

H.O.C.
ALL ABOUT SKI/SNOWSHOE DAY TRIPS 2023-2024

Introduction

Optimistically, our 2023/2024 season opens on Dec 17, 2023 and runs to March 16, 2024. For the coming season we have increased the number of weekend trips and decreased the number of weekday trips. This is based on last winter's registrations. To the extent possible there is a balance in the number of trips to the various ski/snowshoe destinations. However, there are many factors to work around including: venue availability; weather and snow conditions; appropriate venues for lessons; holidays and our club's extended trips. For example, at the beginning of the season when we hold most of our lessons and clinics, we choose venues that offer teaching grids. Historically some venues have less snow, so we don't book these until a bit later in the season. Late season trips are scheduled primarily on Saturdays, as the trails tend to become degraded by Sunday and the snow is often too thin for re-grooming.

Bus Procedures 2023-2024

Masks are no longer required on the HOC bus. Wearing a mask is optional and the choice remains at the discretion of the individual, as their own comfort and concern dictates. If provincial regulations change, HOC mask mandates will change accordingly.

Registration and Payment

The Ski/Snowshoe Schedule for the entire season will be posted on our website in early November. It can be found on the Ski & Snowshoe Day Trips and Lessons page and individual trips are posted on the Events Calendar. The Events Calendar is where you go to register for trips and lessons.

Registration Opens at the beginning of the previous month. For example, you can start registering for December trips in November. You can start registering for January trips at the beginning of December, and so on.

Registration Closing: If you are registering for a Saturday trip, registration closes at midnight on Thursday. If you are registering for a Sunday trip, registration closes at midnight on Friday. The same principle applies if you are registering for a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday trip.

Wait List: If a trip fills during the registration period, you have the option to join the wait list. Your name will be placed in a queue, and you will be notified by email if a spot comes open. You are not required to pay when you join the waitlist. You will only pay if a spot becomes available and you are still interested in participating. If you are on a wait list, please try to leave the date open as long as possible so you are available to respond on short notice.

PLEASE NOTE: Bus fare AND Trail Fee Payments must accompany online registration.

There is an early bird bus fare of \$35.00 for those registering a week or more in advance of the trip. After that you must pay the regular bus fare of \$37.50. Non-members also pay \$37.50.

Trail fees will also be paid on-line at the time of registration. This payment system is being introduced in order to reduce the need for bus captains to handle and collect cash and to improve safety on the bus. The cost of trail passes for the upcoming season has yet to be determined. The trail fee price will represent the weighted average cost of the group trail fees for all trips currently scheduled for the upcoming season. There may be a few exceptions to this pricing system.

Once registration and payment for Bus Fare and Trail Fees are complete, you will receive a confirmation by e-mail.

Bus and trail fees cannot be collected on the bus. You must pre-register to go on the trip. Non-members must pre-register and pre-pay.

Cancellations:

If you cancel a day trip please contact our manager Cheryl McCarney, by phone or e-mail: 905 634-2012 info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca There is no option for self cancellation on-line. The deadline for cancelling a day trip in order to receive a refund is 4 days prior to the trip. For example, if a trip leaves at 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday, cancellation must occur

before 8:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before the trip. Cancellation deadlines for Ski Better Clinics are the same as for day trips. Cancellation for Level 1 Lessons is different and can be found in the document "All About Lessons".

If you cancel after the deadline, you will receive a refund for the Trail Fee portion of the registration, but you will be charged for the Bus Fare portion of the registration, unless the Club Manager can fill the spot with someone from the waitlist. If a replacement is found, you will receive a full refund.

No Shows: Please do not be a "no show". Even if you cancel after the deadline, please notify our Club Manager. In this way your spot can possibly be filled by another member from the waitlist. This is a matter of consideration for fellow club members.

If the Club cancels a trip, you will be refunded. Always check your email closely for updates on the trip status and do a final check before leaving your house in the morning. We will not call you if a trip is cancelled. Your credit card will be refunded within a few weeks of the cancelled trip.

We have a request: Please do not second-guess the weather and cancel because of the forecast. Here's why: If members cancel because they see poor conditions at home, then our trip numbers may drop to a point where we must cancel because we have too few on the bus. This results in cancelling trips when conditions turned out to be fine, simply because people backed out early. Our club has a good track record of doing its homework and making the right decisions. Trust us!

Destination Changes:

We recognize that many people choose trips based on the published destination, so we change as seldom as possible. In addition, some resorts are limiting the number of bus groups allowed on a given day, making destination changes problematic. However, if weather, snow conditions or driving conditions dictate, and if a change is allowed by the alternate resort, we may go to a different destination than scheduled. Check your email before leaving home.

Departure Information:

Burlington and Oakville: The bus departs from Burlington at 8:00 a.m. sharp. We do not wait for stragglers and ask that you be at the bus no later than 7:45a.m. to get equipment loaded and everyone settled on board for a prompt departure. Those waiting in Oakville are standing out in the cold anticipating our timely arrival at 8:15a.m. The bus leaves Oakville at 8:15a.m.

Departures from resorts: The departure time is 3:30 pm. Please be back at the bus 10 minutes ahead of departure.

Directions to pick-up points:

Burlington: For days trips, the bus departs from Mainway Arena at 4015 Mainway. From the QEW take Walker's Line North. The arena is on the North East corner of Walker's Line and Mainway. Turn right onto Mainway to enter the lot and please park in the far North East corner of the lot, furthest away from the arena building.

Oakville: From the QEW take Trafalgar Rd. South. Immediately, turn right onto Argus Rd and then right again on to the South Service Rd. East. Follow it around and park in the extreme Northeast corner of the Value Village parking lot closest to the South Service Rd.

Lessons, Clinics, Events

Saturday, Jan 13, 2024, is a designated Level 1 lessons day and we hope to fill the bus with Level 1 skiers that day. Level 2 Clinics, Level 3 Clinics and Skate Clinics are detailed on the Ski Schedule. They are also on the Events Calendar on the website. You must pre-register and pre-pay for all lessons and clinics. You cannot register on the bus. Please read the document "All About Ski Lessons" for more details.

Level 1 Ski Lessons: Level 1 Lessons are for new or inexperienced skiers. Lessons take place over a full day and cover all the basics. There is a Level 1 Lesson Follow Up offered one week after the lesson.

Ski Better Clinics: These are half-day clinics designed to help skiers work on specific skills and improve skiing efficiency. They are primarily for Level 2 and Level 3 skiers. If unsure of your level, you may check the Ski Proficiencies document on the website.

Skate Ski Clinics: **One** Skate Ski Clinic will be offered in 2023/2024. Individual skate ski lessons may also be arranged. Please contact our club manager for details.

Guided skiing: If you are a new member or tentative about skiing alone, you might like to find someone to ski with. Each day trip has a 'bus captain', also called a trip leader. On the bus, bus captains will ask if anyone would like to ski with a buddy. At this time, they will try to join you up with someone else. If preferred, skiing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead skiers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.

Guided snowshoeing: If you are a new member or tentative about snowshoeing alone, you might like to find someone to snowshoe with. Guided Snowshoeing has been organized for specific day trips. Please see the schedule for details. Otherwise, bus captains will ask if anyone would like to snowshoe with a buddy. At this time, they will try to join you up with someone else. Snowshoeing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead a group of snowshoers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.