

Foothills Mountaineers Snowshoeing Committee Equivalency Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide process and policy for the equivalency coordinator (hereafter, “the coordinator”) as it pertains to requests for certain kinds of equivalency that are made to the Foothills Snowshoeing Committee (hereafter, “the committee”).

Membership

Due to the time required to evaluate equivalency and limitations of the website, equivalency will only be considered for full members of the club. Applications from guest members will be declined.

Courses

Equivalency will only be considered for courses that are sponsored by the Foothills Snowshoeing Committee, including Basic Snowshoeing, Intermediate Snowshoeing, and Winter Camping. Equivalency for any avalanche-related courses, including avalanche awareness or AIARE level 1 or 2, should be redirected to the appropriate committee (if known) or Member Services.

Supporting Badges

Several courses require co-requisite badges for completion, such as avalanche awareness for Basic Snowshoeing. The candidate is required to obtain all co-requisite badges in order to complete the equivalency process but is not required to have any co-requisites satisfied prior to beginning the equivalency process. The candidate may seek equivalency for co-requisite badges from the appropriate committee(s) or Member Services.

Definition of Equivalency

A candidate is considered equivalent if, through their Mountaineers and personal experience, they possess **all** of the knowledge and skills relevant to the course for which they are seeking equivalency. If a candidate has partial knowledge or would otherwise require coaching or supplemental training, they are **not** equivalent and should instead be directed to the appropriate course.

Equivalency Process

1. Candidate fills out the [equivalency application](#) on the Mountaineers website and indicates Foothills in the branch affiliation box.
2. Upon receipt, the coordinator will review the application and schedule a time to discuss the candidate’s relevant knowledge and experience. The coordinator may delegate this interview to another member of the committee if the coordinator does not have the necessary expertise with the activity being evaluated. The interview should be less than 30 minutes. Upon completion, the coordinator will forward any notes and a recommendation to the committee chair (hereafter, “the chair”).
3. After reviewing the coordinator's notes and recommendation, the chair will either reject the candidate's application and state the reason(s) or offer them enrollment in the relevant equivalency

course. This will allow the candidate to pay the fee and, when applicable, grant them a student badge.

4. The candidate shall sign up for and successfully complete the necessary number of regular trips appropriate to the activity being considered. One Basic trip is required for Basic Snowshoeing. Two Intermediate trips are required for Intermediate Snowshoeing. No trips are required for Winter Camping, but the candidate's history must show evidence of prior winter camping experience. The candidate must contact the leader of the trip to communicate that they are an equivalency candidate, and the trip leader has the right to remove them from the roster. The trip leader does not need to send any kind of report to the equivalency coordinator *unless there is a deficiency with the candidate*.
5. Pending successful completion of the required trip(s) and any co-requisite badges, the candidate will notify the coordinator, who will verify that the necessary requirements have been met and graduate the candidate from the equivalency course.