

Welcome to the Summit Ranger District Ski and Snowshoe Trails

The Summit Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest has 25 miles of marked cross-country ski and snowshoe trails. The trails are of varying difficulty, from fairly level beginner trails, to sloping and turning intermediate slopes, to steeper and narrow trails for advanced skiers and snowshoers. The map on the reverse shows the trails and indicates the level of difficulty and the length.

Two trailheads are indicated: one at Gooseberry and the other at Crabtree. Both are located near the Dodge Ridge Ski Resort. Parking is available at both trailheads; a vault toilet is located at the Crabtree trailhead.

The Gooseberry Trail crosses several downhill ski runs at Dodge Ridge Ski Area. Use caution when crossing these trails and when on the Gooseberry Trail between the downhill ski runs. Skiers and snowboarders go through the trees and may be unaware of the Gooseberry trail.

Degree of Difficulty

Difficulty ratings are assigned to routes under ideal conditions and are based on difficulty compared to other routes in the area. A trail rated easiest by Pinecrest standards could possibly be rated more difficult elsewhere. Conditions are always subject to change due to weather and other acts of nature. Snow conditions can make an easy trail moderate, or a moderate trail difficult.

Trail Markers and Signs

Blue diamonds mark the routes shown on the map. Two diamonds, one above the other, indicate a sharp turn in the trail. The diamonds are usually on trees; on wider trails they may be farther apart. Other markers and signs, of varying size and description, show trail numbers and names. Trail markers and signs may be missing or buried by snow. You may have to orient yourself using only the map.

Trail Etiquette and Visitor Responsibility

- Respect the rights of all recreation users. Trail users include skiers, snowshoers, walkers and people using the trail to access hills for sledding.
- On marked trails, skiers and snowshoers headed downhill have the right-of-way. Be prepared to stop for people unaware of trail etiquette.
- Avoid obstructing trails or intersections. Keep to the right of trails except when passing. Do not block trails

when stopping or by traveling side by side.

- When entering a trail or starting downhill, yield to those already on the trail.
- Slow down when meeting or overtaking others. Be sure others can see and hear you.
- Ski under control and in such a manner to avoid hazards and other travelers.
- Fill in any holes or depressions made in the snow.
- Keep off closed trails or other closed areas.
- Respect the posted warning signs.
- Pack out all trash. Leave the area cleaner than you found it.
- Do not disturb wildlife. Keep dogs under control.

Caution!

There are inherent dangers associated with wilderness travel in winter. No written guide can diminish the hazards nor be a guarantee of safety. You must be responsible for executing your own safe trip.

Before leaving home, notify a responsible person of your travel plans and include a map with your route clearly marked. Check back with this person when you return. If you are overdue, this person should notify the Tuolumne County Sheriff by dialing 911.

Travel with a "buddy" so that you have help in the event of an emergency.

You or your group, as appropriate, should carry the "ten essentials" on every trip. They include: map, compass, headlamp, food and water, extra clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen, first aid kit, pocket knife and tools, matches and fire starter, and signaling device.

Your experience will be most enjoyable and safest if you are prepared with at least the following skills:

Backcountry navigation. You must have experience in route-finding in all weather conditions and be able to read a topographical map and use a compass. Although most trails are marked with blue diamonds, this is no substitute for navigation skills.

Avalanche awareness. Avalanche hazards are rare around Dodge Ridge but they can happen if the conditions are right, so be aware of the potential danger. You should be prepared to recognize them and avoid them. Check the Sierra Avalanche Center (530-587-2158 or www.sierraavalanchecenter.org) before setting out.

Wilderness first aid. Be familiar with the signs, symptoms, and treatment of hypothermia and frostbite.