

Bogus Basin Winter Yurt Manual

Introduction

This manual will provide you with important information concerning the use of the yurt at Bogus Basin and your pre-trip preparation. It is essential that you and all members of your party read through this information before embarking on a yurt trip. Please be aware that travel by ski, snowshoe, or foot has inherent risk involved. Travel to and from and use of the yurt is done at your own risk.

BACKGROUND

The yurt at Bogus Basin provides residents of the Treasure Valley with an affordable and convenient “winter camping” experience. It represents one of Bogus Basin’s recent efforts to offer more opportunities for area residents to enjoy the mountain on a year round basis. To accomplish this, we utilized a Boise National Forest grant and relied upon the cooperation of numerous volunteers who provided a great deal of labor.

Reservation Information

Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis and secured online at www.bogusbasin.org.

Reservations are from 2:00 pm with check out time at 1:00 pm.

Maximum number of persons sleeping in yurts is 12.

TRIP PLANNING

Carefully read this material and evaluate yourself and your party. If you feel confident that you have the skills and knowledge to undertake a yurt tour safely, follow these steps:

- Check equipment lists (suggested lists are included) prior to departing. Make sure everyone in your party is properly prepared, including the possibility of spending the night outdoors.
- Check the weather forecast. Even though the Bogus Basin yurt is relatively close to the mountain’s lodges, your preparation for weather variables is important since the patrol and service hours at Bogus Basin is not a 24 hour service.
- Before departing, make sure your vehicle can withstand cold winter temperature as low as –30 degrees Fahrenheit. No permit is required to park in the maintained parking areas at Bogus Basin. **PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR FACING INTO THE HILL/OR EAST SIDE OF THE PARKING LOT FACING THE LODGE!**

DOGS AND SNOWMOBILES

Dogs are not allowed in the yurt in the winter months (During the ski season – approx. mid-November – mid April). The trail system is for Nordic skiers and snowshoers. It is illegal to operate a snowmobile on the trail system at Bogus Basin. This use is reserved for Bogus Basin patrol and service and maintenance crews only.

ROUTES TO YURT

A detailed description of yurt routes is found in Nordic trail guide and map. We recommend you first learn the location of the yurt by taking a day trip prior to your reservation. The yurt is located approximately 2/3 of a mile from Frontier Point Lodge and is in close proximity to the solar lit night skiing loop. The simplest route is to go out the Nordic Highway past Exit A and B, turning downhill at the fourth trail to your left, marked by a sign indicating Yurt/The Flush/Lower Loop. It is important to recognize that you are likely to encounter a variety of other skiers and snowshoers on your trip to and from the yurt. Knowledge of proper trail etiquette will be useful.

Before your first yurt trip, we recommend:

- Print a copy of the yurt map from our web site (www.bogusbasin.org). They are available at the Nordic Center during winter months. All adults in your group should have a copy of the map.
- Go on a day trip to familiarize yourself with surrounding landmarks and learn route-finding tricks that will help you locate the yurt again.
- Use common sense and err on the safe side. Keep your party together.
- Always be prepared. If for some reason you don't find the yurt, carry the equipment and clothing necessary to spend the night outdoors.

START EARLY

Travel time into the yurt will vary greatly depending upon the individuals in your group. Although the distance to the yurt is not extensive and the elevation gain is minimal snow conditions will vary. Your reservation begins at 2:00pm with checkout on the day of your departure at 1:00pm. It is highly recommended that you be on the trail no later than 3:00pm. Daylight is short in the winter; sunset can be at 5:00pm. Getting to the yurt and setting up is a much easier task during daylight hours. Once you arrive at the yurt, you may have to dig out the yurt and toilet.

CONDITION OF YURT UPON ARRIVAL

It is possible that a yurt can be damaged by extreme weather conditions, which are common in Idaho's mountains. High winds, heavy snow storms, falling branches from trees, and accumulation of snow on the yurt walls could cause rips, tears and/or partial or total collapse. It is also possible that the yurt can be vandalized or items stolen. These possibilities point out the need to be well prepared. In particular, be prepared to spend the night outdoors if necessary. **Please report any damage or problems to the staff at the Nordic Center: 208-332-5390 or 208-332-5190.**

DIGGING OUT YURTS

It is important to keep the yurt decks clear of snow, especially to the yurt door. If snow is allowed to build up people may not be able to get into the yurt. We ask that everyone using the yurts pitch in and help keep them snow free. The snow shovels are normally easily accessible, under the deck near the stairs or near the wood pile. Be extremely careful when using the shovel. The shovel can easily tear the canvas covering of the yurt. Please do not use a shovel on the yurt roof. A torn roof or sidewall almost always results from improper shoveling.

We ask that you do not climb on the chimney structure; it was not designed to handle a person's weight.

Important: At the completion of your stay, replace the snow shovels. If you leave them in the yurt, the next party may not be able to dig out the yurt door.

ITEMS AT THE YURT

The yurt is outfitted with 4 bunk beds, (two with full sized bottom mattresses) a futon and mattress which converts to a double bed, a table and kitchen cabinet, folding chairs, a three-burner propane stove, 3 propane lanterns, a wood stove, a log rack, a tinder bucket, an ash bucket, assorted silverware, plates bowls, and cups, a water jug, a plastic food storage container, assorted cooking pots and pans, miscellaneous kitchen equipment, a broom, a dust pan, an axe, floor towels, and a fire extinguisher. Located outside are: an outdoor toilet (with key for the padlock) and a woodpile. We cannot guarantee all the items listed will be in the yurt. Be prepared and adaptable enough to survive without these items should they be missing or damaged.

STOVES & Lighting

The yurt has a wood stove, a three-burner propane stove and a newly installed solar light system providing the indoor lighting. Propane for the cooking stove is provided. Carefully read the directions for the stove, shown below. Leaving the propane valve on and not lighting it immediately will form a large invisible cloud which, when lit, may cause a dangerous fireball which could singe hair and cause serious injury. There may not be unfrozen water sources nearby, so the wood stove can be used for melting snow for cooking water as well as heating the yurt.

The indoor solar lights are completely adequate for functioning inside the yurt but may not be bright enough to read by. A battery powered lantern (If You have one) might be a nice addition for reading or playing games! Also a FLASHLIGHT for travel to and from the Outhouse at night may be helpful, as well!!!

Warnings on Propane Use:

- Always make sure valves for the stove off when not in use. If not, the wood-burning stove could ignite the gas.
- Propane is heavier than air and will accumulate in low places. If you smell gas, leave immediately and ventilate the yurt.
- Never store propane near the wood stove or when temperature exceeds 120 degrees.

Propane Stove Directions:

- Make sure all connections from the propane bottle to stove are hand tight. Do not over-tighten.
- To light, hold lit match near burner and open burner valve.
- To turn off, close burner valve firmly.
- Before you leave, thoroughly clean stove area.

Wood Stove Directions:

- To prevent smoke from filling the yurt, it is important to start a large flash fire immediately to preheat the chimney. Place 5 or more sheets of loosely crumpled newspaper, located in the cabinet, in the stove and cover with thumb-size dry kindling. Open the draft control by pushing the **handle in** toward the stove to the **high position**. The handle is located on the **front and center** of the stove just below the door. The stove pipe control handle should be vertical. The small draft handle to the lower right should always be put in the middle.
- Light the newspaper and leave the door slightly ajar (1/8 inch) until all kindling is burning and a hot coal bed is established. (This may take 15 – 30 minutes) Slowly add larger pieces of wood (2x4 size pieces). Lay pieces lengthwise from side-to-side in the hot coal bed with a shallow trench between so that the air can flow directly into the trench and ignite the fuel above. When the fire seems to be at its peak, larger sized logs may be added, once these logs catch fire you can completely close the door. (Closing the door before the fire has a nice bed of hot coals can reduce the firebox temperature, resulting in an inefficient fire, smoke, and dirty glass.)
- Achieving the proper draft is important. The draft is controlled by a small, push/pull handle at the front of the stove below the ledge. The draft can be adjusted for a **low-burn** rate with the handle fully **OUT** or to

a **fast-burn** rate with the handle fully **IN**. In the evening before bed, load the stove at least a half hour before bed to ensure a good fire, hot enough to lower the draft control for an overnight burn. For an overnight burn, set the draft control on a low setting. The key to a longer burning night fire is to pack as much wood as possible into the firebox. The less air space, the longer the wood will burn.

- The ashes in the firebox tend to burn themselves up. If however, you need to remove them, use the marked ash bucket and dump the ashes at least **200'** from the yurt. **DO NOT DUMP ASHES OVER THE SIDE OF THE DECK.**
 - **Don't burn garbage or plastics because they leave a toxic, sticky residue in the chimney, which can cause a chimney fire.**
 - Don't hang anything above the wood stove or place anything combustible within 36 inches of the stove (boots, clothing, wood, or paper).

OPENING, CLOSING AND DAILY PROCEDURES

It is very important to follow these procedures. A checklist is posted in the yurts for your convenience. There is minimal staff to operate and maintain the yurt, so we trust that your group will assist us in keeping the yurt in good condition. You will be responsible for leaving the yurt in good condition and clean upon your departure. Should you fail to do this you will be charged an addition cleaning/service fee &/or charged for replacing damaged equipment that occurs during your groups' use of the yurt.

When You Arrive:

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ROLL UP WINDOW

FLAPS if they are not frozen in place (if so, please wait until the heated yurt thaws them).

1. Find the snow shovel. Shovel snow from the deck and stairs. When doing this be careful not to cut the sidewalls with the shovel.
2. For sanitary reasons, please use the toilet for all human waste. All waste water from doing the dishes may also be dumped into the toilet vault. **PLEASE carry all solid trash out with you!**
3. Clean the wood stove window and start a fire. Please use the directions noted on the yurt wall to prevent smoke from filling the yurt.
4. The yurt dome currently **does not** open.

Daily Procedures:

1. The yurt is a no smoking building.
2. Please wipe up any excess moisture on the floors with the floor towels or sponge mop provided. Melted snow from boots, clothes, and wood will penetrate the wood floor, causing it to swell and hastening its replacement.

4. To prevent the transmission of germs between persons and groups, please wash dishes using the three-step (tub) method noted below:
Step 1: Fill all three tubs with hot water. Use the soap provided to wash the dishes, then rinse in clean hot water and dip into the final bleach rinse. To make a bleach water rinse; add two (2) drops liquid bleach (located in the cabinet) to rinse water.
Step 2: Shake excess water off the dishes and place on the wood dish drying rack provided. Do not wipe dry with a cloth. Use a clean paper towel to wipe down the cabinet and tabletop.
Step 3: After washing and clean up, dump the water in the outdoor toilet facility.

Procedures When You Leave:

1. Thoroughly clean the yurt, even under the beds. Sweep out dirt, wood chips, and snow with the broom. Even crumbs may attract rodents. Carry out all garbage and food to prevent rodent infestations or animals eating through the yurt walls.
2. Wipe down the table, bunk beds, and kitchen cabinet. Place all cooking pots/pans/dishes **upside down** in cabinet so mice do not dance and water does not freeze in them.
3. Pack out what you packed in. **Pack out all perishable food.** If you want to leave non-perishable food items, place it in the plastic food box provided. You may leave extra propane bottles, but carry out the empty ones.
4. Empty water from water jug and coffee pots so they are not frozen for the next party.
5. Move any flammable materials such as paper and kindling away from wood stove.
6. Restock the yurt with wood and kindling from woodpile, so the next group will have dry wood when they enter.
7. Wipe down the toilet seat, close seat cover, and sweep out snow.
8. Make sure gas valves are turned off on the propane stove.
9. Return items that were hanging on wall to their proper location (broom, dome opener, buck saw, fire poker, axe and dust pan).
10. If there is any snow on the deck or steps, remove it.
11. Hang up the snow shovels.
12. Securely shut yurt door and make sure it is locked.

SAFETY

Everything you do on your yurt trip should be done carefully. Conducting yourself safely while using yurts is equally important. Use common sense and care when using the wood stove, propane stove and lanterns, starting the fire, chopping wood, etc. There is limited ski patrol on the Nordic Trails and none available at night. The closest public telephone is the Nordic Center. Cell phones may or may not have service at the yurt but should not be relied upon. The nearest hospital is

a minimum of an hour away. You and your party must come prepared. Backcountry travel in the winter requires a great personal responsibility from everyone to do all they can to be safe. There are many dangers, and the name of the game is to stay alert, constantly evaluate and minimize potential hazards.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LIST

The equipment list on the next page is included as a guide to help you prepare for a yurt trip. Remember, come prepared to spend the night outdoors if for some reason you do not make it to the yurt or the yurt is damaged or collapsed. Dressing in layers is the best choice. As you get warm you can take off layers, and as you cool down during breaks you can put them back on. The term “synthetics” on the below clothing list refers to materials such as pile, polar fleece, capilene, synchilla, lycra, or polypropylene. Because you will likely sweat carrying a heavy pack to the yurt, we highly recommend synthetics next to the skin that wick moisture away. Capilene/polypropylene undergarments will wick away sweat keeping you feeling dry and warm. Cotton socks, tee shirts, underwear and blue jeans should not be worn because they hold moisture against your skin hastening hypothermia. Feel free to photocopy this equipment list and pass on to all members of the party.

Personal:

Sleeping bag
Backpack or sled
Sunglasses
Pair of Nordic skis or snowshoes
Snow boots
Headlamp or small flashlight
Matches or a lighter
Basic First Aid Kit
Trail snacks
Water bottle
Trail map
Compass
Small knife
Toothbrush/paste
Synthetic long underwear
Wool socks
Gloves and a hat
Polar fleece or down jacket
Breathable Wind/Waterproof jacket
Pair of slippers
Personal medications
Watch

Optional:

Pillow
Avalanche transceiver
Camera
Extra set of batteries

Group:

Key (Issued at Nordic Center or via email)
Food for duration of Stay
Drinking water – highly recommended; snow melt may be used for cooking/cleaning but with variable snow conditions may not be reliable source of drinking water
Sunscreen
Sunscreen lip block
First Aid kit
Toilet paper
Paper towels