduated. We also had 4 people earn the Basic snowshoe badge through our equivalency process. Just like last season, we did not offer an intermediate snowshoe course due to the volunteer time commitment required, frequent cancellations/rescheduling in years past due to avalanche concerns, and overall lack of demand. We also successfully offered the winter camping course: 5 registered, 3 graduated (course offered with a modification approved by our committee to drop the stewardship requirement which was delaying nearly everyone from graduating.) We did not produce any new leaders this season but we do have some leaders in the pipeline whose progress was delayed by COVID.
- **Everett:** **We had 23 students register for Everett's basic snowshoeing course this year. 20 graduated, and the other three will complete their requirements and graduate next year. This was the strongest group of students we've had since I've been course chair. We again made the decision to postpone offering a winter camping course as there were very few people who expressed an interest in helping out this year, but this will likely be something we revisit in the fall. No new snowshoe leaders were qualified this season, and fewer snowshoe trips were offered by our branch during the 2021-2022 snowshoe season.**
- **Kitsap:**