Hello!!!

It’s that time of year again – the snow is blowing, winter break is over, and we’re all writing the wrong year on our recaps by accident… it must be SnoBlaster Season! If you’re getting this email, then you are scheduled for Saturday SnoBlasters in January! This program, if you haven’t worked in it before, runs for the next four weekends. You will have the same group of students for all four days, providing plenty of time to build a great relationship as you their skiing/riding.

**Every week there will be a meeting at 7:45 AM in the SnoBlaster Room. We appreciate instructors to attend when poosible.**

                We will go over finer points of SnoBlasters, our expectations of instructors, and rules and processes specific to this program. Here are a couple key points about the program this year, followed by a run-down of the Day 1 check-in process.

**Instructor Role During Check-In**

Greet *everyone* you see. These are all guests at our resort and in our program and it is our job to make them feel welcome and accommodated. Ask how they’re doing, if they have what they need, and what you can do to help. I cannot stress enough how much this first impression will affect their entire SnoBlaster experience.

**Rentals**

**Boots**

While instructors are at their table during check-in, please bring kids to get their boots at the Rental Station as they arrive. Instructors will bring the boots back to their table with the child to try them on. If there are any sizing issues, immediately return boots and child to the Rental Station.

**Helmets**

Helmets are required for all SnoBlasters and are available at the Rental Station. The Rental Team will fit helmets to students each day. This means they will be returned in the afternoon before kids head home.

**Skis & Boards**

Skis and snowboards will be waiting on snow outside the Blaster Room at numbers corresponding to each table. Keep this in mind when greeting guests, as their gear will be at their original number if they change tables in the morning.

**Poles**

                Use of poles will be up to instructors. If an instructor decides that your students are ready for them, please bring them to the Rental Station early to be sized for them. Pole plants are not necessary to the Day 1 assessment process, so unless your students brought their own, we will not be issuing poles until at least the afternoon of Day 1.

**Tables**

                Each child will be assigned to a table when they arrive. Each table will have a **Home Instructor** (an experienced Snoblaster instructor to help lead your table to greatness) and other instructors assigned to it. On the morning of the first day (this weekend!), each table will head out onto snow together to assess students’ ability levels and eventually split by lunch.

Home Instructors will help facilitate the grouping process. **Instructors must get approval from your Home Instructor before finalizing your group.**

**Student-snaking** (picking the kids you want and skiing off) will *not* be tolerated.

**Terrain Parks**

                Before an instructor brings their group into a terrain park, they must go over Smart Style with them. They must also take an Outside-In approach to freestyle. This means working on freestyle skills and movements on natural terrain before taking them to a terrain park.  If you have already been through the freestyle training during rehire, you do ***not*** need to ask permission before entering the small parks (mini pipe & the zoo). That being said we are happy to be “the bad guy” and tell your class they cannot go into the park until they have done XYZ, (just give us a heads up first).

**Lunch**

Lessons will be on snow for two hours in the morning, and two hours in the afternoon. When groups come in for lunch, instructors should be sure all of their students are situated and comfortable before leaving to get their own lunch. A handful of students will have purchased the lunch which they can go get from the Vertical North, Most kids will have brought their own lunch from home.

Unfortunately this year we will be unable to provide lunch for instructors.  But we highly encourage eating and visiting with your students once you get your own lunch.

**SnoBlasters – Check-In Process**

**6:00 – Supervisor, Leads, and Gatekeeper arrive**

- Corral is set up

- Skis are moved to snow and grouped by class.

**7:00 – Support Staff and Core Crew arrive**

- Quick meeting w/ Rachel & Tracy, then start getting room ready

**7:45 – Morning meeting for all Instructors (Booted up & ready to go)**

- Go over table assignments

- Run through the day

- Home Table Instructors meet with Rachel

**8:00 – Parents and students begin to arrive**

- Gatekeeper posts up at corner of building

o Opens entrance to corral

o Greets parents and SnoBlasters

o Directs to group number to drop skis, SnoBlaster room

- Parents hand in signed liability waiver and rental form

- To alleviate bottlenecking at sign-in, Attendants and available

Instructors will provide pens and clipboards with waivers to parents in line who may have forgotten them

- Attendant signs them in, then fills out and hands parent a wristband with their name (1st name, last initial) and

o Group Organizers will be given wristbands ahead of time, so their students should already have them on. These wristbands

will be unique to their group (Lake Oswego, West Linn, etc.) and will be the same for the full 4 weeks)

- Parents and students are then directed to their assigned table. Each table will have several instructors, and will split on snow during the morning of the first day.

- Students or parents will go see the Rental Tech Lead (RTL) where

their boots will be labeled with their first name and last initial

- Any rental equipment/fit issues are brought to RTL

**9:15 – All Instructors return to SnoBlaster room and meet their classes**

- Greet students at table

- Check for lift ticket or Season Pass, bring any issues to Sales Desk

- Check student’s gear (esp. boots and skis), bringing any rental issues

to RTL

- Help with jackets, gloves, goggles, etc.

**9:45 – Bundle up and head outside**

            - Hand filled-out class card to Card Collector at door

- Classes will retrieve skis/boards at numbered group sign on snow

- Double-check equipment

**10:00 – All classes on snow!**

**12:30ish – Final groups return for lunch**

            - Complete new class card with final group list

**3:00pm – End of the Day**,

-(many  children come on the bus, and are worried the bus will leave them behind if they are not on time, please reassure them they will not be left if your class is a few minutes late.)

**After the Kids Leave**

-Please buckle your kid’s rental boots and leave it on your table

-Finalize class card, (names first & last, table number, what you worked on, etc.

-Turn in Recap & Class card to the back desk.

**Trailblazers, High School, College, or Adult Programs**

If scheduled for Trailblazers, High School, College, or Adult Programs you will meet in the adult program meeting area (next to adult line-up) at 8:45 for a morning meeting. If scheduled for Trailblazers, High School, College, or Adult Programs, you will have the same group of students for the next 4 Saturdays or Sundays.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks for being the Best in the West!!

Rachel Jones

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