

2021-22 Basic Snowshoeing Course FAQs

1. I have a lot of snowshoeing experience. Can I get credit for that so I don't have to take your class?

Equivalency permits members with appropriate levels of previous training and experience to bypass the course. The process involves an application, short phone interviews, and if approved, an equivalency fee. For more information see the [Basic Snowshoeing Equivalency](#) course. Additionally, equivalency candidates are usually requested to volunteer as an Assistant Instructor at one of the Seattle Branch Basic Snowshoeing Course field trips to demonstrate proficiency and become familiar with the Seattle Snowshoeing program.

Please note that we only rarely offer equivalency credit for our Intermediate Snowshoeing course, as that course includes learning and practicing technical and survival skills not typically acquired through general snowshoeing experience.

2. How do I change my lecture and/or field trip date?

Typically editing your registration is allowed up to a few days before the activity. When you're enrolled in a course and need to register, make a change, or cancel for a related activity, you must log in to the website and visit the course page and use the blue "manage registration" button. See step by step instructions on the Membership FAQ page under "How to manage your registration in a course" at: [Mountaineers Membership FAQs](#).

Please note that field trips have limited capacity, so check to see if your desired field trip date has availability. Getting on waitlists is an option, but getting moved to the active roster depends on others to cancel from their spots. If the course is closed, please contact the Course Contact(s) shown online for the course.

3. How does waitlisting work?

If you register for an activity that has exceeded its capacity, you will be placed on a waitlist in the Mountaineers database. The system advances participants from the waitlist in the order they were placed on it. Please do not email committee members/volunteers asking about your waitlist status. The system will automatically send an email notification when a waitlisted participant is placed on the active roster.

4. How does carpooling to the field trip work?)

The Mountaineers recommends carpooling but does not directly facilitate carpool arrangements. Please review this link for more details on how to facilitate your own carpool arrangements at: mountaineers.org/activities/good-carpooling-practices.

Please note: Carpooling presents new challenges to health and safety in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Mountaineers encourages individuals to consult the [WA State Guidance for Outdoor Recreation](#) and CDC Recommendations for Transportation when considering transportation options to and from our activities. For the latest COVID-19 updates related to The Mountaineers, please refer to our COVID-19 blog, [here](#).

5. Where is a good carpool meeting point?

Park & Rides tend to be great meeting points for free, all day parking. The Mountaineers has a [Carpooling Park & Ride](#) page you can reference (and contribute to if you know of some other spots).

6. I came to a lecture but an emergency came up and I couldn't make any of the field trips. Can I do the field trip next year?

Contact a Course Leader to discuss options for completing the course next year. To get a one year extension without penalty, the field trip absences must be valid.

7. I'm pretty sure I've come down with _____ and can't make it this morning. What do I do?

If you were planning to carpool, get in touch with your driver ASAP so that they do not stand around waiting for a passenger who is not coming. Likewise, if you are a driver, contact your riders ASAP so that they can make alternate arrangements to get to the field trip. Your driver/riders can also pass the message of your unexpected absence to the field trip organizers once they arrive. When you are able, sign up for a different field trip date. If the field trip dates have all already passed, refer to #6.

8. The gear list is overwhelming. Where can I get all this stuff without spending a fortune?

As described in the course description, there is an initial investment of essential outdoor gear if you are completely new to the outdoors. This cannot be avoided. For snowshoeing, that would be the Ten Essentials, backpack, gaiters, waterproof boots with stiff toe boxes, and appropriate non-cotton layers. Snowshoes and poles can be borrowed or rented; in fact, we recommend trying out different types of snowshoes before purchasing your own. Refer to the course guide for ideas on how to mitigate costs, as well as a list of rental locations, discount gear stores and discount websites.

9. I would like to take the Intermediate Snowshoeing course but will not be able to make the lecture or field trip. Will you offer this course another time this year?

Due to volunteer capacity, we only offer this course once a season.

10. I am on the waitlist for the field trip on _____. Can I still come to the lecture?

Yes. However, if you do not complete both the lecture and the field trip, you will not receive full credentials for the course – and cannot proceed to Intermediate Snowshoeing. Refunds are generally not provided. See the [Mountaineers Refund and Cancellation Policy](#).

11. Do you cancel field trips due to weather? If so, how will I know if the field trip is canceled?

Winter weather is part of the sport of snowshoeing, and sometimes field trips must be rescheduled due to unsafe snow conditions, unsafe road conditions, or if conditions are so challenging that instruction would be impeded or impossible.

Organizers monitor the forecasts in the days leading up to a field trip and try to make go/no-go decisions as early as possible. In the rare instance that a field trip is canceled at the last minute, you will receive both an email and a phone call from a committee member soon after the final decision is made. Please make sure the email and phone contact info associated with your profile is accurate – and can access you during off business hours.

12. I met some cool people in the class and want to share photos/contact information with them. How can I get in touch with them?

The Mountaineers website does not support social networking directly, but you can contact other members of the course by looking up their email address on the Mountaineers website (if they have chosen to keep their profile public). You can also contact other members of the Mountaineers Snowshoeing Community and share pictures, etc. by joining the [Seattle Mountaineers Snowshoeing](#) group on Facebook.

13. Once I finish the course, will I know enough to take my friends and family on snowshoe trips?

The Basic Snowshoe course does not adequately cover winter navigation, mountaineering first aid, avalanche safety, or overnight winter survival to lead inexperienced individuals

outside of well populated and patrolled ski resorts or groomed ski areas. It is designed to help you attain foundational skills to enjoy easy trips outside of avalanche terrain, like those offered by the Mountaineers and other outdoors groups, organized by a leader who has the training and experience to mitigate unexpected conditions and/or first aid complications.

We do not recommend snowshoers to venture out into the backcountry on their own or with inexperienced individuals without appropriate levels of training.