

IMPORTANT!!! READ ME FIRST!!!

Ichabod Crane Ski / Snowboard Club: Letter to Parents

Dear Parent(s):

Alpine skiing and snowboarding are exhilarating winter sports that both challenge and inspire the mind, heart and soul. These are lifetime skills that can provide pleasure across the life span. Those cold and dreary winter months come alive with the anticipation and pleasure derived from these sports. However, it is important to keep in mind that there are considerable inherent risks associated with these sports. Injuries from minor to catastrophic can occur. Although club chaperones, as well as Jiminy Peak Ski Patrol, supervise within the best of their abilities, ultimately skiing and snowboarding are solitary sports where the individual assumes full responsibility for their actions. Please consider the following points before making the decision to sign up your child for ski/ snowboard club.

1. Jiminy Peak is a BIG mountain. We have about 150 Ichabod Crane students dispersed over a large mountain, 3 base area lodges and one summit lodge. These students then intermingle with hundreds of other students from other schools as well as other non-school visitors on the mountain. Within this very intimidating environment we provide between 10-14 chaperones. The situation at Jiminy Peak is can be crowded and chaotic. It is important that your child listen to chaperones and all directions.

2. We cannot know at all times exactly where your child is and what he/she is doing! Rules and expectations are clearly spelled out to all participants, but there are a lot of opportunities to ignore them if the student is so inclined. If a student "sneaks off" to smoke, for instance, we may not notice this within the crowd and confusion of the mountain. If a student skis or snowboards on a trail beyond his/her ability, we can't be there to assess their ability before they head down the mountain. If your child skis or snowboards a closed trail and runs into trouble, they may not be found for hours. If your child fools around on the chair lift (which is located dozens of feet in the air) we cannot be there if he/she falls.

3. We cannot assume responsibility for your child wearing a helmet. There is no legal requirement to wear a helmet. The decision remains between parent and child and once made rests upon the responsibility of the child to obey parent requests. Even if your child has a helmet and brings it to the mountain, we can't be there to check that it is worn on the mountain.

Ichabod Crane and Jiminy Peak Ski Patrol HIGHLY RECOMMEND that your child wear a helmet.

4. FROSTBITE! The mountains can be FRIGID at night! Frostbite is a distinct possibility for those who are not adequately dressed. Hats, gloves, wool sweaters, long underwear, and multiple layers are a necessity for comfortable skiing. However, we cannot check your child to make sure that he/she is properly dressed. That is your and your child's responsibility. We do expect children to ski with at least one friend and to notice any signs of frostbite on each other, such as white ear tips and nose. Goggles are also a necessity for comfort and eye protection from cold, wind and snow guns.

5. Proper behavior and accepting responsibility must continue on the bus to and from the mountain. Nighttime winter driving requires the full attention of the driver. "Innocent" horseplay and fooling around cannot be tolerated. There is a temptation for some students to see what they can "get away with" in the darkness of the bus on the way back from Jiminy. We will maintain zero tolerance towards this in order to avoid potential disaster.

6. Bus drivers and chaperones are in charge on all trips. Your child is to follow ALL directions from them and NOT to argue with them. ANY violation of school rules observed and reported by chaperone or Jiminy Peak personnel will lead to IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL OF YOUR CHILD FROM SKI CLUB WITHOUT A REFUND. We must maintain this zero tolerance policy to maximize the safety of all students.

7. Students are prohibited from driving up to Jiminy Peak on their own. Students are expected to ride the bus to and from Jiminy Peak. Roads are often slippery and after a night of skiing, fatigue may affect students' driving ability. The buses offer safe transportation to and from the mountain. Students are expected to return on the bus. Only the student's own parent can provide alternate transportation home, and only if the parent notifies the advisor personally.

8. The district's Academic Eligibility and Code of Conduct policies apply to ski club. This means that your child may be excluded from the activity despite having paid all fees. Please note that no monetary refunds are possible from Ichabod Crane, including the transportation fee. Though Jiminy Peak will issue ski credits.

9. Ski and Snowboard bags. We highly recommend that your child have a ski or snowboard bag to prevent possible damage during the loading and unloading of the busses. Loose skis will not be allowed on the bus as they are a potential safety hazard. If the skis are not in a bag, they must have a carrying strap that will keep the skis and poles together.

We feel it is important to share these points with you so you can discuss them with your child. Together you can then make the decision as to whether you feel your child is capable of accepting the considerable responsibility required to participate in skiing and snowboarding. Please call us if you need additional information.

Todd DiGrigoli & Jacob Patenaude: Ski Club Advisors

P.S. We highly recommend the use of ski and snowboard locks to protect your equipment. Unfortunately theft can be a problem and locks are inexpensive insurance.