



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2004

Contact: Veneta Stewart  
(530) 582-7892

## 2005 Winter Interpretive Schedule

### Winter Fun at Donner Memorial State Park

TRUCKEE – Whether it's a tour on snowshoes by the light of the moon or a challenging ski tour, Donner Memorial State Park has a number of great winter programs that are available now and through March.

The park is 100 miles east of Sacramento via Interstate 80, and is within the town of Truckee, just west of downtown on the south side of the freeway at 12593 Donner Pass Road.

Participants must bring their own equipment (cross-country skis, snowshoes, poles.) Binoculars are recommended for the animal tracks tours. Warm, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, water and a snack are also recommended.

Visitors are advised to call ahead to verify programs because they are subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen events. Participants will meet at the park museum a few minutes before start time.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Difficulty</u>
Sunday, January 2	<b>Animal Tracks – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> Animals can make a good impression on the winter white stuff. What stories do tracks tell? Join a State Park Ranger and help solve the mysteries and make some tracks of your own.	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, January 8	<b>History of Coldstream Valley – Ski Tour</b> Explore this remote region of Donner State Park and learn something of the rich local and emigrant trail history. This is not for beginner skiers as the terrain can be challenging. Some downhill experience is necessary. Led by a State Park Ranger.	9 a.m.-noon	moderate

Sunday, January 9	<b>Winter Survival – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> What would you do to survive in the winter wilderness? Join a Ranger on a tour and learn about some basic survival tactics.	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, January 15	<b>The Forlorn Hope – Snowshoe History</b> An escape attempt by 15 members of the Donner party in 1846 alerted the world to the desperate plight of those still trapped in the mountains. Come and retrace a few of their steps.	10 a.m. – noon	moderate
Saturday, January 15	<b>Introduction to Cross Country Skiing</b> Learn basic technique and enjoy a short ski tour through Donner Memorial State Park with a Ranger. Please bring skis, boots, poles, hat, gloves, water and sunscreen. Rental equipment is available in the Truckee area.	1–3 p.m.	easy
Sunday, January 16	<b>Animal Tracks – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (see January 2.)	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, January 22	<b>Natural World of Winter – Snowshoe Tour</b> Is the world asleep in the winter or does life go on? Search for signs of nature in the snow covered wilderness.	10 a.m.-noon	easy
Tuesday, January 25	<b>Full Moon Cross Country Ski Tour</b> Enjoy a moonlit tour of the park led by a Ranger.	7-9 p.m.	easy
Saturday, January 29	<b>Railroad History at Donner Pass – Snows!</b> Learn about the trials of constructing the trans-continental railroad over Donner Summit. Visitors will begin at the park then travel to the summit and hike around the tunnels. Led by a Ranger.	10 a.m.-noon	easy
Saturday, February 5	<b>Natural World of Winter – Snowshoe Tour</b> (See January 22.)	10 a.m.-noon	easy
Friday, February 11	<b>Stargazing Snowshoe Tour</b> What stars do you see in the winter sky? Learn the answers and enjoy a nighttime snowshoe walk.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	easy

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Difficulty</u>
Saturday, February 12	<b>Stephens, Murphy, Townsend Tour</b> This snowshoe tour explores part of the route used by the first wagon train to cross the Sierra – two years before the Donner party. What contributed to their success in 1844? Tour led by a Ranger.	10 a.m.-noon	moderate
Sunday, February 13	<b>Animal Tracks</b> (See January 2.)	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, February 19	<b>Donner Party Rescue – Snowshoe History</b> Trapped by snow in the Sierra Nevada, the members of the Donner party depended on several rescue parties to make their escape. Who were the rescuers and how did they accomplish their task?	10 a.m.-noon	easy
Sunday, February 20	<b>Winter Survival – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (See January 9.)	1-3 p.m.	easy
Thursday, February 24	<b>Full Moon Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (See January 25.)	7-9 p.m.	easy
Sunday, February 27	<b>Animal Tracks – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (See January 2.)	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, March 5	<b>Introduction to Cross Country Skiing</b> (See January 15.)	10 a.m.-noon	easy
Sunday, March 6	<b>Winter Survival – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (See January 9.)	1-3 p.m.	easy
Saturday, March 12	<b>Introduction to Cross Country Skiing</b> Basic classic ski technique, games and a fun tour of the park with a Ranger. <b>For children 7 – 11 years of age.</b> Limited to the first 15 to sign up.	10-11:30 a.m.	easy
Sunday, March 13	<b>Animal Tracks – Cross Country Ski Tour</b> (See January 2.)	1-3 p.m.	easy

Saturday, March 19	<b>Winter Orienteering – Snowshoes</b> Can you stay “found” in the outdoors? Learn some basic map and compass skills that will help.	1-3 p.m.	easy
Friday, March 25	<b>Full Moon Showshoe</b> Enjoy a 2 ½ mile guided snowshoe hike through Donner Memorial State Park and a campfire at Donner Lake.	7-9 p.m.	easy
Saturday, March 26	<b>Moonlight History Snowshoe Tour</b> Tamsen and George Donner traveled west in search of a better life for their families but both perished before reaching their goal. What happened and how does history remember them? This tour looks for clues.	7-9 p.m.	easy

# # #