

Family & Youth Group Fees

\$115.00 each Adult Sierra Club member
\$125.00 each Adult non-Sierra Club member
\$20.00 each Family Group Child
\$50.00 each Youth with Youth Group

Early Bird Special: Apply by November 30th and deduct \$10.00 from Adult fee.

A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, please email John: jsedlander@gmail.com, or Jodi: jdi_bly@yahoo.com.

Please note that families are responsible for bringing appropriate camping equipment, clothing, and snowshoes (which can be rented). We provide shovels and sometimes sleds. A limited stock of loaner clothing and equipment is available. For more details, email Rodger: rodger@rodgerfaulkner.com. Other trip costs typically include gas, food, a motel room, and a restaurant breakfast before each trip.

To Apply

Apply online on our website: www.snowcamping.org or call Anne Good (510-526-6792).



Important Dates

November 30, 2011 Early Bird deadline
December 19, 2011 Applications due
January 7, 2012 Orientation Day
January 28–29, 2012 First family trip
February 18–19–20, 2012 Second family trip
March 3–4, 2012 Back-up trip
(in case of bad weather)

Free Clinics

Learn more about the Snowcamping Training Series at one of our free informational clinics at an outdoor store near you. There is no reservation needed for these clinics—just show up and join us!

Sports Basement:

San Francisco (Bryant) Monday, 11/14, 6:30–8:30pm
San Francisco (Presidio) Tuesday, 11/22, 6:30–8:30pm
Sunnyvale Monday, 11/28, 6:30–8:30pm
Walnut Creek Thursday, 12/1, 6:30–8:30pm

REI*

Berkeley Wednesday, 12/7, 7:00–8:30pm
Corte Madera Wednesday, 12/7, 7:00–8:30pm
San Francisco Wednesday, 12/7, 7:00–8:30pm

*Primarily led by an REI presenter.

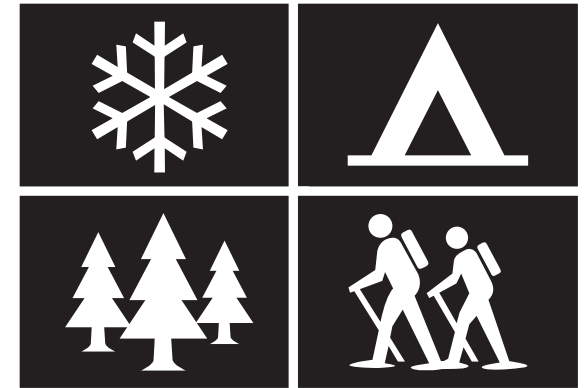


Sierra Club

SNOWCAMPING

Training Series 2012

Family & Youth Group



If you and your children enjoy the snow, have wilderness experience, and share a keen sense of adventure, the Sierra Club's Family & Youth Group snowcamping training course may be just the right program for you.

Snowcamping Section
San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra Club
www.snowcamping.org

Not for the Faint of Heart

We're the first to admit that taking kids out to camp in the snow is not for the faint of heart or the unprepared. But for those who have an adventurous spirit (both the kids AND the parents), snowcamping can be a truly magical experience that brings parents and kids closer together and teaches older youth important skills.

About the Training Series

The Snowcamping Training Series is an annual course that the Snowcamping Section of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club has presented for more than 40 years. Volunteer leaders and assistants give you the information and support you need to have a warm, safe and fun weekend in the snow.

Students receive:

- * One full day of indoor training that is mandatory for adults and recommended for older children. Topics include: trip preparation, winter navigation using map and compass, constructing snow shelters, erecting tents, and renting and using snowshoes.
- * Two trips, the first trip for one night and the second for two nights
- * One snowcamping manual per family
- * A snowcamping "reward"
- * An unforgettable experience!

Family Snowcamping

The Family & Youth Group is a subgroup of the Snowcamping Section that offers trips for parents or guardians and kids age 7 and up.

There are a couple of requirements:

- * Parents and kids must have summer backpacking experience. (Occasionally the group will accept children without backpacking experience if they have slept outdoors in the mountains and have done a lot of hiking.)
- * Maximum of two kids per one parent

Youth Group Snowcamping

The Family Group also accepts youth groups such as Scout groups and their leaders. We will also work with organized youth groups who are large enough to go out separately from the Family Group. For more information, please check our website www.snowcamping.org.

About Our Leaders

Our volunteer leaders and assistants are graduates of the Training Series and Sierra Club members. All leaders are certified in Wilderness First Aid and have had experience as assistants before becoming leaders. Family & Youth Group leaders are chosen because of their experience and skills with families and children.

A Typical Family Trip

On the first trip we camp out for one night, usually leaving from a trailhead near Echo Summit on Hwy 50. Our destination will be within 1–3 miles. We always chose a site that will allow for a quick evacuation in case of an emergency.

Participants are encouraged to travel to the mountains the evening before and stay in a local motel; this gives everyone a chance to acclimate to the change in elevation and makes the trip easier for children.

In the morning, we meet in a local restaurant for a group breakfast. Next, at the trailhead, everyone packs up and any group equipment is distributed among the adults. Before leaving, we determine our location using map and compass, and make sure everyone knows where they are and where they are headed.

One leader sets out in front of the group and another brings up the rear as the "sweep." We always stay in sight of each other and leaders carry two-way radios for easy communications. After about an hour-and-a-half, we break for lunch and again check our location on the map

and by compass. Camp is usually reached within about a half hour after lunch.

When we reach camp, tents are set up and a "table" and "benches" are dug out to create the snow kitchen. Once everything is ready, those who are interested can build snow shelters, try out the sleds or just play in the snow.

Dinner is always a treat and on clear nights the stars can be magnificent. Before turning in for the evening (most families sleep in 3-season tents), we heat up water so each camper can have a hot water bottle to snuggle with in bed.

After breakfast, we tour shelters and everyone has a chance to talk about what they did or didn't like about their sleeping accommodations. If there's time, kids play and adults get to relax before we start to pack up and get ready for the trip out.

The second trip is similar to the first; we usually go to Carson Pass on Hwy 88. Because we have one more day, there is more time for digging snow shelters and play.

