

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sierra District

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Snow Fun with Winter Hikes – and more - in Sierra-area California State Parks

Visitors to California State Parks in the Sierra area now have the opportunity to go places and see things in the beautiful winter-time Sierra that few people get to see. The Sierra in winter is spectacular, a whole new world of sights, sounds and experiences, but few people venture out to enjoy it.

Take a look at the list below. It is filled with adventures that promise to give visitors a whole new look at the majestic Sierra. The programs outlined below offer the beauty of winter with hikes and other recreational activities. A number of parks are open for day use (although some roads may not be plowed) and some are open for camping. It's always a good idea to call ahead for current conditions. The department's Sierra District phone number is (530) 525-7232.

The State Parks Winter Program includes:

Full Moon Tours...

Bald Eagles at Emerald Bay...

Avalanche Awareness Hikes...

Frozen Water Falls of the Sierra...

Winter Survival Skills...

Donner Party History Hikes...and more

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SUGAR PINE POINT AND EMERALD BAY STATE PARKS

Sugar Pine Point is open for limited winter camping fees \$12 per night, heated restroom, no showers, deep snow, bring a shovel. Motor homes can be accommodated (530) 525-3345 for more information.

*** Sunday, January 13: “Introduction to Cross Country Skiing” at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

This is a course in cross-country skiing for those who have always wanted to try, but never had the chance. The two-mile tour on easy terrain will include instruction in equipment selection, standing, walking, turning, gliding and some downhill techniques for beginners.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: three hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, lunch.

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Sunday, January 27: Full Moon Tour to Olympic Meadows at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

Participants will ski with staff on this easy moon light tour which follows the General Creek Drainage, with en-route snacks, and lookouts for wilderness nightlife. The event will be cancelled if weather turns bad. No snowshoes.

Difficulty: Easy five miles round trip Duration: four hours

Meet: 7 p.m. at the Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot.

Tips: Bring cross-country skis, trail snacks, binoculars and warm clothing.

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Sunday, February 3: Avalanche Awareness for the Casual Skier at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

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Participants will meet with experts. A must for the backcountry traveler, this hike covers important aspects of avalanche awareness, including slope evaluation, weather factors, snow pack stability, rescue techniques and self-rescue.

Difficulty: Short hike Duration: three hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Cross-country skis and avalanche beacon (optional).

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Sunday, February 17: Winter Survival Skills Seminar at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

The course is an introduction to surviving backcountry emergencies in the winter. The class will explore the General Creek area in Sugar Pine Point State Park with emphasis on winter survival techniques, including a talk and demonstration of survival equipment

Difficulty: Short hike. Duration: three hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Campground Entrance Station, Sugar Pine Point State Park, 10 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89.

Tips: Snowshoes or cross-country skis (available for rental in Tahoe City and Homewood) warm clothing.

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Sunday, March 3: Ski Skating Seminar at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

The newest and fastest way to travel over snow on skis will be taught in this 3-hour skating clinic. Intermediate or advanced level skiers only.

Difficulty: Moderate Duration: three hours.

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot, near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring skating skis, poles and snacks.

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Sunday, March 17: Intermediate cross-country Skiing at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

For skiers who have a good working knowledge of the basics -- kick, glide and pole -- and wish to improve speed and ability to cover more snow in less time, this class will provide techniques.

Difficulty: Intermediate, short tour. Duration: three hours.

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Sugar Pine Point ski trail parking lot, near the campground kiosk.

Tips: Bring water, snacks and cross-country skis.

For more information, call (530) 525-3345.

*** Saturday, January 26: Emerald Bay in Winter at Emerald Bay State Park**

Park staff will show visitors the beauty of Emerald Bay State Park in winter. Participants will snowshoe to the water's edge and look for bald eagles. Elevations from 6,200 to 6,800 feet.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate Duration: three hours

Meet: 10:00 am at the Eagle Point Campground entrance on the south side of Emerald Bay on Hwy 89.

Tips: bring snowshoes, binoculars, lunch and/or snacks. (X-country skis o.k.)

For more information, call 530-525-3345.

*** Saturday, February 2: "Animals in Winter" at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

Where do the animals go when the snow starts to fly? How do they live? What options do they have? Participants will have the opportunity to see some active winter animals, follow tracks, and have an enjoyable day of discovery.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: three Hours

Meet: 10:00 am at the Sugar Pine Point State Park cross country ski trail parking lot, near the entrance station. 10 miles south of Tahoe City on Hwy 89.

Tips: Bring snowshoes, binoculars, lunch and/or snacks.

For more information, call 530-525-3345.

*** Saturday, February 23: “Animals in Winter” at Sugar Pine Point State Park**

Where do the animals go when the snow starts to fly? How do they live? What options do they have? See some active winter animals. We will follow tracks and have an enjoyable day of discovery.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: three Hours

Meet: 10:00 am at the Sugar Pine Point State Park cross country ski trail parking lot, near the entrance station, ten miles south of Tahoe City on Hwy 89.

Tips: Bring snowshoes, binoculars, lunch and/or snacks.

For more information, call 530-525-3345.

GROVER HOT SPRINGS STATE PARK

The hot springs pool and cold pool at the park are open Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 9 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Wednesday; and open Thursday and Friday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Pool fees = \$2 adults, \$1 children under 16. Winter camping available on first come first serve basis fees = \$12 per night. Call (530) 694-2249 during open hours for more info.

*** Saturday, Jan. 5: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

This is a course in cross-country skiing for those who have always wanted to try, but never had the chance. The one-mile tour on easy terrain will include instruction in equipment Selection, standing, walking, turning, gliding, and some downhill techniques for beginners. If lacking snow at the park, program will be cancelled - please call in advance.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: three hours

Meet: 11 a.m. at the Grover Hot Springs pool parking lot

Tips: Bring cross country ski equipment, layered clothing, snacks, sunscreen and sunglasses

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

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*** Sunday, January 13: Carson Pass Ski Tour at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

The views are great and so is the skiing on this trek to Lake Winnemucca and points beyond. Sno-Park permit is required.

Difficulty: Intermediate Duration: five hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the parking lot area at Carson Pass on Highway 88.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing for varied weather conditions.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Saturday, January 19: Snowshoe to Frozen Waterfalls at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

Participants will snowshoe, or hike if little snow, to the waterfalls on Hot Springs Creek. With luck the falls will be frozen.

Difficulty: Easy-Moderate three miles Duration: three hours

Meet: 11 a.m. at Grover Hot Springs campground entrance station.

Tips: Bring snowshoes, winter hiking boots, snacks, water, sunscreen and layered clothing.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday, January 27: Forestdale Creek Ski Tour at Red Lake, Grover Hot Springs State Park**

This trek is for those who already have basic knowledge of cross-country skiing. A semi-easy ski with good, gentle practice hills.

Difficulty: Intermediate, five - six miles roundtrip Duration: four-five hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Red Lakes parking area off highway 88.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing for varied weather conditions.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

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*** Saturday, February 2: Animals in the Winter at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

Participants will snowshoe or hike (if little snow) around the park in search of active winter animals.

Difficulty: Easy one mile Duration: two hours

Meet: 11 a.m. at Grover Hot Springs campground entrance station

Tips: Bring snowshoes, winter hiking boots, water, sunscreen and layered clothing & sunglasses.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday, February 10: Meiss Meadows Tour at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

This is a cross-country ski trip north of Carson Pass with good views of Lake Tahoe. A Sno-Park permit is required. Please call (916) 324-1222 for information on how to purchase a Sno-Park permit.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult, five - six miles roundtrip Duration: five-six hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the parking lot area, just west of Carson Pass Summit on Highway 88.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing for varied weather conditions.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Saturday, February 16: Snowshoe to the Frozen Waterfalls at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

Participants will snowshoe, or hike if little snow, to the waterfalls on Hot Springs Creek. With luck the falls will be frozen.

Difficulty: Easy-Moderate three miles Duration: three hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at Grover Hot Springs campground entrance station.

Tips: Bring snowshoes, winter hiking boots, snacks, water, sunscreen and layered clothing.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday, February 24: Horse Meadow Ski Tour in Hope Valley, Grover Hot Springs State Park**

Participants will ski through large junipers back to gentle practice hill and a good view of Freel, Jobs Sister and Jobs peaks.

Difficulty: Intermediate, must be able to stop and snowplow turn. four-five miles

Duration: four to five hours

Meet: 10:00 a.m. at Hwy 89, about 1 mile south of Luther Pass in Hope Valley, look for white state park truck.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing for varied weather conditions.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday March 3: Carson Pass Ski Tour at Grover Hot Springs State Park**

The views are great and so is the skiing on this trek to Lake Winnemucca and points beyond. Snow-park for information call: (916) 324-1222

Difficulty: Intermediate Duration: five hours

Meet: 10:00 A.M. at the parking lot area at Carson Pass on Hwy. 88, look for the State Park Ranger truck.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch and clothing for variable weather

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday, March 10: Forestdale Creek Ski Tour at Red Lake, Grover Hot Springs State Park**

This trek is for those who already have basic knowledge of cross-country skiing. A semi-easy ski with good, gentle practice hills.

Difficulty: Intermediate, five - six miles roundtrip Duration: four-five hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Red Lakes parking area off highway 88.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing for varied weather conditions.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

*** Sunday, March 17: Meiss Meadows Tour Carson Pass, Grover Hot Springs State Park**

This is a cross-country ski trip north of Carson Pass with good views of Lake Tahoe. A Sno-Park permit is required. Please call (916) 324-1222 for information on how to purchase a Sno-Park permit.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult, five - six miles roundtrip Duration: five-six hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the parking lot area, just west of Carson Pass Summit on Highway 88.

Tips: Bring skis, lunch and clothing for variable weather.

For more information, call (530) 694-2248.

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Three mile groomed cross-country ski loop trail in park day-use free of charge.

Emigrant Trail Museum open daily 9 to 4, fees = adults 17 + \$1, children free.

*** Saturday January 12: Donner Party History Hike, Donner Memorial State Park**

Visitors are invited to learn some interesting facts about the Donner Party. Where did they camp? Why did they make some of the decisions they did? The group will hike approximately 1 to 1 1/2 miles of easy terrain. Two hours.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

*** Sunday, January 13: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing at Donner Memorial State Park**

This is a course in cross-country skiing for those who have always wanted to try, but never had the chance. The 2.5 mile loop on easy terrain will include instruction in equipment selection, standing, walking, turning, gliding and some downhill techniques for beginners.

Includes scenic views along Donner Lake.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: two hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and lunch.

For more information, call (530) 582-7892.

*** Saturday January 19 : Beginning Snowshoe Hike at Donner Memorial State Park**

Learn the history of Snowshoeing and some beginning techniques. If you have never been on snowshoes and would to try it this is the hike for you! Participants should be in fairly good condition. We will hike approximately two miles of varied terrain as we explore the winter wilderness of Donner State Park.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

*** Saturday February 9 – Donner Party History Hike at Donner Memorial State Park**

Participants are invited to learn some interesting facts about the Donner Party. Where did they camp? Why did they make some of the decisions they did? We will hike approximately 1 to 1 1/2 miles of easy terrain. 2 hours.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

*** Sunday, February 10: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing at Donner Memorial State Park**

This is a course in cross-country skiing for those who have always wanted to try, but never had the chance. The 2.5 mile loop on easy terrain will include instruction in equipment selection, standing, walking, turning, gliding and some downhill techniques for beginners.

Includes scenic views of Donner Lake.

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Difficulty: Easy Duration: two hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and lunch.

For more information, call (530) 582-7892.

*** Saturday February 16: Beginning Snowshoe Hike at Donner Memorial State Park**

Learn the history of Snowshoeing and some beginning techniques. If you have never been on snowshoes and would to try it this is the hike for you! Participants should be in fairly good condition. We will hike approximately 2 miles of varied terrain as we explore the winter wilderness of Donner State Park.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

*** Sunday, February 24: Introduction to Cross Country Skiing at Donner Memorial State Park**

This is a course in cross-country skiing for those who have always wanted to try, but never had the chance. The 2.5 mile loop on easy terrain will include instruction in equipment selection, standing, walking, turning, gliding and some downhill techniques for beginners. Includes scenic views of Donner Lake.

Difficulty: Easy Duration: two hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and lunch.

For more information, call (530) 582-7892.

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*** Sunday, March 10: Intermediate Cross Country Skiing at Donner Memorial State Park**

The class is designed for cross-country skiers who have a good working knowledge of basic striding and wish to further hone technique. The class will work on hills, drills, and skills to bump participants up to the next level. The tour will go into Coldstream Valley and around the ponds. Includes scenic views of Anderson Peak and Schallenberger Ridge. Skiing rate will be at a moderate pace.

Difficulty: Intermediate Duration: 2.5 hours

Meet: 10 a.m. at the Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Tips: Bring cross-country ski equipment, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and snacks.

For more information, call (530) 582-7892.

*** Saturday March 16: Intermediate Snowshoe Hike at Donner Memorial State Park**

Participants will explore Coldstream Valley and part of Schallenberger Ridge on snowshoes. Participants should be in good condition and have some experience snowshoeing. Moderate to difficult hike with uphill sections. Approximately six miles, three-four hours

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

*** Saturday March 23 : Animals in Winter at Donner Memorial State Park**

What do the animals do during the winter months around the Sierra? Can we see any signs of life? This walk is fun for the whole family! Easy walk on snowshoes, approximately 1 to 1 1/2 miles, two hours.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Snowshoes, sturdy waterproof boots, ski poles, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

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*** Saturday March 30 : Kids Cross-Country Skiing (for ages 7-12) at Donner**

Memorial State Park

Limited to the first 10 who sign up by calling Donner State Park (582-7892).

This is designed for the beginner skier. Children should have skied at least 3 or 4 times on cross-country skis. This day could count towards a Junior Ranger award and will be filled with games and adventure.

Meet: 10am Emigrant Trail Museum at Donner State Park

Bring: Skis, ski poles, boots, snack, and water.

Wear: Layers and be prepared for windy conditions. Wear eye protection.

PLUMAS EUREKA STATE PARK

*** Sunday January 6 and 20 : When Snowshoes Were King at Plumas Eureka State**

Park

This slide program/talk, will begin at 1 p.m. in the park museum.

*** Sunday: February 3 and 17: Winter Ecology Ski Tour at Plumas Eureka State**

Park

This cross-country Ski Tour, approximately three miles, will take about 2.5 hours. Participants should meet at the park museum parking lot at 1 p.m.

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