



FALL/WINTER 2025

WWW.SIERRALEAGUE.COM

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2025-2026 Sierra League Race Schedule

Race #1 - January 11th (Sunday)
Palisades Alpine: GS

Race #2 - February 8th (Sunday)
Sugar Bowl: SL

Race #3&4 - February 21st (Saturday)
Palisades Alpine: Double GS
Note: 2 sets of races

Race #5 - February 22nd (Sunday)
Palisades Alpine SL

Race #6 - March 13th (Friday)
Sugar Bowl: SL or GS (TBD).

Far West Championships March 20
(Friday) Palisades Alpine

Save the Date!
Sierra Council Holiday Party
Sunday, December 7

LEAGUE RACE RESOURCES:

Nan Carnal; Sierra League Race Chair:

nan.sierraleague@gmail.com;

530-550-5228 (h); 510-520-7338 (cell)

John Walsh; Singles League Race Chair:

johnwalsh37@sbcglobal.net; 416-596-7234

Dave Cunningham; Open League Dir. of Racing

skibum6@gmail.com



President's Message
By Jo Simpson, President
Sierra League &
Sierra Council



Hello everyone!

I hope you are doing your snow dancing so that the resorts that planned to open by Thanksgiving can do so.

Our Sierra Welcome Winter Party is set for Sunday, December. 7 at La Bamba in Truckee. The dinner price of \$30 includes entrée, soup, salad, chips, salsa and homemade cookies for desert. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for details and payment information. Thanks to our Social Director Carlene Boutacoff for making the arrangements.

Currently we have 35 people traveling with Sierra to Crested Butte January. 24-31, 2026. There is still space available until December 1 when we have to relinquish any unsold rooms to avoid penalties. Details are in the included flyer. Our new this year Travel VP John Schultheiss is doing a great job of managing the trip. The FWSA mini trip to Schweitzer is open for signups. It's a huge mountain with ski in ski out lodging. Check out the flyer later in this newsletter.

The FWSA convention SkiCon26 will be June 10-14 2026, in San Diego. The convention format is being reimagined with lots of fun activities.

Happy Thanksgiving! 🦃

Board Members

President: Jo Simpson
775-787-7556
jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Corey Doolin
coreydoolin@att.net

Secretary: Lisa Vandervoort
lisavandervoort@charter.net

Race Chair: Nan Carnal
530-550-5228
nan.sierraleague@gmail.com

VP Travel: John Schulteis
jms@schultheis.org

Social Chair: Carlene Boutacoff
cboutacoff@gmail.com

Head Gatekeeper: Mark Ostroff
the_ostroffs@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Beth Perryman
775-322-5805
slabanshee@aol.com

Webmaster: Pavel Bosin
408-685-6470
pavel@bosin.net

Member Clubs and Contacts

Las Vegas Ski Snowboard & Sports Club

Las Vegas, NV
www.lasvegasskiclub.com
Craig Caples, President
info@lasvegasskiclub.com; craig@caples.net

Reno Ski & Recreation Club

Reno, NV
www.renoskiandrec.com
Tina Kahn, President
renoskiandrecreationclub@gmail.com

RU SKI Club

Campbell, CA
www.facebook.com/groups/ruskiclub
Pavel Bosin, President
pavel@bosin.net

Santa Rosa Ski Club

Santa Rosa, CA
www.santarosaskiclub.com
Kelly Gilligan, President
membership@santarosaskiclub.org

Sugar Bowl Ski Club

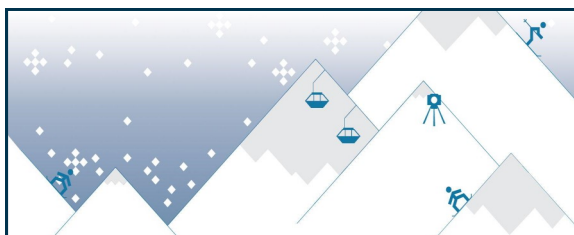
Norden, CA
www.sugarbowlskiclub.org
Dan Gross
dan@gross.name

Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club

Truckee, CA
www.tdski.com
Joe S Rosenfeld
president@tdski.com

Top Gun Ski Club

Greg Peairs, President
shifty@aol.com



Regional Ski Area Websites:

Badger Pass: www.yosemitepark.com/BadgerPass.aspx
Bear Valley Ski: www.bearvalley.com
Boreal: www.rideboreal.com
Ski China Peak: www.skichinapeak.com
Diamond Peak: www.diamondpeak.com
Dodge Ridge: www.dodgeridge.com
Donner Ski Ranch: www.donnerskiranch.com
Granlibakken: www.granlibakken.com
Heavenly Valley: www.skiheavenly.com
Homewood: www.skihomewood.com
June Mountain: www.junemountain.com
Kirkwood: www.kirkwood.com
Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard resort: www.skilasvegas.com
Mammoth Mtn: www.mammothmountain.com
Mountain High Ski: www.mthigh.com
Mt. Baldy: www.skibaldy.com
Mt. Rose: www.skirose.com
Mt. Shasta Ski Park: www.skipark.com
Northstar: www.northstarcalifornia.com
Palisade Tahoe: www.palisadestahoe.com
Sierra At Tahoe: www.sierratahoe.com
Snow Summit: www.snowsummit.com
Snow Valley: www.snow-valley.com
Soda Springs: www.skisodasprings.com

Thank you to our sponsors:

Start Haus Ski & Bike Shop

<https://www.starhaus.com>

Tahoe Heartbeat Apparel

<https://tahoeheartbeat.com/>

Sports Basement

<https://shop.sportsbasement.com/blogs/stores>

Habervision

<https://www.habervision.com/>

Habervision offers 50% off products

Sierra League Race Chair Message

It's November!! Time to think about conditioning your skis and your legs for the upcoming ski season and Sierra League Races!

The 2025 race schedule is posted on the first page of this newsletter and also on the Sierra League/Council website (www.sierraleague.com).

Fees for the season race pass and individual races have not been finalized - we coordinate with the other two Leagues (Singles and Open) and this is still in process. I'll post the fees as soon as they are set and send a notice via email.

Meanwhile resorts in Tahoe are opening at the end of November; check resort calendars for updates. Mammoth plans to open on the 14th, Northstar and Sugar Bowl on the 21st, Palisades on the 26th. Granted, these dates are weather and snow conditions dependent. Wow, it's almost here!

See you on the slopes and at the first season race, at Alpine, on January 11.

Nan (Nan Carnal, Sierra League Race Director)



© Can Stock Photo

Frank App Memorial Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that Charles Zaretsky, 18 (turning 19 on 1/26/2026) returns as the recipient of the Frank App Memorial Scholarship for 2025-2026. Charles, as top scoring athlete in the Far West Ski Association Program, is from Reno and skis for Team Palisade.



The Far West Skier's Digital Guide

Access the Far West website (www.fwsa.org). From the Member Corner dropdown menu, select Publications. From the Publications screen, select Far West Skier's Guide. The link for the guide will display on the right. Access to the guide is also available on the Sierra League website at the bottom of the home screen. You can also use the link below:

<https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2024-25/index.php>



Sierra Council Winter Party in Truckee

Sunday December 7th

Are you ready to welcome back winter with a day of skiing and a casual evening of socializing and dining with friends, family, and new snowies?

December 7th, Sunday, at La Bamba Restaurant, 11760 Donner Pass Rd

Wear your favorite flannel shirt and join us at the bar at 4:00 for no host drinks. **Dining at 5:00.**

Enjoy a complete Mexican Holiday feast for \$30.00 per person. Choose an entrée from the choices below:

Enchilada Dinner
Chili Relleno Dinner
2 Taco Dinner

Entrées include soup, salad, chips, salsa, and homemade cookies.

Bring extra \$\$\$s for the 50/50 + raffle.

(A portion of all proceeds will go to a scholarship fund to support promising local junior racers.)

Reserve your spot by December 5th. Pay by check or credit card.

Make checks payable to **Sierra League**
Send to: Jo Simpson
1691 Ashbury Lane
Reno, NV 89523

or Pay by Credit Card at the Sierra League & Council website.

<https://www.sierraleague.com/>

(When you are in the website, click on the "Races" tab and select the **Buy Now** button under **Holiday Party 12/7/2025-\$30.00**)



Sierra League and Council Membership Options

Club Membership

There are 8 ski clubs affiliated with Sierra League and Council. Please contact a club near you for membership information. Their contact information is listed at <https://www.sierraleague.com/contact.html>. Several of them have websites updated with activities and member benefits. Contact information is also available on page 3 of this newsletter.

Direct Membership

If you do not belong to an affiliated ski club, you may join Sierra League and Council as a direct member. To coincide with the [Far West Ski Association](#) our annual membership year begins May 1 and ends April 30.

The annual fee is only \$10 for each individual. This allows you all member privileges including:

- Sierra Council [Travel Program](#)
- Sierra League [Race Program](#)
- [Far West Ski Association Member Benefits](#), Services & Discounts
- The [Sierra League and Council Newsletter](#)
- Other Council sponsored events, including the annual Winter Paraty and the Summer BBQ.

Application, Dues and Information

[Application Forms](#) for individuals:

Print out form(s), fill in and sign application forms (and associated waiver) for each individual joining. The form and waiver are available at the league website under "about". The form and waiver are included in this newsletter on the following two pages.

How to submit by mail:

- Write check for \$10 made out to Sierra Ski Council
- Mail both completed form including waiver and check to:

Corey Doolin, membership
PO Box 394
Tahoe City, CA 96145

How to submit online:

- Pay Sierra Direct [Online Membership Dues through PayPal](#)
- Scan completed application and waiver form, attach as a .pdf file and email to: alpinesnow@att.net

Corey Doolin
FWSA Sierra League and Council VP Membership
alpinesnow@att.net

**Sierra League & Council
2025-2026 Membership
Application**

New Member

Renewing Member

Name:

Address:

Phone: (home)

(cell)

Email:

Mark all that you are interested in:

Racing

Travel Program

Social

List Trips:

Emergency Contact Information:

Name:

Relationship:

Phone: (home)

(cell)

:

I have read and signed the Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dues: \$10

Completed Application can be emailed to alpinesnow@att.net, and payment through PayPal on the Sierra League and Council website, or:

Mail completed application and waiver, along with personal check, cashier's check, or money order payable to "Sierra League & Council" to:

**Corey Doolin, Membership
P.O. Box 394
Tahoe City, CA 96145**

05/20/2025



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Linda Westlund, FWSA President
480-216-2010, president@fwsa.org

PRESS RELEASE

Far West Ski Association Honors U.S. Alpine Team Performance

Lake Tahoe, CA, October 25, 2025 - The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) continues its proud tradition of supporting the U.S. Ski Team through its Athletic Scholarship Program, now entering its 22nd year. Established in 2004 with just \$1,000 in scholarship awards, the program has grown dramatically - providing \$12,450 in scholarships to 20 deserving junior racers for the 2025–2026 season. Since its inception, the program has awarded 298 scholarships to 174 athletes, totaling \$229,450 in financial support for emerging competitors.

Funding is made possible through the Far West Ski Foundation, the 501(c)(3) fundraising arm of the Association, and is supported by sponsorships, donations, and the generosity of regional councils, clubs, and individual members. Among the many athletes who have benefited is AJ Hurt, a multi-year recipient of the Sierra Council Frank App Memorial Scholarship, who continues to make her mark on the international racing stage.

At its meeting in Lake Tahoe on October 25, the FWSA Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the **U.S. Alpine Women's Ski Team** following their historic performance at the **2025–2026 FIS World Cup** season opener in Sölden, Austria. The team placed six athletes in the top 20—three of them in the top six—a feat not achieved in over 30 years.

WHEREAS, the 2025 – 2026 FIS World Cup season began with a Women's GS race in Sölden, Austria on October 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the US Alpine Ski Team placed three in the top six and six in the top 20 with Paula Moltzan (2nd), Mikaela Shiffrin (4th), Nina O'Brien (6th), Katie Hensien (12th), AJ Hurt (13th), and Elizabeth Bocoock (19th); and

WHEREAS, for the first time in more than 30 years, six U.S. Women qualified for the 2nd run and all six ended up in the top 20;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Far West Ski Association, representing 140 recreational ski clubs in 12 western states with approximately 50,000 ski club members, proudly congratulates the U.S. Alpine Women's Ski Team.

For additional information about the Athletic Scholarship Program, visit www.fwsa.org

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) is one of the largest associations of snowsport enthusiasts in the U.S. FWSA covers 12 states with 10 regional Councils with more than 150 Clubs and a combined membership of over 50,000 skiers and snowboarders. As a member of a club that belongs to the SIERRA Council, you are a member of FWSA and entitled to all benefits. You may also join FWSA as a Direct Member.



North American Travel

FWSA Ski & Snowboard Week 2026: January 24-31; Crested Butte, CO

FWSA Ski & Snowboard Week 2027: January 23-30; Big Sky Resort; MN Details To follow

FWSA Mini Ski & Snowboard Week 2026: February 22-27; Schweitzer Mountain, ID

FWSA Convention:

93rd Annual Far West Ski Association SkiCon; June 11-14, 2026

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

FWSA International Travel:

FWSA Int. Ski & Snowboard Adventure 2026: February 26-March 7; Chamonix, France
Extension to Paris & Normandy; March 7 -15, 2026

FWSA International Ski & Snowboard Week 2027: February/March
Val Gardena, Italy & Extension TBD

Dive/Adventure/Cruises

Galapagos Islands Fall 2027: Details TBD

Croatia 2027; Details TBD

Caribbean Cruise 2028; Details TBD

New Zealand 2029; Details TBD

Please contact the trip leader and/or check the FWSA website for further information regarding travel/housing/schedules, registration forms, waivers, payment schedules, etc.

FWSA travel website: <http://www.fwsa.org/Travel/travel.html>

FWSA VP North American Travel:

Nancy Ellis, vpnorthamericantravel@fwsa.org

FWSA VP International Travel:

Gloria Raminha: vpinternationaltravel@fwsa.org

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION MINI SKI TRIP **February 22—27, 2026**

Schweitzer Mtn., ID

Schweitzer Resort is in North Idaho and is a great destination for our FWSA Mini Ski trip. It has 2,900 acres of lift-served terrain, 92 trails, open bowls, chutes, groomers, and tree skiing. Top elevation is 6,400' and annual snowfall of 300". 4,350 acres of back-country terrain accessed by cat skiing.

We will be staying at Selkirk Lodge and Humbird Hotel, both ski-in/ski-out properties. Guests can drive to Sandpoint, ID, or fly to Spokane, WA and rent a car or take a shuttle to Schweitzer.

The mountain has something for everyone. They have 10% beginner runs, 40% intermediate runs, 35% advanced runs, and 15% expert runs.

Hope to see you at Schweitzer!

Sign up by October 1st for the Early Bird Discount

Included:

Five Night's Lodging
Welcome Activity
Farewell Event

Optional for Purchase:

3-day Lift Ticket--\$382
4-day Lift Ticket-- \$510
80+ ski FREE

IKON PASS

Discounted Equipment Rental

Optional Activities:

- Nordic Trails
- Snow Shoeing
- Tubing
- Cat Skiing/Boarding
- Scenic Lift Ride to Summit
- Snowmobiling
- Night Skiing

Contact: Nancy Ellis – 530-414-8261 – FWSAtravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

Information & Signup: <http://fwsamini26SW.sat.tours>

FWSA CST #2036983-40

FWSA 2026 Int'l Ski Trip to Chamonix, France

BASIC Ski Week – Chamonix, France February 28 – March 7, 2026

Group departs US Feb. 26, arrives in Geneva, Feb 27 & spend 1 night at a Geneva airport hotel.
Feb. 28th departs by bus to Chamonix and return to US from Geneva, France on Mar. 7, 2026
Group air details to be provided.



Ikon Pass holders will have access to the five resorts within Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley



All Prices are based on an exchange rate of 1 Euro vs. \$1.15 USD & subject to change.

4-Star Lodging at the Hotel Alpina Eclectic Chamonix

Basic trip - starting price at \$2672

Prices will be based on double occupancy.

[air transp. sold separately.] Limited number of Single Supplements are available.

Chamonix is situated in the French Alps just north of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe. Between the peaks of the Aiguilles Rouges and the notable Aiguille du Midi, it borders both Switzerland and Italy. It is one of the oldest ski resorts in France, popular with alpinists and mountain enthusiasts.

Basic Lodging Package includes:

- Transfer between Geneva Airport and Geneva Hotel via Hotel Shuttle.
- One-night stay at the NH Geneva Airport Hotel
- Transfer between Geneva Airport Hotel via a private coach to Chamonix
- 7 night's accommodation at the 4* Hotel Alpina Eclectic Chamonix.
- Welcome/Orientation on February 28 with reps of Chamonix Tourism Board
- Daily Buffet Breakfast & 5 Dinners at the Hotel Alpina Eclectic Chamonix.
- Complimentary use of the hotel amenities, such as:
 - WIFI
 - Heated Ski Locker
 - Spa & Wellness Center
 - Includes one hour per night access to the jacuzzi, sauna, hammam, fitness room.
Please note that this free service is subject to availability, and that it is mandatory to book in advance since the number of people per slot is limited in order to ensure greater comfort.
- Après Ski & Farewell events – details to be provided.
- Optional day tour - details to be provided.
- All taxes, fees and resort fees included.



Opt. Extension Adventure Tour: Paris & Normandy

Starting on March 7, 2026

Prices will be based on double occupancy-Single supplement rooms are available.
Schedules are subject to change

Trip includes:

- 8 nights lodging – 4 nights in Paris, 3 nights in Normandy & 1 night at Paris CDG Airport Hotel
- English speaking tour escort/manager for entire tour
- Breakfast daily
- Day excursions to:
 - Paris: Île de la Cité & Le Marais, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Latin Quarter (Pantheon, Luxembourg Gardens), Sainte-Chapelle, the Conciergerie and more.
 - Normandy: Visit Claude Monet's House and Gardens at Giverny, D-Day Landing Beaches, (Omaha Beach, American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, Pointe du Hoc, Arromanches, D-Day Museum and more.
- Free Time to Explore
 - Stand Alone So. France ONLY (Excludes Chamonix ski week)
 - Contact Gloria Raminha for details and pricing.
 -



Make checks out to: **Far West Ski Association (FWSA)**. Please reference "FWSA 2026 Chamonix Int'l Trip" on each check.
For more information and payment details contact:

Gloria Raminha
FWSA VP of Int'l Travel
12707 Windy Ridge Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93312
Garski2011@gmail.com
cell: 661/800-8229

State of California Seller of Travel # 2036983-40



Hosted by the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs, the Far West Ski Association 93rd Annual SkiCon will be held in San Diego, California, June 11-14, 2026.

LODGING

Lodging will be at the Four-Star, San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, located just 8 minutes from San Diego International Airport, via Uber, Lyft, taxi, bus or shuttle service. The hotel is conveniently located in San Diego at 8757 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA, 92108

The San Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel features (www.marriott.com/sanmv) :

- One block from the Sandiego River
- Stunning views and private balconies
- Heated outdoor Pool and whirlpool spa
 - Private pool cabanas
 - Restaurant & Lounge
- Extensive concierge services
 - Wireless internet access
- Full-service business center, and notary public
 - 24 hour Fitness Center and jogging trail
 - Trolley Line located adjacent to hotel
- Within 5-minute drive of Mission Valley Mall and Fashion Valley Mall.

Room Rates for the convention will be ~ \$219 per night (single or double occupancy).

Note: This rate is good *June 9 to June 16, 2026*. Come early, stay late!

Reservations: Call 800-228-9290 or 619-692-3800 to reserve rooms.

Group Name: Far West Ski Association

NOTE: Room Registration Deadline - May 21, 2026

Further information is available at the FWSA website (www.fwsa.org)

SAFETY

Prepare for the Snow Season: Get Ready with Ski Season Preparation Tips

The following is a basic reminder of the importance of preparing for the winter season. The FULL article, dated November 4, 2024 and written by Bob Bateman, can be found on the Weather Scientific website: <https://weatherscientific.com/blogs/weather-scientific-blogs/prepare-for-the-snow-season-get-ready-with-ski-season-preparation-tips>.

Prepare for the Snow Season: Get Ready with Ski Season Preparation Tips

Essential Tips for Preparing for the Snow Season

As the cozy months of winter approach, it's time to start thinking about how to prepare for the snow season. If you're someone who eagerly awaits the season of cozy fires and glistening snowfall, then planning your skiing adventures early can make a world of difference. It's not just about pulling out your skis from storage and hitting the slopes; preparation goes a long way in ensuring an enjoyable and safe snow season. From keeping yourself fit to having the right gear ready, preparing thoroughly can make all the difference when it comes to making the most of the skiing season.

First and foremost, check your skis and other skiing equipment. Dust them off and inspect for any damage that might have happened while they were in storage. Properly service and wax your skis to ensure they're in top condition when the snow hits. The last thing you want is equipment failure on a big skiing day! This initial step guarantees you're well-prepared for the challenges that the snow season might throw your way.

Physical fitness is another crucial component of skiing preparation. The winter season demands not only skill but also physical endurance. Include exercises that focus on strengthening your core, legs, and balance in your daily routine. Being physically prepared is essential for enjoying those exciting skiing trips without unnecessary injury or fatigue. Remember, skiing is a demanding sport, and entering the season in top shape can enhance your performance and enjoyment.

Beyond the physical and equipment preparations, it's important to be knowledgeable about the snow conditions. Always be aware of the weather forecast and any potential changes in snow conditions. This can help you stay safe and prepared, as varying weather conditions influence skiing conditions. Being well-informed about these factors ensures your own safety and that of others on the slopes.

SAFETY (Cont.) — Prepare for the Snow Season: Get Ready with Ski Season Preparation Tips

Another important aspect of preparing for the snow season is packing smart for your skiing trips. Since winter conditions can be unpredictable, pack layers to accommodate temperature changes, keeping you dry and warm throughout your skiing adventures. Hydration is key, even in cold conditions, so don't forget to pack enough water. Often, we forget the toll the cold can have on our bodies, so staying hydrated helps in maintaining energy levels.

For skiers looking to improve their skills, consider enrolling in a skiing workshop or taking lessons. This can enhance your skiing technique, making your snow season experience more enjoyable and rewarding. Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned skier, there's always room for improvement, and getting some professional advice ensures you're even better prepared for the season.

Of course, part of the anticipation is preparing for the social aspect of the ski season. Gear up for those shared moments with family and friends, and plan ski trips to explore new slopes and challenges. Don't underestimate the power of community and shared experiences in preparing for a memorable snow season.

In conclusion, getting ready for the skiing season involves several essential preparations, from fitness to equipment checks and ensuring you're informed about snow conditions. Preparing for your ski trips thoroughly ensures you can embrace the winter season with open arms and have an unforgettable skiing experience. Winter comes but once a year, so make sure you're fully **prepared** to make the most of the snow season. With careful planning and consideration, you'll be able to savor each moment of your skiing adventures and create lasting memories in the snow.

FAQs

1. What should I do to prepare my skiing equipment for the snow season?

A: Start by dusting off your skis and inspecting them for any damage that might have occurred while in storage. Properly service and wax your skis to ensure they're in top condition when the snow hits. This includes checking your bindings and evaluating your boots for comfort and support. Reliable equipment is crucial for a successful skiing season.

2. How important is physical fitness in preparing for the ski season?

A: Physical fitness is vital for skiing as it demands both skill and endurance. Include exercises that focus on strengthening your core, legs, and balance in your routine to prevent injury and fatigue. Cardiovascular fitness is also important to tackle long days on the slopes, so activities like running or cycling can be beneficial.

**SAFETY (Cont.) — Prepare for the Snow Season:
Get Ready with Ski Season Preparation Tips**

3. What should I pack for a skiing trip?

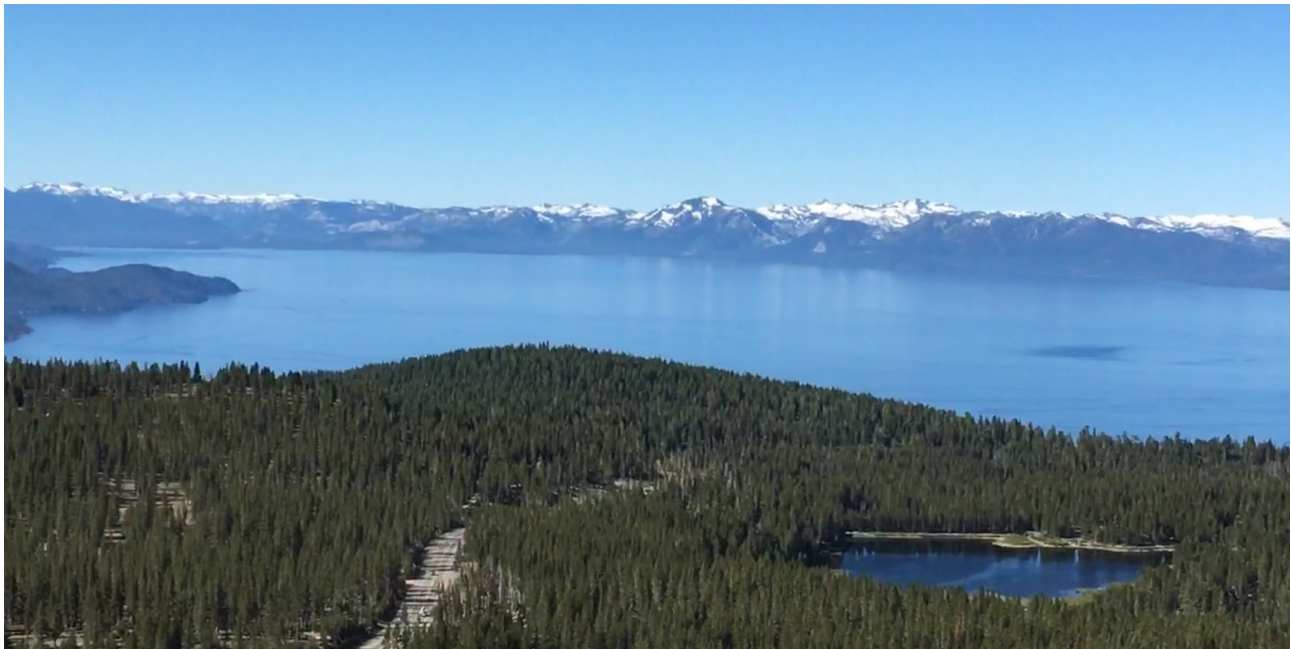
A: Pack layers of clothing to accommodate temperature changes, ensuring you stay dry and warm. Don't forget goggles for eye protection, a reliable helmet for safety, and thermal wear for off-slope warmth. Also, bring snacks and plenty of water to stay hydrated and maintain energy levels throughout your skiing adventure.

4. Why is it beneficial to take skiing lessons or workshops?

A: Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned skier, enrolling in skiing workshops or courses can greatly enhance your skiing technique and build confidence. Professional instructors provide personalized guidance, teaching techniques, safety tips, and emergency protocols to ensure you're well-prepared for the skiing season.

5. How can I ensure my safety on the slopes during varying snow conditions?

A: Stay informed about the weather forecast and any potential changes in snow conditions as they significantly influence skiing conditions. Knowing the emergency protocols of your chosen resort and understanding the location of medical centers can make a big difference. Being prepared for varying conditions is essential for your safety and that of others on the slopes.”



Ski Industry News from the National Ski Council Federation.

July 2025

Deer Valley's \$500M Expansion Adds 3,700 Acres, 17 Lifts, and One of the Largest Gondolas in U.S. Ski History. During the past two off-seasons, Deer Valley has been building 10 new lifts, adding 100 new runs and over 2,000 additional acres, effectively more than doubling the size of the historic resort. SnowBrains

Winter Park, CO, Moves Forward With Town Gondola and \$2 Billion Master Plan. Winter Park Town Council has unanimously approved to rezone 165 acres of Winter Park Resort for mixed-use resort development and to construct a long-anticipated gondola connecting downtown Winter Park to the resort's base area, reports the Sky-Hi News. SnowBrains

Local Groups Agree to End Longtime Opposition of Palisades Tahoe Development Plan. The massive planned base area development at Palisades Tahoe appears to be moving forward after the resort and two Tahoe-area environmental conservation groups agreed to various reductions in scope, ending a 14-year legal battle that has delayed the project from breaking ground. SAM

J-1 Seasonal Worker Program Proceeding Smoothly—For Now. The J-1 cultural exchange program, which many resorts tap for seasonal workers, could fall victim to this effort in a year or two, even though it appears to be operating normally at the moment. The current administration's budget proposal for fiscal 2026 imposes deep cuts to the State Department budget that would limit the bureau's ability to process visas in a timely manner. SAM

Safehold Pulls Out of Oregon as Waiver Bill Progresses. Safehold Special Risk will no longer insure ski area clients in Oregon due to the state's legal climate that has resulted in outsized losses over the past decade. "If we don't have that, we won't be able to operate," said Mt. Hood Meadows CEO Matthew Drake. SAM

Oregon Liability Waiver Reform Dies in Legislature. Bipartisan efforts to restore the enforceability of recreational liability waivers in Oregon failed to advance before the close of the state legislative session June 29, leaving the state's ski areas and other recreation providers facing an escalating insurance and liability crisis. SAM

Idaho Supreme Court Reverses Course in Sun Valley Liability Case. The Idaho Supreme Court has reversed its precedent-breaking December 2023 ruling in *Milus v. Sun Valley Co.*, reinstating a lower court's summary judgment in favor of Sun Valley Resort in a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the widow of a skier who died after colliding with snowmaking equipment. SAM

Skiers Take on Copper Mountain, CO, Over 9% 'Resort Surcharge' in Class Action Lawsuit. A class action lawsuit has been filed against Copper Mountain, Colorado, and the resort operator, POWDR, by Gary Chaney and other Copper Mountain visitors for allegedly engaging in deceptive pricing practices. SnowBrains

Vermont's Northern Ski Resorts Feel the Chill of Declining Canadian Tourism Under Current Administration Actions. The decrease started towards the end of the 2024-25 season but is now being felt at those resorts that are offering summer activities as well as 2025-26 season pass sales. SnowBrains

SKI INDUSTRY NEWS (Cont.)

From Trend to Necessity: How Helmets Became Essential Gear on the Slopes. According to the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), the overall percentage of skiers and riders wearing helmets was 25 percent during the 2002-03 season. That percentage rose dramatically over the last twenty years to 90 percent during the 2023-24 season. SnowBrains

What's Happened to Peak Skis? Peak Skis was founded in 2021 by former pro skier Bode Miller and former Squaw Valley, California, CEO and big mountain skier Andy Wirth. The brand quickly made waves: early reviews hailed Peak's skis as among the best on the market, thanks to the ingenuity and expertise of a product design team led by Miller himself. Yet, in just four years, Peak Skis went from an exciting newcomer to the brink of collapse. SnowBrains

August 2025

Whiteface Joins Mountain Collective for 2025-26 Season. Whiteface Mountain will join the Mountain Collective pass for the 2025-26 season, expanding the multi-resort pass's Northeast footprint. The announcement marks the latest addition to the Mountain Collective's lineup, which now includes 27 ski areas across five continents. SAM

Winter Park, CO, \$2 Billion Development Plan Clears First Major Hurdle. At a meeting on July 15, Winter Park Town Council approved the initial final development plan for the Winter Park Resort base area, setting the stage for a multi-year development that will transform the resort and the surrounding area. SnowBrains

U.S. Ski Season Sees Strong Growth in 2024-25 Season. U.S. ski areas reported a total of 61.5 million skier visits for 2024-25, a 1.7% year-over-year increase, according to preliminary data from the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA). It was the second-highest total since the NSAA began tallying skier visits in 1978. Snowsports Industries America (SIA) conducted a survey asking participants several questions to gain insight into the 2024-25 season. SnowBrains

Saving the Amazon May Be the Key to Protecting North America's Winters. As climate change tightens its grip across the globe, a growing body of scientific research is revealing just how far-reaching the consequences of Amazon deforestation may be, stretching as far as the Sierra Nevada snowpack and the ski slopes of the American West. SnowBrains

Civics For Skiers: How Local Governments Help Skiers Talk To Developers. Local governments, cities, towns, and counties play a pivotal role in regulating and approving development projects for ski areas and other developers. While large projects may seem inevitable, the local approval process offers opportunities for skiers, residents, and citizens to make their voices heard. SnowBrains

Rossignol to Close Historic Dynastar Factory at Foot of Mont-Blanc, France, Ending Over 60 Years of Ski Manufacturing History. After much protest and lengthy negotiations with its employees, French ski company Rossignol announced at the end of June that it will be closing the Dynastar ski factory in Sallanches, France, on July 31, 2025. SnowBrains

SKI INDUSTRY NEWS (Cont.)

The 7 Biggest Threats to the Future of Skiing and Snowboarding. Behind the lifts and powder days, the industry faces serious challenges. Based on community discussions and expert concerns, the future of snow sports depends on how the industry responds to a range of emerging threats, including climate change and cultural shifts. SnowBrains

September 2025

Indy Reopens Sales, Launches Learn-to-Turn Pass. With the addition of dozens of new resorts, Indy Pass went back on sale to the public on Aug. 28, 2025. Indy halted sales of its 2025-26 pass in March after reaching its cap following a 10-day sales period. The company will also launch a new Learn-to-Turn pass that includes three total days of bundled lift access, rentals, and lessons for \$189 on Aug. 28. SAM

Indy Pass Confirms 43 New Partners, Learn-to-Turn Details. Indy Pass has added 43 alpine and cross-country partner ski areas for the 2025-26 season, bringing its total to 271 worldwide. The pass went back on sale August 28. *SAM Ed. Note: This additional article details the added ski areas.*

Snow Triple Play to Launch Sept. 1 with 15 Partner Ski Areas. A new multi-mountain ski and snowboard product, the Snow Triple Play, went on sale Sept. 1, offering Northeast skiers and snowboarders three days of lift access at 15 participating resorts in the U.S. and Canada for \$199.99. SAM

Sugarloaf, Maine Announces Upgrades Ahead of 75th Season. Vice President of Mountain Operations, Brent Larson, announced several upgrades to mountain infrastructure. Freeskier

Six Best Chairlifts in the Rocky Mountains. FREESKIER has picked out six lifts (in no particular order) that we think stand apart from the masses. Some are front-page regulars; popular chairlifts that you've heard of before. But some are a bit off the beaten path. Freeskier

ICYMI: Ikon Pass Expands in Italy, Adds Five Valle d'Aosta Resorts. Ikon Pass holders will gain access to Valle d'Aosta's five ski areas for winter 2025-26, including Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Cervino Ski Paradise, La Thuile Espace San Bernardo, Monterosa Ski, and Pila SAM

"Cervino the One" Project: Matterhorn Ski Paradise Plans Dramatic Overhaul of the Connection from Cervinia, Italy, to Zermatt, Switzerland. The Italian side of the cross-border ski area Matterhorn Ski Paradise has announced its biggest lift upgrade in decades, aimed at dramatically improving access from Italy to Switzerland. Snowbrains

Vail Resorts Faces Investor Pressure as Local Billionaire Tech CEO Matthew Prince Eyes Purchase of Park City Mountain, UT. Matthew Prince, the billionaire CEO of Cloudflare and a longtime Park City resident, has renewed public interest in buying Park City Mountain from Vail Resorts—even as the Colorado-based company insists the resort is not for sale. Snowbrains

Jury Sides with Skier Injured in Fall from Chairlift. An Oklahoma woman who was left paralyzed from the waist down after she fell from a chairlift at Crested Butte Mountain Resort in March 2022 was awarded \$20 million in damages by a Colorado. SAM

SKI INDUSTRY NEWS (Cont.)

October 2025

Best Ski Resorts For Early Season Snow. It's never too early to start planning for the upcoming winter season, and that includes the popular time around the Christmas and New Year's holidays. ZRankings has put together an excellent guide to help you find the best snow during the holidays. [OpenSnow](#)

Alterra Commits \$400M to Resort Upgrades, Employee Housing for 2025-26. Alterra Mountain Company is spending more than \$400 million on capital projects, guest amenities, and employee programs across its portfolio for the 2025-26 season, with a major share directed to Deer Valley Resort's ongoing transformation. [SAM](#)

Snow Triple Play Pass Partners with Mountain Collective, Adds Kissing Bridge. Snow Partners, parent company of Mountain Creek Resort, Big Snow American Dream, and the Snow Triple Play pass, has formed a strategic partnership with the Mountain Collective pass program. [SAM](#)

Indy Pass Ended Sales Sept. 18, Added Final Resorts. Since last winter, Indy has added 48 resorts across 14 countries. The latest additions include Donner Ski Ranch, Calif.; Montage Mountain, Pa.; Magic Mountain, Idaho; Leavenworth Ski Hill, Wash.; Kaunertaler Gletscher, Austria; and Kartalkaya Dorukkaya Ski Resort, Turkey. [SAM](#)

Indy Pass to Partner With Up to 100 Independent Ski Shops. Indy Pass announced today that it has allied with the Winter Sports Retailers (WSR), an independent ski and snowboard retailers association, to provide exclusive discounts on gear and tune-ups for Indy Pass holders at participating shops. [SnowBrains via Google Alerts](#)

Fire Destroys Sugarbush Resort Golf Clubhouse. A fire late Sept. 24 destroyed the clubhouse at Sugarbush Resort Golf Club, which housed the golf pro shop and Hogan's Pub, resort officials said. [SAM](#)

Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe Invests \$6 Million in Tubing Center and Snowmaking for 2025-26 Season. Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe has invested \$6 million this season to add the new Wildslide Tahoe Tubing Center and expand its snowmaking systems. [SAM](#)

November 2025

Colorado Ski Industry Worried About Slowdown in J-1 Visas That Are 'Essential' for Resort Areas' Workforce. The National Ski Areas Association, which represents over 300 alpine resorts throughout the U.S., said it has heard from ski areas, including in Colorado, that are worried about a potential shortage of seasonal foreign workers on J-1 visas this winter. [Post Independent \(Glenwood Springs and Garfield County, CO\) via Google Alerts](#)

Timberline Prices to Rise Due to Oregon's 'Broken' Liability System. As insurers exit Oregon and available insurance premiums skyrocket in response to the state's legal climate, in which recreational liability waivers are unenforceable, outdoor recreation providers, including ski areas, are in a precarious position. Timberline, which operates on Mt. Hood, addressed this in a message to Oregonians, warning them that prices will be rising due to "unsustainable financial pressure." [SAM](#)

SKI INDUSTRY NEWS (Cont.)

Going Skiing in Europe This Winter? New Rules You Need to Know. Italy now requires helmets for everyone, insurance is mandatory, and France is extending smoking bans to the slopes. Here's what travelers need to know before hitting the mountains. **Ski Racing Media**

FIS Bans Russian Athletes from Milan-Cortina Olympic Qualifiers. The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) has voted to keep Russian and Belarusian athletes out of all qualification events for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, reaffirming its firm stance against participation by both nations amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. **Ski Racing Media**

Saddleback, Big Sky Tops in SKI Reader Survey. The results from the 2026 SKI Reader Resort Survey put Saddleback, Maine, ranked top in the East and Big Sky Resort, Mont., as the highest ranked resort in the West. Saddleback improved one place from its No. 2 ranking last year, while Big Sky jumped 23 spots. Rankings are based on responses from SKI's annual reader survey, which is conducted every spring and asks respondents to rank each ski area in 18 different categories, such as grooming, family-friendliness, value, dining, and access. **SAM**

Upcycling— How Fishing Nets Become Ski Jackets. What if we told you that the new ski jacket you just bought for this winter is actually made from a net that was once used for commercial fishing? Brands across the ski industry are utilizing new technology that takes old fishing nets and turns them into high-performance nylon suitable for technical outdoor apparel. **Powder**

Killington Plans \$22M in Improvements for 2026. Killington Resort plans to invest \$22 million in on-mountain infrastructure next year, including a new fixed-grip quad and an expanded on-hill restaurant facility. The Snowdon triple will be replaced by a fixed-grip quad chair, a \$6.5 million project. An additional \$6 million of funding will be used to construct a reimagined Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill. **SAM**

Ikon Pass Expands Access in Asia with Nine New Destinations. The Ikon Pass will significantly expand its footprint in Asia for winter 2025-26, adding nine new ski destinations across Japan, China, and South Korea. **SAM**

To read the full article for many of the ski industry news listings, refer to the following websites:

POWDER - <https://www.powder.com>

Snowbrains -<https://www.snowbrains.com>

SAM (Ski Area Management) - <https://www.saminfo.com>

Seniors Skiing—<https://seniorsskiing.com/were-back>

Freeskier—<https://freeskier.com>

SnoCountry—<https://snocountry.com>

Open Snow—<https://opensnow.com>

Freeskier—<https://freeskier.com>

Ski Racing Media—<https://skiracing.com>



www.sierraleague.com



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY CODE

- 1** Always stay in control. You must be able to stop or avoid people or objects.
- 2** People ahead or downhill of you have the right-of-way. You must avoid them.
- 3** Stop only where you are visible from above and do not restrict traffic.
- 4** Look uphill and avoid others before starting downhill or entering a trail.
- 5** You must prevent runaway equipment.
- 6** Read and obey all signs, warnings and hazard markings.
- 7** Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
- 8** You must know how and be able to load, ride and unload lifts safely. If you need assistance, ask the lift attendant.
- 9** Do not use lifts or terrain when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- 10** If you are involved in a collision or incident, share your contact information with each other and a ski area employee.

**Know and Obey the Code.
It's Your Responsibility.**

If you need help understanding the Code, please ask an employee.