

Suffield Public Schools SKI CLUB 2015-2016

Frequently Asked Questions

Contact :

Berkshire East (413) 339-6617



Rules and Consequences

Rules

- All school rules apply both on the bus and at Berkshire East
- Chaperones, Bus drivers, and Berkshire East employees have the same authority as the faculty would at school. They deserve your respect.
- Disorderly conduct and swearing will not be tolerated.
- Show up on time for the bus at the end of school and when it is time to go home again.
- You must wear a helmet if you are on the slopes.
- Garments or equipment with inappropriate graphics or text (including but not limited to sexual connotations, violence, swearing, or drug/alcohol/tobacco use) will not be allowed on the bus or at the mountain.

Consequences

Consequences will largely be determined on a case by case basis, but last year, they included:

- Sitting out for part of the day of skiing
- Being suspended for one or more ski days
- Assigned seats on the bus

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Should my child bring any money?

Yes, students typically buy food in the lodge (cafeteria style). The prices are similar to what you would pay for when going to the movies. \$10 should pay for a slice of pizza and a drink.

Are there any rules about inappropriate words or graphics on equipment?

Garments or equipment with inappropriate graphics or text (including but not limited to sexual connotations, violence, swearing, or drug/alcohol/tobacco use) will not be allowed on the bus or at the mountain.

What do I need to pack for clothing and equipment?

You can find a checklist of equipment on this website under *Ski Club documents*.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I get a refund if my child can no longer participate (bad grades, injury, etc.)?

This generally is not a problem as long as we can find someone to replace your child for the remaining sessions. For example, if your child gets injured after the second session. You will be reimbursed for the remaining four sessions, and whoever replaces your child will only pay for those four sessions that they use. The person who replaces your child is pulled from the waiting list, so you or your child **cannot** pick who replaces them. If they are suspended from the club due to bad behavior, they will not be refunded any money.

Can I bring up my child and have him/her take the bus back (or vice versa)?

Yes, although there are several restrictions. Please download the form under the ski club documents.

How can I make sure my child's equipment is secure?

There are two things you can do. First, an inexpensive cable lock will prevent skis and snowboards from being taken. The second thing you can do is for the soft goods, such as goggles, hats, etc. Large lockers are available in the lodge. The lockers cost one dollar each time you open them and they can easily fit a large ski equipment bag.

Where do I store my equipment while at school?

For high school students, you will store the equipment in the storage room in the auditorium. The room is located on the stage on the right hand side. The middle school location will be somewhere in the back of the gym.

What about dropping off and picking up my child?

Your child will be brought to the mountain immediately after school. All students will be brought to the high school for pick up at about 10:15pm.

Do I need a helmet?

Yes.

I have a bike helmet, will that do?

Sorry, the only helmets that are allowed are skiing/snowboarding helmets. These will be much more comfortable because they are designed for this type of activity. There is also a considerable safety factor as well. Not all helmets are designed to withstand the same types of impact. For example, a bicycle helmet does not cover the back of the head as completely as a ski/snowboard helmet. Due to these differences, only ski/snowboard helmets will be allowed.

Does Berkshire East rent helmets?

No, they do not. You will need to purchase your own helmet.

My child wants to sit with their friends on the bus, can they switch busses?

Students cannot pick which bus their child is on. While it's completely understandable that kids want to sit with their friends, they have several hours at the mountain where they can socialize. There are many other considerations that take precedence over the social issue. Furthermore, students may have to switch busses during the season if the situation calls for it. Please note that students will always be grouped with their peers.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be academically eligible?

Yes you do. For both the middle and the high school, you must meet the eligibility requirements that are in place to participate in any sport, including the Ski Club. For the middle school, you cannot participate if you are on the D/F list during any term during the Ski Program. If you are found to be ineligible, you will not be allowed to participate and you will not be refunded any money.

What happens on early release days?

If it is a scheduled early release day, we will still be going up at the normal time. This happens because the mixed bus can't go early unless ALL of the students have early release. If it is an early release because of weather conditions, we will **NOT** be going skiing. We will have to use the make-up day instead.

Does the ski club cancel if it is too cold out?

Yes, we have done this in the past. If the temperature is in the single digits, then a cancellation is possible. The chaperones take great care in talking to the students about preventive measures and what to look out for on these exceptionally cold days.

What if my child has special medical concerns?

When filling out the emergency form, please be as specific as possible. This form is used whenever there is a medical situation with a student. This form will be at the first aid area at Berkshire East.

Can my child bring a cell phone in case of emergencies?

Unfortunately, there is almost no cell phone coverage from any companies at this time at Berkshire East. Some people have had luck at the top of the mountain though.

What if I need to contact my child?

The only way is to call Berkshire East and have them page one of the Suffield Chaperones. There will always be chaperones available in the lodge.

How are students placed on the bus?

Students are placed on busses according to their grade level. As much as possible, we try to group students with their peers. The mixed bus is a bus where there is a group of middle school children and high school children on the bus together. When this happens, the oldest middle school grades are on the bus as well as the youngest high school grades. We do not group kids according to their preferences.

What happens if I am late in picking up my child?

If you are not on time, your child will be brought to the Suffield Police Station to be picked up.

Can I pick up my son/daughter at the mountain?

You can, but there are rules and restrictions in place to ensure the safety of your child. You will need to fill out a pick up permission form located on the school website. You must also check in with the chaperones in person at the lodge when you pick up your son/daughter.

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Frequently Asked Questions

I am trying to fill out the ski rental form. How do I know what kind of skier my child is?

There are three types of skiers. Type 1 is the beginner skier. Type 3 is advanced. Type 2 is in between. This information will help the rental shop adjust the bindings appropriately for your child's ability.

I am trying to fill out the snowboard rental form. How do I know what foot goes forward?

This doesn't necessarily correspond to whether your child is right or left handed. The snowboarder wants their dominant foot forward. This can be determined by many methods, including:

- Run through the kitchen or across a hardwood floor in your socks. Suddenly stop and slide. Which foot went in front?
- When you're riding downhill on a bike and stand up on the pedals, which foot do you put in front?
- Kick a ball. Whichever foot you kicked the ball with should be your front foot.
- In the end, it should be whichever your child is most comfortable with. If it doesn't feel right, they can always go back to the shop and have it changed.

My child left a piece of clothing/equipment in the lodge. Is there anything I can do?

You can do two things. First, call the mountain and ask for the information desk. They will be able to let you know if anything was left that matches the description. In the past, they have used a 2 week cycle where they donate anything that remains unclaimed.

Why does the ski club cost so much?

Actually, it is significantly less expensive than if you were to do this on your own. If you compare how much it would cost to buy 6 lift tickets and drive up yourself (including gas, etc.) then you'll realize what a good deal this is. It is an even better savings if you consider rentals and lessons. Any savings that the ski club gets are passed along directly to you.

For any questions regarding payment/financial hardship, contact Bob Lowell
at blowell@suffield.org

What happens if my student gets injured at Berkshire East?

The first stop for any injured student is to take them to the medical area at the mountain to be evaluated by professionals. If it is that isn't too serious, the problem will be treated and that will be the end of it. If it is more serious, we will contact the parents of the student. On rare occasions, it may be severe enough to require a trip to the local hospital. You can find directions and more information in the documents section of the website.

Is the student ski pass good for Friday only?

Yes, it is only good for when the school goes up together. The passes are collected at the end of each trip.

Does the pricing include transportation?

Yes, all packages include bus transportation to and from the mountain.