

## FAQ's

### **What's the best way to contact Jo Garuccio, the Ski Utah Program Director?**

E-mail is best. Contact her at [jo@agegroupsports.com](mailto:jo@agegroupsports.com). If it's an emergency, call her at 801-566-9727 or 801-557-6844. Do not call the Ski Utah office.

### **When will the pre-ski instructor contact us?**

Depending on your trip date, the pre-ski instructor should contact you sometime between Nov. 20 and Jan. 10 to schedule time with the children. Please contact Jo if you do not hear from a pre-ski instructor within this time frame. If you have someone at school – teacher, parent, or spouse – who will volunteer to teach the pre-ski lesson, Ski Utah will give that volunteer a lift ticket at an area of choice for helping us prepare the students for their trip. A sample pre-ski lesson is posted on our website under “support materials” for teachers.

### **How long is the pre-ski lesson?**

Please make an effort to schedule enough time for the instructor to work with each 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for approximately 30 minutes. Big groups are not as effective.

### **Is there a video to help with preparation for the trip?**

Ski Utah has a video that addresses topics like equipment, prep exercises and basic nutrition and hydration. That video is accessible from the Ski Utah website. We have also posted some useful handouts in the “support materials” folder for teachers, accessible from the Ski Utah website.

We produced a newer video in the summer of 2015 that reviews most of the skills students will learn during their first lesson as well as corresponding dry land skills that will help them prep for that lesson. This video is also accessible through the Ski Utah website.

### **When should we look at the video?**

Now! Both videos have information that will be helpful for preparing for the trip. Don't wait until the last minute.

### **What time does the bus arrive for an AM lesson?**

Departure from school depends on each school's start time and can be anywhere from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM. The bus is scheduled to arrive approximately 10-15 min. prior to departure. (Note: bus arrival and departure information only concerns the Salt Lake area schools that use commercial transportation).

### **When does the bus arrive for a PM lesson?**

Buses are scheduled to arrive at 11:30 AM for an 11:45 AM departure. Plan to leave no later than noon, and if needed, we can also arrange for an earlier departure. Again, this information only applies to the Salt Lake area schools using commercial transportation.

### **What time will we return from the ski trip?**

It takes 45-65 min. to get to the ski area and a similar amount of time to get back. Lessons last approximately two hours and if you are picking up equipment at the ski area, allot at least 30 min. prior to the lesson and about 15 min. post lesson to deal with equipment. If parents are picking up equipment in town, you'll need about 10-15 min. to load the bus before leaving as well as unload the bus when you return.

With that time frame in mind, expect morning groups to arrive back at school between 12:30 and 1:30 PM. Afternoon groups should arrive back at school between 3:30 and 4:30 PM.

### **Who arranges for transportation?**

Salt Lake area schools use private transportation arranged by Ski Utah. Schools outside of Salt Lake City must arrange their own transportation.

### **What about rentals?**

About ½ the children in the Salt Lake area schools are issued vouchers for individual ski shops and parents must pick up equipment the night before the trip and return the equipment immediately following the trip. The other ½ of the children in the Salt Lake area schools pick up equipment at the ski area. Parents will be required to sign a rental form ahead of time. Ski Utah or the ski area will arrange for the forms to be picked up at school at least four-five days prior to the trip.

All children using Snowbasin, Sundance, Beaver Mt, Eagle Point or Brian Head will pick up equipment at the ski areas. Parents will be required to sign a rental form ahead of time. Each ski area will give teachers specific instructions on how to get the rental information to them. In some cases, teachers will send a spreadsheet ahead of the trip. In other instances, someone from the ski area will pick up the forms three to five days prior to the trip.

### **What resorts on the Wasatch Front offer the option pick up rentals at the ski area?**

Brighton, Solitude, Park City and Park City – Canyons Village can all supply rentals at the ski area.

### **What if parents forget to pick up their child's equipment?**

If a child shows up on the morning of the trip without equipment, they are not going to be able to participate. If we know ahead of time that several children will not be able to pick up equipment with their parents prior to the trip, we can arrange to have them pick up equipment at the ski area. Parents will need to sign the rental form ahead of time. In some instances, we might be able to arrange something that morning, but only if you get a hold of Jo or her assistant. It's a very hectic time and it's often difficult to get in touch with ski area personnel at the last minute. Plus, in this instance, teachers will need to sign the rental form, which means they are accepting responsibility for the child. I highly recommend that you avoid this situation at all costs.

### **What resorts allow schools a snowboarding option?**

Students can choose to snowboard at Park City, Park City at Canyons Village, Brighton, Solitude, Snowbird, Snowbasin, and possibly Beaver Mt., Brian Head and Eagle Point. Sundance can also accommodate a few snowboard lessons.

### **Will we still ski if it's snowing?**

Yes! Snow is a common occurrence in the mountains in the winter months. We monitor the storms and make decisions based on road conditions and weather predictions. If we feel that a winter storm is significant enough to cause transportation problems, we will notify the school several hours ahead of time and reschedule the trip.

**Do children need eye protection?**

Children can probably get away without eye protection for a couple of hours in the early winter *if it is not snowing*. Encourage the children to borrow a pair of goggles or at the very least, use their sunglasses as eye protection, especially if snow is predicted.

**Is the program free?**

Unfortunately, the program cannot sustain itself if it were free. We do however cover fees for all students who cannot afford to do so. Fees vary slightly between regions.

## How do children apply for a scholarship?

There is no scholarship application. It's up to the teachers and parents to make decisions concerning scholarship eligibility. Ski Utah appreciates even partial donation of fees if possible, but Ski Utah does not enter into the politics of the fee waiver. If a child cannot afford the fee donation, we cover the fee with no questions asked, although we like to know how many scholarships we supply. It helps our bid for sponsors in the future.

## How do we pay for the trip?

Salt Lake City area schools pay Ski Utah. The easiest way to do this is to have parents pay the school and then have the school write one check to Ski Utah. If that's not possible, then have the parents make checks out to Ski Utah. Do not send cash. Write a check or get a money order for the cash. Do not send money in until after the trip. That way, we can easily refund children who don't end up attending the field trip.

Schools outside of the Salt Lake City area pay the ski area directly with one check from the school.

## When do we pay for the ski trip?

Salt Lake area schools should send the money to Ski Utah within two weeks of completing the ski trip.

Invoices for the trip are posted on the Ski Utah website in the "operational" folder for teachers.

Schools outside of SLC pay the ski area directly. Timing of the payment varies with each resort, but most expect you to bring pay when you arrive for the lesson. *You will not be invoiced.*

