Some pretty typical questions to our Ski & Snowboard Trip.

Q: Hey, I just glanced over this entire Q&A thing and I’ve got way more questions than what’s covered here. Who can I actually speak with regarding this trip?
A: If you’re already registered, most of your questions can be answered at the pre-trip meeting in early November. If they’re good questions, they’ll benefit all the others at the meeting as well. If you would like to ask further questions to help in your decision to register for the trip you can email Hailey Hester at hhester@gsu.edu or call at 404-413-1773.

Q: What price do I pay? I see three.
A: The first price listed is for currently enrolled GSU students, the second price is for GSU Recreation Members, and the third price is for guests (ie. non-member, alumni, or GSU faculty/staff, and/or non-affiliated persons). To be a guest on this trip you must be associated with a GSU affiliate that has already registered for the trip to attend. Affiliates are only allowed 1 guest on the trip.

Q: When is the earliest one can sign up?
A: Registration is open between the first day of the fall semester Aug. 20, 2018. The last day for registration will be Oct. 22, 2018.

Q: How do I sign up?
A: As with all our trips, simply come into Touch the Earth, located on the back of the Student Recreation Center, between 10am & 6pm, Monday through Friday or register over the phone at 404-413-1772. Be prepared to provide emergency contact info, full legal name with middle name, DOB, personal contact info, and $300 for an initial non-refundable deposit. We take cash, check, PantherCash, and credit card. You may also put funds on your PantherCard using a credit card via the PantherCard online card office. You may also put funds on your PantherCard using a credit card via the PantherCard online card office. http://www.gsu.edu/auxiliary/28975.html

Q: I can’t make it to Touch the Earth during those times, I live in New Hampshire (or I’m just really busy)!
A: We are very impressed you have chosen to attend our trip all the way from New Hampshire. It’s an amazing deal, we know! You can download the registration form from our website, fill it out, and mail it in with a check or pay with card over the phone at 404-413-1772. Spots are not saved for “checks in the mail”. Check out the link at http://recreation.gsu.edu/tte/break-trips

Q: How many people attend the trip?
A: Typically, we take 35-40 people annually.

Q: What should we do if we are beginner skiers and have never skied before? (are there any classes available?).
A: The ski school offers phenomenal $39 beginner ski lessons through our special student coupon book provided in your package. By the way, the coupon book has tons of other sweet offers for local deals within walking distance of our condo. Steamboat has the voted #1 ski school in the country. Typically, about half of the participants on the trip are considered beginner skiers. This mountain is fantastic for all experience levels; with numerous trails of various levels. The ski school also offers more advanced lessons that many participants have been known to take in the past. An intermediate lesson costs $120 and typically is devoted for an entire day of lessons.

Q: What level of skiers come on the trip?
A: Approximately two-thirds of the group could be classified as beginners. By the end of the trip at least half of those are well on their way to advanced! Otherwise, the remaining third of the group is considered intermediate or advanced with their own equipment. Wherever you classify yourself, you won’t be alone and there will be someone to ski with.

Q: Is the terrain tough enough for me?
A: With chutes, steeps, moguls, phenomenal trees, terrain parks, and half-pipes you shouldn’t be even asking this question!

Q: How do you split up the skiers?
A: We don’t. We do our best to provide a social atmosphere for a meet & greet of like skiers. Often the condo-mate atmosphere builds connections to find friends to ski with throughout the week.

Q: I have another friend who is not currently in school but would love to come, how would that work?
A: You can bring family, friends, kids, someone you just met. You are however limited to bringing 1 guest on the trip. The guest will pay the guest price (3rd price listed) and will be asked to supply the name of their guest sponsor. As the guest sponsor you will have had to already registered for the trip for your guest to then register. Make sure your guest is prepared to provide emergency contact info, full legal name, DOB, personal contact info, and $300 at the time of registration to expedite the checkout process having your Steamboat registration form already completed would be helpful, which is found online. One lump of cash, single check, or swiped transaction for all registrants is OK. They do
not need to be present to register.

Q: I have like a premium-platinum-priority membership with some of the airlines. Basically, they love me. Can I use my awesome zoom zoom points to fly on my airline and meet y’all out there?
A: Hey, we love you, too, and we want you to fly with us instead. Seriously, we can’t honor the great group rates if we end up parting out our packages. Only in rare cases do we make an exception for this (i.e. you live in Colorado and could meet us there) and it is at the discretion of the Outdoor Coordinator.

Q: I can’t attend the meeting in November because I live in New Hampshire.
A: No problem, this pre-trip meeting is not mandatory. The meeting is designed to help people form relationships prior and select roommates/suitemates. If you do not list any preference on your registration form, we will do our best to place you in a condo with like age groups. A follow up email with info covered in the meeting will be sent out to anyone that can’t attend the meeting.

Q: Is there a particular schedule for each day of the trip? (Or are there free days to explore?).
A: The trip leader gets you there, and then the trip is yours to do with as you please for the next 5 days. An optional group Italian dinner is provided usually on the 3rd night if you choose to come. We also hold a group photo typically on the second day of the trip. The trip leader is available if you need assistance with an issue, but this is not a grade school field trip, and generally no tabs will be kept on your whereabouts. Most people ski for the standard 4 days and on their 5th day they’ll shop, go dogsledding, hot air ballooning, or go to the hot springs on the organized group outing. Some folks are hardcore and ski or snowboard all 5 days with an optional 5th day lift ticket at an extra charge.

Q: How does ski rental work? (Is that included in the cost or is it extra?).
A: Skis & Snowboards are extra unless you have your own. We will be flying Southwest this year, so no extra baggage fee will be associated with bringing your own gear. If you choose to rent equipment, you will have to rent for a minimum of 4 days, you can however split the package to ski for 2 and board for 2 if you let us know in advance. If you get an extra day lift ticket (all 5 days), well, then you’d rent for up to 5 days. See the registration form for clarification. The rentals are roughly half the cost of retail rental prices. They are pre-paid and we add them to your bill; you cannot rent through us when you get there. You are on your own.

Q: If I and my significant other sign up, would we be able to room together?
A: Yes, you can put down with whom you wish to room on the registration form. The condos hold up to 6-8 people. You and your partner can either sleep in the pull-out couch, or share a bed in one of the bedrooms. Bedding site selection is at the discretion of the people in the condo, we do not pre-assign certain rooms to certain couples. This is often a benefit of coming to the pre-trip meeting is to discuss sleeping arrangements with your conodomates.

Q: What if I want a condo to myself?
A: If the condos have 6 bed spaces, then it is sold for 6 people. If you were traveling by yourself and wanted a giant, huge, spacious, private condo ALL to yourself, you would have to purchase 5 extra bed spaces. Ideally, the Bed Space Buysouts are designed for groups of friends that don’t fill a condo and want to buy out the extra space to keep their party private and separate – or for those who don’t want to share a bed. In the common case, a group of five friends would split a single bed space buyout of $425. Please note if this is something your group would like to do one person’s registration must have the full bedspace buyout charge applied – no split charges on registration. Condos are filled based on roommate requests. Multiple singles or groups may be in one condo until filled.

Q: How does food work?
A: Most of these finite trip details will be discussed in the optional pre-trip meeting. However, the food works out pretty well if you are on a budget. If you choose, get with your conodomates and develop a menu for about 4 nights once off the flight. The kitchens are fully equipped for cooking (pots, pans, cutting boards, toaster, etc.). We stop the charter bus at a grocery store just outside Denver to allow you to stock up for a 1 hour foodshop. Most groups use the shuttle ride from the airport to pre-plan their group purchases There is also a grocery store in Steamboat Springs that the resort shuttle will take you to.

Q: So the whole campus is talking about this trip. Is it really that fun?
A: This trip is truly a trip of a lifetime! This trip is a great way to meet new friends, learn or progress your skiing ability in challenging terrain, and relax after a long Fall Semester. We have been doing this trip for over 40 years and have participants that have been going on it for years now. Many people spend all day on the mountain taking in all the amazing runs and views the mountain has to offer, and in the evening enjoying a group condo dinner, walking around the charming town of Steamboat, or relaxing in the onsite hot tubs at night. Steamboat also has an abundance of nightlife opportunities and special events during the day. Food, cowboy drinks, and merchandise specials are all around.