

WINTER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

All backcountry users have a personal responsibility for their safety in the wilderness and should always base their decisions on getting back on their own. Prevention, not treatment, is the key. The Baxter State Park Authority may request reimbursement of search and rescue costs in cases of reckless behavior. All winter parties must carry their winter reservations with them, and all members must have a photo ID available to present to any BSP Ranger upon request.

The staff at Baxter State Park is committed to helping make your trip a safe and successful experience. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Thank you.

1. Definitions:

Winter Season: December 1st to March 31st.

Winter camping, snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing: camping in authorized campsites (lean-tos, tent sites, bunkhouses, cabins, or picnic areas); skiing or snowshoeing on overnight trips below treeline.

Winter mountain hiking and climbing: any trip above treeline or off marked trails, including ice or snow climbing.

Ski-mountaineering and snowboarding: any use of skis or snowboards above treeline.

2. Activities subject to winter procedures:

Day-use: No special permission is required for one-day trips **below treeline**. Visitors should check in and out at the self-registration boxes or at Park Headquarters (by phone, if more convenient). Special permission is required for all day-use climbs **above treeline** (see below).

Winter camping, snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing; winter mountain hiking and climbing; and ski-mountaineering or snowboarding (that is, any winter overnight use, or any winter above-treeline travel, including day-use) require a permit and are subject to these administrative policies and procedures and paperwork submitted to BSP Headquarters at least 10 days before the trip.

3. Party size:

(A) There is no minimum group size. The maximum winter party size is **twelve (12)**

(B) The “*Winter Hiking/Camping Application*” does not authorize a winter climber to participate in unprotected free solo climbing on technical terrain. (Routes that would normally be climbed with the use of ropes and means of protection).

4. For administrative purposes, winter hiking/camping applications will need a designated trip leader.

5. Camping is permitted only by reservation in authorized sites. Parties must register with the ranger at Chimney Pond, Abol, or self-register at unstaffed ranger stations upon arrival at any campsite.

6. Please read the Baxter State Park Winter Use Information booklet (BSP-43) to have a clear understanding of the remote and severe winter conditions you will encounter. Due to the likelihood of extreme weather conditions in Baxter State Park during the winter and the possibility that rescue of injured persons may be delayed for hours or days, the following equipment is recommended as part of every winter visitor’s basic kit.

See the back side for a list of recommended supplies.

**Recommended Winter Checklist for Day Trips
below Timberline in Forests and on Trails:**

- ☐ Heavy-duty day pack
- ☐ Pack boots with wool liners such as mouse boots, climbing or touring double boots appropriate to the mode of travel
- ☐ Gaiters (knee high)
- ☐ Snowshoes or heavy-duty touring skis
- ☐ Insulating mittens
- ☐ Insulating gloves
- ☐ Mitten shells
- ☐ Thin wicking sock liners
- ☐ Insulating socks
- ☐ Insulating balaclava that covers the entire head
- ☐ Wicking innerwear top and bottom
- ☐ Insulating jacket or sweater
- ☐ Insulating pants
- ☐ Light wind/rain shell
- ☐ Wide-mouthed vacuum bottle or insulated water bottle
- ☐ Extra food
- ☐ Sunscreen and lip balm
- ☐ Trekking poles
- ☐ Snow goggles
- ☐ Personal first aid kit
- ☐ Headlamp
- ☐ Fire-starting material, including waterproof matches (butane lighters can fail in extreme cold)

Recommended Winter Checklist for Camping Trips:

- ☐ Large, sturdy internal or external frame pack
- ☐ -20 degree F (-29 degrees C) sleeping bag
- ☐ Insulating full-length ground pad made of cold-resistant material; the second half pad adds a great deal of comfort
- ☐ Pack boots with wool liners, such as mouse boots, or climbing or touring double boots appropriate to the mode of travel
- ☐ High gaiters or supergaiters
- ☐ Snowshoes or heavy-duty touring skis
- ☐ Insulating mittens and gloves
- ☐ Mitten shells
- ☐ Thin wicking sock liners
- ☐ Vapor barrier sock
- ☐ 2 or 3 pairs of insulating socks
- ☐ Balaclava that covers the entire head (with a spare)
- ☐ Heavyweight insulated jacket or sweater
- ☐ Midweight insulated jacket or sweater

- ☐ Sunglasses with side protection
- ☐ Snow goggles
- ☐ Wicking innerwear top and bottom
- ☐ Insulating pants with side zips
- ☐ Light wind shell shirt
- ☐ Waterproof/breathable jacket and pants with side zips
- ☐ Unbreakable bowl, insulated cup & spoon
- ☐ Water bottles and thermos- insulated and wide-mouthed
- ☐ Headlamp with extra batteries
- ☐ Sunscreen and lip balm
- ☐ Food for an extra day or more
- ☐ Trekking poles
- ☐ Personal first aid kit
- ☐ Fire-starting material, including waterproof matches (butane lighters can fail in extreme cold)
- ☐ Axe/folding bow saw
- ☐ Map and compass
- ☐ Winter expedition tent per 2 -3 people
- ☐ Haul sled or drag bag
- ☐ Large contractor-grade plastic bags

Mountaineers and Peak Baggers should also consider:

- ☐ Avalanche transceiver and probe pole
- ☐ Heavy-duty snow/avalanche shovel
- ☐ Snow study kit
- ☐ Ice axe
- ☐ Climbing rope
- ☐ Crampons
- ☐ Microspikes
- ☐ Helmet
- ☐ Bivouac sack
- ☐ Expedition weight down or synthetic jacket
- ☐ Extra mittens and hat

Technical Climbers should also consider:

- ☐ Harness
- ☐ Two ice tools and a third tool
- ☐ A dry rope and a second retreat rope
- ☐ Anchors and protection appropriate to the intended routes