

TO: Parents & Guardians of Blue Hills Skiers and Snowboarders
FROM: Dale Connor, Norwell Recreation Director
DATE: Ski Program 2010
RE: Important Program Information

Welcome to the Blue Hills Skiing & Snowboarding Lessons. The 5-lesson program starts Wednesday, January 6 and ends Feb 3 (or until 5 lessons are completed – no Feb vacation). Please remember to leave Wednesdays open for our make-up date(s) should one of the other weeks be cancelled by Norwell Recreation or Blue Hills due to weather.

Below is some information that should be helpful and answer many questions. Should you have other questions that are unanswered, just call us at 781-659-8046 Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where and when do we meet the bus? The bus leaves from and returns to the Recreation Office side parking lot – Town Offices Building, 345 Main Street. It is available for boarding from 3:10-3:25 p.m. **THE BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY AT 3:25p.m.** [This probably means you'll need to release kids early from Cole] Please do not drop off any participants before 3:10 p.m. We **return at 7:00 p.m. (1ST week @ 7:15p)** If we run a few minutes late, we are probably just “stuck in traffic”, just wait for us and we'll be home soon! We ask that you be prompt and not make us wait as we have had a long day and are cold, tired, and hungry! **Please do not have kids bring electronic gear there is no safe storage.** We cannot be responsible and loss or theft is possible if left on the bus or in the lodge.

Who are the chaperones? Dale Connor, Recreation Director; Judy Volpe, Recreation Program Coordinator; Jeff Volpe (Judy's husband) have chaperoned for more than 20 years; if a parent would like to help out, let us know by Dec 9. Our many years of experience and training will help to make this a great experience for your children. Encourage them to discuss problems and direct questions to any of us. We're there to help them!

What should my child wear? As with all outdoor winter sports – dress in layers. Although it may be sunny and warm when we leave at 3:25 p.m., it can be very cold and windy on even a small mountain after sundown. Outer layers should be wind and water-resistant. **Helmets are highly recommended.** Remember, if no helmet, hats are a necessity as are a good pair of ski mittens or gloves! No student will be allowed to be on the hill without gloves, hat, ski jacket, pants & mittens/gloves.

Why do participants have to wear the gold “Norwell Recreation” vest? It is a simple and effective way for Blue Hills staff & our chaperones to identify Norwell participants. A couple hundred children from various towns participate in the junior program on Wednesdays. Often there is also over 100 additional ski racers there. In ski clothes it is difficult to identify the ones we are responsible for. The vests are a BIG HELP and must be worn until we are back on the bus.

How many and how long are the lessons? This program includes 5 group lessons each 1½ hours long. Lessons start at 4:15 p.m. and end at 5:45 p.m.

Who are the instructors? Instructors are hired and trained by Blue Hills.

Can my child ski or ride in the same class with their friend? Participants are tested by instructors and assigned to classes based on their skill levels. If you are not in a class with your friend, think of it as a chance to make some new friends! Instructors decide when to move a child to a new level. Also keep in mind that levels are relative – therefore a level 3 at Blue Hills may not be the same as a level 3 at your favorite mountain up north.

May my child switch from skiing to snowboarding or vice versa? Yes, if they decide by Dec. 9, before they start lessons. No, if after that date or if lessons have already started.

Will my child be able to “make up” a class missed for illness or other personal reason? No, the “make-up date(s)” are reserved for when the entire Norwell group makes up a cancelled date during the 5-week season.

If my child cannot attend a lesson, may I send a sibling or friend? No. Each lesson is a progression series and is for the registrant only. All students must sign-up for the entire series.

How will I know if you cancel a day due to weather? *Presume* the lessons are on unless we call you. Snowmaking capabilities are much improved. But, if either Blue Hills or Norwell Recreation cancels due to weather, we will announce at each school (if school is in session) and email the address you register with (or call parents at home or work). We make every attempt to talk to a parent about a cancellation so they can make appropriate alternative plans. Please remember to check your emails or answering machines on questionable days. Do not presume that a school “snow day” means a cancelled ski lesson day. We will make decisions based on conditions at around noontime. You may call the Recreation Office to check on the status after 12pm on any lesson day – 781-659-8046.

My child needs to rent equipment. Will there be help for him/her? Yes, a Norwell chaperone accompanies renters to the appropriate area and, with Blue Hills staff, assist them in learning how to fasten boots and carry equipment to their lesson area.

My child has his/her own equipment. Is there help for them? Again, a chaperone will accompany Norwell kids to the lodge and assist them in getting ready for their lesson. BUT each participant must be able to carry their own equipment from the bus to the lodge (up the hill) and back. We suggest that parents invest in a ski tote, bag, strap, or carrier of some sort to make this task easier. It is also a good idea to *practice at home before the first lesson day!*

Will my child have time for any free skiing – time for a couple of runs on their own? No. This program requires all participants to **remain with their instructor for the entire time on the mountain.**

[However, if *this lesson program does not fill the bus*, we will take experienced - top to bottom skiers / snowboarders in Grades 6-10. If you would like to be on an “interested” list for this, call the Recreation Office 781.659.8046.]

Where does my child meet the chaperones at the end of lessons? Each child should meet the chaperones inside the lodge at the end of their lesson and after they have returned any rental equipment. The entire group will then proceed to their bus. No child should try to find the appropriate bus on their own.

Will my child have time for a snack? We encourage a small, simple snack before the program - at home or on the bus (Please remember, no bus littering though!). We also encourage snacks from home for after lessons. Only if there is time and lodge space will we allow children to go to the snack bar. We must leave the ski lodge by 6:10 p.m. to get home on time. Ski lodge snack bars can be a bit expensive – please plan for it! (Chaperones do not “loan” money.) A backpack makes carrying personal items easier. They may be left in the rental barn or lodge during lessons.

What is the refund policy should I want to “drop out”? If you drop before the Dec 9 deadline, you will get a total refund. If it is **after** the December 9 deadline and we cannot replace from a wait-list, no refunds are given. If we are able to find a replacement from the wait-list, you will be charged a \$10 processing fee. No refunds are available after the start of the program.