

Foothills Snowshoeing Committee Meeting

Sep 14th, 2020

Attendees: Travis Prescott, Steve LeBrun, Gabrielle Orsi, Frank Jones, Mike Mellick, Karen Wallace, Remi Griffaton, Barbara Folmer

Agenda

- Call to Order (1800)
- Introductions
- **Prior Business**
 - Approve Equivalency guidance
 - Motion to approve. 1st: Gabrielle. 2nd: Mike. Motion approved.
 - Approve Leadership guidance
 - Motion to approve. 1st: Steve. 2nd: Frank. Motion approved.
 - Snowshoe Summit review
 - Summary of changes and final draft on Basecamp. Should be finalized and posted to Mountaineers website soon.
 - 2019/20 Course Review:
 - Basic Snowshoeing (Steve)
 - Some students never completed Avy Awareness
 - Steve willing to lead 2020/2021 course
 - Intermediate Snowshoeing
 - Strong student and instructor desire to avoid Stevens Pass
 - Stevens Pass could work if field trip split into two days
 - Travis willing to lead 2020/2021 course
 - Winter Camping
 - Possibility Gabrielle may lead a winter camping course for Backcountry Ski committee. Willing to still participant in Snowshoe Committee offering.
 - Winter Camping course template may need to be tweaked to adjust prerequisite badges since backcountry skiers unlikely to have snowshoe badge.
 - Beginner Snowshoeing
 - Partnership with Bellevue TRACKS
 - Fairly low attendance and students wanted a field component (which is not practical)
 - Will likely not offer for 2020/2021 season.
 - Avalanche Awareness
 - Offered separate from Basic Snowshoe to work with Bellevue TRACKS and comply with Eastside F&R policy.
 - Be prepared to offer our own course online. Google classroom can be used to verify attendance and requisite knowledge. Useful across many committees.

- **ACTION:** Contact NWAC about plans for upcoming season, online or in-person. (Travis)
- **New Business**
 - Committee structure review
 - Seeking new Committee Chair as Travis was voted in as the Scrambling Committee chair.
 - **ACTION:** Post job descriptions on Basecamp for discussion. (Travis)
 - Committee Gear Inventory
 - Steve has snowshoes for Basic FTs and radios.
 - Frank has committee project
 - Travis purchased two avalanche beacon pads
 - Travis has other avy gear for intermediate snowshoe
 - **ACTION:** Create committee gear inventory. (Travis)
 - Mike had question if snowshoes are available for regular trips. They are only available for rent for the basic snowshoe field trip.
 - **ACTION:** Review Mountaineers' policy regarding gear sharing as it will impact basic snowshoe field trip. (Travis)
 - 2020/21 Course Discussion
 - Proposed schedule review
 - Draft schedule looked fine to course leads, with edits.
 - **ACTION:** Move events to Foothills Snowshoe calendar. (Travis)
 - COVID Challenges
 - Cancellation policy
 - Must be clear and prominent
 - Participants ideally should acknowledge when signing up for course
 - Should be sent out in email communications prior
 - Refunds should not be granted for students who are unable to carpool to the field trip once the course has started
 - **ACTION:** Begin Basecamp discussion to settle on wording, which should be standardized across courses.
 - Carpooling
 - Mountaineers policy on carpooling outlined here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LGxLpIFFz5VaOCLWB8TNfykYjb1U7xumoaGWTraTOu8/edit#>
 - Phase 3 does not help our carpool situation since it only allows carpooling with a "pod", which students aren't likely to have with each other.
 - Public transit may be an option for some, depending on field trip location.
 - Smaller groups
 - Phase 3 does increase the group size for outdoor activities from 8 to 50.

- Assuming the lower limit, that means each group in a field trip will typically have 2 instructors and a max of 6 students.
- Groups will need to be kept strictly separate at all times and should not join up for discussions or lunch. The primary instructor must be able to conduct all instruction independently.
- Possibility of staggering group start times to ensure sufficient separation.
- Student counts
 - Basic Snowshoe: 30
 - Intermediate: 12
 - Winter Camping: 10
- Discussion
 - Frank asked about WFA requirement since the course may not be offered this year. Since WFA is a co-requisite for Intermediate Snowshoe, students will still have the ability to get the course outside the Mountaineers or to finish it in a subsequent year.
- Next meeting
 - **Action:** Doodle poll for October meeting. (Travis)
- Adjourn (1940)