

North Bethesda Middle School PTO, Inc.

2017 Ski Club Information

**** IMPORTANT – YOU MUST READ THIS IN ITS ENTIRETY, EVEN IF RETURNING ****

Before the Ski Season Begins

- **Registering For Ski Club:** All students who wish to participate in the NBMS PTO Ski Club *must* register for and pay for a seat. **Online registration is at 7pm on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 and seats are limited.** Students must also buy a Night Club Card from Liberty Mountain and complete all required paperwork prior to October 28th, 2016. ***Refer to “7 EASY STEPS TO SKI CLUB REGISTRATION” document for complete details.***
- **Night Club Card:** All registered students *must* purchase a Night Club Card on the Liberty Mountain website: <http://www.libertymountainresort.com/ncclogin> using the following credentials [Club Name: N Bethesda | Password: member]. This card must be presented during all scheduled Ski Club trips to receive a lift ticket, lessons, and/or equipment rentals (depending on the option you purchase. Discounted helmets (you must wear one), Advantage Cards (additional discounts), and a fee protection plan are available for purchase. Please refer to “7 EASY STEPS TO SKI CLUB REGISTRATION” document for complete details. Night Club Cards will be distributed at NBMS in mid-December. **The Night Club Card is valid on any night (starting at 4pm Mon-Sat, at 3pm Sun) from January 2, 2017 through the last day of the 2017 season, at Liberty (Carroll Valley, PA), Roundtop (Lewisberry, PA), and Whitetail (Mercersburg, PA) ski resorts.**
- **Snow Sport Helmets are MANDATORY:** All participants (students and chaperones) *must* wear a snow sports helmet while on the slopes. Helmets designed for bicycling, skateboarding, or other sports are not allowed. No participant will be permitted on the bus departing NBMS for Liberty without a snow sports helmet in their possession. **Any Ski Club participant observed on the slopes without a helmet will lose his/her lift ticket for the night. Repeat offenders may be expelled from the Ski Club without refund.** Helmets are available for purchase at a discounted price when buying your Night Club Card. These helmets will be distributed at NBMS in mid-December
- **First-Time and Beginner Skiers/Boarders:** Students who have never skied/boarded or are considered beginners are definitely welcome! Professional lessons and rental equipment (except helmets) are options that may be added to the Night Club Card. **Skiing or boarding when you don’t know what you’re doing is neither fun nor safe.** Chaperones will help students secure their rental equipment at Liberty, and then direct them to where lessons start at 5:45pm or 7:00pm. However, it is the sole responsibility of the student to show up to their lesson and to participate in their lesson, as well as choose to ski/board on trails designed for beginner skiers/boarders.
- **Bus Buddy Requests:** During online registration, we offer every student the opportunity to choose **up to three (3) friends of the same grade** to ride with on the same bus. We will make every effort to accommodate requests, but cannot guarantee placement. To improve chances of placement, have each person in the group list the same people. Bus assignments will be posted at NBMS in mid-December.

Before Each Ski Club Trip

- **Safety & Decision-Making Discussion:** Parents and students together should read and discuss the information contained in this Information Packet, as well as the MCPS policies for student behavior, North Bethesda Ski Club Behavioral Expectations, and the Liberty Mountain Code of Conduct and Responsibility Code. In addition, we encourage all parents and students to have this discussion every week:

Ten Decisions Made Every Week by North Bethesda Ski Club Participants

1. Do I rent skis or a snowboard tonight?
 2. Do I take lessons tonight? If yes, at what time?
 3. What lifts and runs will I use tonight?
 4. Will I use the terrain park tonight?
 5. With whom will I ski/board, and what is their ability compared to mine?
 6. If my friends want to ski/board on a run that I'm not familiar, what will I do?
 7. If I get separated from my friends while on the mountain, what will I do?
 8. Will I ski in control or unsafely?
 9. Will I drink high-caffeine energy drinks?
 10. How will I behave on the bus, in the lodge, and on the mountain?
- **Cancelled Trips:** If NBMS is closed or closes early on the day of a Ski Club trip, that trip is cancelled. In addition, the PTO Leadership Team may decide to cancel a trip due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Notices regarding cancellation will be posted on the NBMS PTO Website (www.nbms-pt.org) and sent to all e-mail addresses provided during online registration. We have scheduled one make-up date (if needed). There are no refunds for missed ski club trips, regardless of reason.
 - **Ski Gear and Bag Storage:** Two storage pods are available in the school's lower parking lot during morning drop-off from 7:30 AM to 8:20 AM on ski trip days. Upon arrival, you may bring one bag of ski clothing/helmet and (if using your own equipment) one set of skis/poles or snowboard, and one pair of boots to the storage area. No loose items are allowed – they must be packed in a bag for storage. The storage pods will be locked during the school day. **All items must be tagged with the participant's name, home or cell phone number. The bag must also have a colored hang-tag provided by the Ski Club to designate the bus your student will be riding.** All items will be removed from the pod and placed in bus-specific piles by Chaperones before students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. **Students are solely responsible for moving their bag and gear onto the bus before boarding.** Any leftover items will be placed in the storage pod, and accessible again during the next trip. Unfortunately, we can't open the storage pods at any other time. Neither the PTO nor NBMS are responsible for lost or stolen items.

- **Bus Transportation:** Chartered buses will depart NBMS at 3:15 pm and return to NBMS as early as 11:00 pm. Any student late for departing NBMS must secure his/her own transportation to get to Liberty. For departure from Liberty, **students must return to the buses by 9:40 pm** so that equipment can be stowed and attendance taken. Any student late for department Liberty is subject to loss of Ski Club privileges. **PARENTS MUST ARRIVE AT NBMS BY 11:00 PM FOR STUDENT PICK-UP.** We ask students to call you when we are 10 minutes from campus; however, you are solely responsible for being on time and for transporting your student home. Any student who is not picked up on time is subject to loss of future Ski Club privileges.

- **Not Riding the Bus Back Home?** If a student is not going to ride the bus back to NBMS from Liberty, he or she must give their bus's lead chaperone a dated note signed by the student's parent or guardian while on the bus ride up to Liberty. If a parent later decides to pick-up their child at Liberty, the student must physically hand a dated note signed by the student's parent or guardian to an NBMS adult chaperone in the main lodge. **NO VERBAL CONFIRMATIONS ARE ALLOWED.** Any student who does not follow this protocol and leaves Liberty without a written note in the Ski Club's possession is subject to loss of future Ski Club privileges. **We will not leave Liberty Mountain until all students are accounted for – please do not be the parent/student who makes everyone late back to NBMS while we call every emergency number trying to figure out where your student is located.** Thanks!

- **What To Wear:** Students should bring clothing appropriate for skiing/boarding in snow. **Check the night before for the predicted temperature and precipitation (rain? snow?) for 5pm to 9pm in Carroll Valley, PA.** A snow sport helmet, layered clothing, water-resistant pants, water-resistant winter coat, water-resistant winter gloves/mittens, socks, and snow sport goggles are recommended for all skiers and boarders.

- **Backpacks & Instruments:** Students have to bring all of their personal belongings on the bus with them, including school backpacks and instruments. There will be no access to the school or the storage PODs on Friday night when we return. They can stow all items in the bus cargo hold. Locker rentals are also available at Liberty. **Valuables such as electronics or money should not be left in the passenger or cargo areas of the bus!** Neither the PTO nor NBMS are responsible for lost or stolen items.

- **Food & Drinks:** Students are encouraged to pack and carry their own snacks, and even a meal if they wish. **All participants should have some type of after-school snack or meal packed for eating on the bus between 3:15 - 4:45 PM.** Skiing is an athletic activity and being well nourished and hydrated before and during skiing is important! It's nice to have a small snack and bottle of water for the ride home too.

- **Money:** Students should bring sufficient money for food, drinks, and incidental expenses at Liberty. **We recommend between \$10 to \$20 per night**, depending on your needs. Locker rentals range from \$3 to \$8, depending on size (many students share the larger lockers) and require exact change. Dinner prices range from \$7 to \$15, depending on selection. **Chaperones are not able to loan money.** You may load money on your Night Club Card and treat it like a Debit Card. Visit the Ski Liberty website for details.

On Each Ski Club Trip

- **Chaperones:** Both adult and high school-aged chaperones wearing bright blue North Bethesda Ski club jackets will be at NBMS for bus loading, on the buses, at the lift ticket line, in the rental areas, and at the bottom of the slopes to provide direction. Students will also find them in the lodge and on the slopes throughout the evening if they need help or have a question. ***Chaperones, however, are not supervising students while skiing or boarding at Liberty Mountain.*** With 100 acres of skiable terrain, participants are “on their own” while on the mountain at Liberty. Ski Patrol and lift operators are trained professionals who assist skiers and boarders as needed. Students ***must*** follow all Liberty Mountain rules and codes of conduct while on property. Any student who does not is subject to loss of future Ski Club privileges.
- **Lift Tickets:** Upon arrival at Liberty Mountain, chaperones will direct students and provide assistance in the lift ticket lines. **You must have your Night Club Card in your possession to receive a lift ticket and to get rental equipment.** If you lost or misplaced your Night Club Card, alert your bus’s lead chaperone when you get on the bus. Liberty will provide a one-time ticket at the Group Sales Office if you forget your card, which can take up to 30 minutes. Lost cards or forgetting your card a second time requires you pay \$25 to get a new card at the Group Sales Office.
- **Rentals:** All Ski Club students who do bring their own ski/board equipment ***must*** purchase the rental option on their Night Club Card. **No cash rentals will be permitted.** Chaperones will direct students and provide assistance in the ski and board rental areas. However, it is the sole responsibility of the student to secure, properly use, store, and return all rental equipment to Liberty Mountain.
- **Lessons:** Whether you are new to skiing/boarding or have been enjoying it for years, Liberty’s skilled instructors make your time on the snow the best it can be. **Small group lessons are available every night at 5:45pm (most common choice), and 7:00pm.** Each lesson is one hour in length and includes several runs. Best of all, you go to the front of the lift line when you’re with a ski instructor! Additional information about lessons are available on the Ski Liberty website.

Friends not taking lessons, or encourage you to skip it? Hard to do the opposite, but we know you will be making the right choice by taking lessons at Liberty! **All lesson takers will have their lift ticket punched by the instructor.** We encourage parents to incentivize their students to complete their lessons.

- **Skiing Alone – Don’t Do It:** No one should ever ski or snow board alone. Please make sure you meet up with a friend on the slopes, or join an existing group of skiers or boarders at your ability level. This is a club, and no one should be excluded from joining in with others. **If you find yourself without a "ski buddy," please ask a chaperone for assistance in locating a group.** Best place to find similar skilled participants? Lessons!

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DECISIONS WHILE AT LIBERTY MOUNTAIN. CHAPERONES DO NOT SUPERVISE OR SKI WITH STUDENTS IN GROUPS. WE ARE THERE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED.

A Word About Safety – READ THIS WITH YOUR STUDENT!

- The NBMS PTO, Ski Club, volunteer Chaperones, bus drivers, and Liberty Mountain staff all take skier and boarder safety very seriously.
- **We need parents and students to take safety very seriously as well. Seriously.**
- Each year, **at least one student gets hurt** while participating in Ski Club. Sometimes it's minor. Sometimes it's very serious. In almost every case, the student wasn't being safe. In all cases, it is the student's sole responsibility to act in a safe manner at all times.
- That's why we emphasize with great passion the behavioral expectations, code of conduct, and responsibility code. **But we can only do so much – we need parents to emphasize these things with their children. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SMART!**
- **Chaperones are not supervising your children while they ski/board.** With more than 100 acres of terrain, the chaperones cannot be more than a resource for Ski Club members. Ski Patrol and Lift Operators are "in charge" on the mountain.
- We highly encourage you to go through the Ten Questions on page 2 **before every trip.** Help your child make the right decisions before they head to the mountain. They will thank you for it when they return home in great shape. And so will the Chaperones!
- Please also read and review the North Bethesda Ski Club Behavioral Expectations, Liberty Mountain Code of Conduct, and Skier/Boarder Responsibility Code on the next page.
- **READ THIS → Should a participant become injured or sick while on an North Bethesda Ski Club trip, every effort will be made by the NBMS PTO, volunteer Chaperones, and Liberty Mountain personnel to seek appropriate medical treatment and/or hospitalization. Parents and/or designated emergency contacts will be called, as time permits, should such actions be necessary. Parents may be required to drive up to Liberty Mountain or a hospital (Gettysburg, Frederick, or Baltimore – wherever the doctor or ambulance decides to bring them) to provide transportation home to their child. A chaperone will always accompany the student to the hospital, authorize any medical care on your behalf, and wait with the student until the parent arrives. ← READ THIS**

2017 Scheduled Ski Club Dates

- Friday, January 6, 2017
- Friday, January 13, 2017
- Thursday, January 19, 2017
- Friday, February 3, 2017
- Friday, February 10, 2017
- Friday, February 24, 2017 (Make-Up Day, if needed)

North Bethesda Ski Club Behavioral Expectations

All Ski Club members are expected to adhere to all MCPS and Liberty Mountain rules and codes, and always be safe, cooperative and respectful. Always!

These behaviors are **absolutely unacceptable**, and are cause for loss of Ski Club privileges:

- Threatening, abusive, obscene, or violent language, gestures, or behavior.
- Throwing of anything on the bus or out of a bus window.
- Refusal to sit properly and remain seated on the bus, or refusal to use safety belt (if there is a safety belt in a seat, it must be used).
- Vandalism, graffiti, or defacement of the bus in any way.
- Any inappropriate use of the on-board bus bathroom.
- Interfering with the bus driver or the safe operation of the bus.
- Drug, alcohol, or tobacco use.
- Sexual activity of any kind.
- Refusal to cooperate with a chaperone's direct request.
- Violation of the Liberty Mountain Code of Conduct or Skier/Boarder Responsibility Code.
- Leaving the immediate vicinity of the lodge and slopes. *Shuttle buses and the tubing area "Boulder Ridge" are strictly off limits.*
- Pranks, practical jokes, use of novelties, etc., that threaten the safety or well-being of self or others, or that create a perception thereof.

Liberty Mountain Code of Conduct

- Be courteous and polite to other guests and employees at all time.
- Ski/board in a safe, responsible manner.
- Don't ski/board fast or in a reckless manner.
- Observe all posted signs.
- Do not use foul or offensive language, comments, or gestures.
- Do not throw snowballs or other items at any time or place, including from lifts or in the lift lines.
- Understand and abide by the "Skier/Boarder Responsibility Code" at all times.

Skier/Boarder Responsibility Code

1. Always stay in control and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead or downhill of you have right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
5. Always use devices to prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the ability to load and unload safely. Do not jump from the lift. In the event of a prolonged stoppage, the Ski Patrol will evacuate you.
8. Do not go down trails that are too difficult for your ability.
9. If you have a collision resulting in injury to another person, you must stay with that person until Ski Patrol arrives.

2017 SKI CLUB PARTICIPANT'S PERMISSION FORM AND WAIVER AGREEMENT

**** IMPORANT – YOU MUST READ, SIGN, AND TURN IN THESE 2 PAGES AFTER REGISTERING****

I, the undersigned, as the parent or legal guardian of the participant (student) _____, who is in _____ grade at North Bethesda Middle School (“NBMS”), give permission for my child to participate fully in the North Bethesda Middle School Parent Teacher Organization, Inc. (“NBMS PTO”)’s 2017 Ski Club activities, and to travel by chartered bus from NBMS, Bethesda, MD, to Liberty Mountain Resort, Carroll Valley, PA, and back to NBMS, on the following dates: January 6, January 13, January 19, February 3, February 10, and (if needed) February 24, 2017, and any other make-up dates, if scheduled by the NBMS PTO.

I, the undersigned, fully understand and agree to the following:

Operations and Rules

- Ski Club buses depart NBMS promptly after school dismissal, no later than **3:15 PM**. Parents are solely responsible for transportation from NBMS should their child miss the afternoon bus departure. Participants will return by bus to NBMS as early as **11:00 PM**. Parents are solely responsible for being at NBMS **before the buses arrive back** from Liberty, and transporting the child home after Ski Club. **PARTICIPANTS WHOSE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE LATE FOR THE PICK-UP AT NBMS ARE SUBJECT TO THE LOSS OF SKI CLUB PRIVILEGES WITHOUT REFUND.**
- Any participant who was transported up to Liberty Mountain by Ski Club bus, but has made other arrangements for transportation back to NBMS or home **must** provide his or her bus chaperone with a **signed and dated** note from the parent indicating permission not to ride the bus back to Bethesda. No verbal requests will be accepted. **PARTICIPANTS WHO LEAVE LIBERTY MOUNTAIN WITHOUT A SIGNED AND DATED NOTE ARE SUBJECT TO THE LOSS OF SKI CLUB PRIVILEGES WITHOUT REFUND.**
- **All Ski Club trips are made on a “weather-permitting” basis, and only on dates where NBMS is in session until regular closing bell.** A decision may be made by the NBMS PTO to cancel any scheduled trip due to weather conditions or other unforeseen adverse circumstances. Notice of trip cancellation will be posted on the NBMS PTO website and sent to e-mail addresses provided during the registration process.
- Ski Club participants are expected to adhere to **all MCPS policies for student behavior** as described in the NBMS Student Handbook and other MCPS publications. Ski Club participants are expected to adhere also to the **North Bethesda Ski Club Behavioral Expectations, Liberty Mountain Code of Conduct, and Skier/Boarder Responsibility Code**. All Ski Club participants must wear a snow sports helmet while on the mountain. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE POLICIES, EXPECTATIONS, AND CODES MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF SKI CLUB PRIVILEGES, FROM ONE NIGHT UP TO AND INCLUDING EXPULSION FROM THE SKI CLUB, WITHOUT REFUND.** Additionally, participants may be referred to NBMS administrators for additional adjudication per MCPS guidelines.
- **The NBMS PTO Ski Club registration fee covers the cost of bus transportation and club administration only.** All other expenses, including but not limited to the Night Club Card (lift tickets, lessons, and/or rentals), optional fees, helmet, winter clothing, food and drinks, locker rentals, and, if needed, medical care and/or emergency transportation, are the sole responsibility of the parent and participant.
- The NBMS PTO and its volunteer Chaperones **do not take responsibility for the decisions made by participants**, including but not limited to their choice of activities while at Liberty Mountain, choice of rental equipment (skis or snowboard, regardless of what they signed up for initially), choice of trails or terrain, attendance at lessons, and/or choice of food and drinks. **The NBMS PTO and its volunteer Chaperones do not monitor, supervise, or take any responsibility or liability for participant activity or choices while at Liberty Mountain.** Parents and participants are solely responsible for all choices made.
- Participants are expected to manage their time, money, equipment, and personal belongings themselves. Each participant is personally responsible for securing their belongings and purchasing food, drinks, and...

...other incidentals. While Chaperones are numerous (about 1 per 12-15 participants) and available as much as possible, and Liberty Mountain personnel are also numerous and available as much as possible, **each participant is considered “on their own” while at Liberty Mountain**, particularly while skiing or boarding on the mountain. **All participants are highly encouraged not to ski/board alone at any time.**

- **The NBMS PTO Ski Club registration fee is not tax deductible, and is non-refundable regardless of reason.** The optional Night Club Card protection plan offered by Liberty Mountain does not cover this fee.

Health, Safety, and Property Damage or Loss

- The sports of skiing and snowboarding (collectively “recreational snow sports”), which includes the use of snow sports equipment, mechanized chair and other lifts, are **DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES WITH INHERENT AND OTHER RISKS THAT COULD LEAD TO PERMANENT CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR DEATH. INJURIES ARE A COMMON AND ORDINARY OCCURRENCE OF RECREATIONAL SNOW SPORTS**, and therefore I freely and voluntarily assume for myself and/or the minor I am representing all of the risks involved.
- **A snow sports helmet must be used at all times while skiing or boarding.** While such use may help reduce the risk of some types of injuries, **SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH STILL CAN RESULT** from both low-energy and high-energy impacts, and therefore I freely and voluntarily assume for myself and/or the minor I am representing all of the risks involved.
- **As parent or legal guardian of the participant named, I do hereby grant the NBMS PTO and its volunteer Chaperones the right to authorize emergency medical treatment, transportation, and/or hospitalization for my child** in the event that I or my designated emergency contact cannot be reached at the telephone numbers provided by me during registration, and/or such care is deemed critical to the health and well-being of my child, thereby providing no time to make such contact with me or my designated emergency contact. **I assume full responsibility for any such action, including payment of all costs related to the medical treatment, transportation, and/or hospitalization of my child.** I also acknowledge and agree that the Good Samaritan Acts of Maryland and Pennsylvania apply in all cases.
- I agree **TO HOLD HARMLESS, TO NOT SUE, TO INDEMNIFY, TO DEFEND, AND TO RELEASE FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY**, the NBMS PTO and all of its directors, agents, suppliers, and volunteers (collectively “providers”), including any and all liability arising out of an accident, loss, or emergency medical situation or that otherwise results in injury, death, emotional distress, or property loss or damage from participation in the North Bethesda Ski Club, participation in recreational snow sports, and/or results from the negligence of providers or any other person or cause. Providers are not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of equipment or personal belongings.
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, the minor that I am representing is in good health, physically fit, and able to participate fully in this activity. Should this change at any time during the time period of this activity, I will take full responsibility for removing the participant from the activity.

I, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to the above, and have reviewed all information provided in the 2017 NBMS PTO Ski Club Information packet. I understand and agree that I am signing on behalf of myself and/or the minor child I am representing, and all other parents/guardians, agreeing to be legally bound hereto.

Student Name (Print) Date of Birth (MM-DD-YY) Grade

Student Signature Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (Print) Relationship to Participant

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature Date