

POLICIES & PROCEDURES OF THE GVMS SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB

This document covers the Guidelines, Safety, Injury, Behavior, Risk and Liability procedures of the Great Valley Middle School Ski & Snowboard Club. All students and parents **MUST** read the policy and digitally sign each trip registration form confirming that you have read and understand every item contained in this document. Your digital signature is confirmation that you understand and abide by all items listed without exception.

PART I – General GVSSC Guidelines & Procedures.

BEFORE THE TRIP:

- (a) Students must register for a trip. Spaces on any trip will be reserved only if all of the necessary information has been completed and returned. This includes: Emergency Form, this Policy Statement, the trip registration form, and your checks.
- (b) Students who want to attend multiple trips must have separate checks (appropriately labeled) for each trip- Made out to **Great Valley Middle School**—do not send in one check for all trips. Checks must be dated for the day of the trip and the trip and student's full name must appear in memo line.
- (c) Students will not be permitted to attend any trip(s) if they are on the ineligibility list for that week or if they have been suspended (internal or external) the Friday prior to the date of the trip—even if they registered early. If the student is absent from school the day before the trip, they are not eligible to attend the trip. It is the parent's responsibility to notify Mr. or Mrs. Search for their space to be filled.
- (d) Students must purchase either a GVSSC patch or 2 GVSSC helmet stickers prior to going on any ski trip. The patches can be sewn or pinned on a coat or jacket sleeve and cost \$3. The stickers must go on the helmet so that they are clearly visible and cost \$1 each. Either item will be available for cash on the bus.
- (e) Students must regularly check the trip registration list posted online as it is updated frequently. Students on the wait list also need to notify Mr. or Mrs. Search if unable to attend.
- (f) Equipment for ALL trips must be taken care of at a local ski shop ahead of time as students will not be permitted to rent equipment at the mountains. Helmets are required for all trips.
- (g) Parents and students should ensure that all personal equipment is clearly labeled with masking tape and permanent marker.

DURING THE TRIP:

- (a) Students should be aware that all Ski Club trips are official school trips. All school rule, are therefore, in effect. Exceptions to this include: gum chewing or eating candy, use of phones or other electronic devices. Music devices and games should use headphones or extremely low volume.
- (b) The Great Valley Middle School Ski/Snowboard Club is a reflection of the both the school and the Great Valley School District. Participants should be on their BEST behavior at all times to reflect a positive image of the club and school.
- (c) While riding the bus, students should demonstrate appropriate bus behavior. Excessive volume, exchanging seats while the bus is in motion, or walking around will not be permitted—except to use the bathroom facilities.
- (d) On the bus, students are to be responsible to keep their area clean of food, wrappers, etc. Seats are checked before and after the trip to ensure that the bus we use is kept clean. Students will be financially responsible for any damage to the seat(s).
- (e) Bottles of water will be provided to each skier on the bus.
- (f) Skiers, boarders, and those using ski blades **MUST** ski/board with **AT LEAST** one other person and *stay together* while skiing/boarding and observe mountain and skier courtesies rules.
- (g) **YOU** are responsible for your day of skiing/boarding. This includes keeping track of your equipment, reporting to any lessons, bringing money for food (lunch and dinner), and being back to the bus on time.
- (h) If you are injured or need assistance from Ski Patrol, have them page one of the chaperones ASAP. Partners should remain with those injured or needing assistance until a chaperone arrives. Parents will have to meet any injured child if taken to the hospital.

AFTER THE TRIP:

- (a) Parents should be aware of the trip's arrival time back to Great Valley and have arranged for your child to be picked up **ON TIME** as would also be the case following an athletic sports practice or game. **Students whose parents are frequently late in picking them up may not be permitted to attend other ski trips.**
- (b) Parents **MAY NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES** pick their children up at the mountain or have someone else pick up their children at a mountain *unless* a written note has been given to Mr./Mrs. Search BEFORE the trip. We will make arrangements to meet with the parent(s) or a designated adult at a particular time and place to physically see the student(s) go with the adult.
- (c) Parents should not board the bus upon our return to school or begin to take their child's belongings until the chaperones have verified via an identification label that things are in fact theirs. This is due to people who have mistakenly taken similar skis, boots, and poles as their own.
- (d) Students need to ensure that they have **all** of **their** belongings prior to leaving GVMS to go home. Any items left behind will be placed in the school's lost and found area.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:

- (a) It is the responsibility of the student and parent(s) to inform Mrs. Search of a trip cancellation or changes in trip options - Changes made the week of the trip **will not** receive any refunds. Prior to that week if a replacement is found for your spot on the trip registration will be refunded. The best way to communicate with us is via an email message to the Club address.

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- (b) Students who register for a trip and later decide not to go will only receive a complete refund **PROVIDED that we can fill the seat with another student and it is received one week prior to the trip.** If we cannot fill the seat (i.e. there is no one on the waiting list or the trip was not full from the start), no refund is available. **Cancellations made the week of the trip will not receive any refund.**
- (d) Students who do not show up on the day of a trip WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND OF ANY KIND.
- (e) Refunds for any/all trips will be disbursed by the end of the school year.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- (a) The GVMS Ski/Snowboard Club is open to students (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) of the Great Valley Middle School. Checks for all trips are deposited immediately after the date of the trip. “Bounced” checks will be assessed a \$30 fee, as per the District, and students will not be permitted to attend any further trips until appropriate costs are provided.
- (b) The chaperones reserve the right to invoke school discipline procedures if needed. “Ski/Snowboard penalties,” confiscation of lift tickets, or removal/exclusion of students from the Club may be required if deemed necessary.
- (c) The use of HELMETS ARE REQUIRED and wrist guards are the discretion of the student and parent/guardian.
- (d) Students (especially snowboarders) who use tools to repair their equipment must ensure that they do not contain blades of any kind.
- (e) Parents and students recognize and accept that due to the nature of the sport and trips, it is impossible for the chaperones to supervise every child at every moment during the trip. Therefore, students and parents also recognize and accept that students must demonstrate reasonable and common sense behavior.
- (f) The GVMS Ski/Snowboarding Club is an extra-curricular activity. Participating with the club is therefore a **PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT.** Your cooperation in the above matters will help ensure a safe and enjoyable ski season for all.

PART II – Safety, Injuries & Behavior

Skiing and Snowboarding are fun and exciting lifetime activities and when done properly, they can provide years of enjoyment. Like many other physical activities and sports, they can be uncomfortable at times. Depending on your ability level you should expect to fall, get bumps/bruises and even get a bit sore. Depending on your current level of physical condition, you may get nauseous or even experience a slight headache. The boots, equipment and clothing that you wear to ski and ride can be stiff, bulky and cumbersome. Because we're outdoors in the mountains during winter time you may get cold, hot & sweaty and then cold again...all on the same run! These are completely normal parts of skiing and riding and usually a ride up the lift or a short break in the lodge is all it takes to recover and be on your way. These normal situations are very different from being injured.

When you are injured you are in serious pain and discomfort, you may feel scared or upset and, oddly enough, you are usually quiet, reserved and “pulled in to yourself”. If you are injured, you will require immediate attention from Ski Patrol. National Ski Patrol has highly qualified first responders constantly on patrol and they are at every mountain we visit. They also run the First Aid station located in or near the base lodge. If you go to Ski Patrol because of an injury, Mrs. Search and I will be notified and we will come to you immediately. You will be at the First Aid station for a minimum of one hour and Ski Patrol will generally take your lift ticket and not allow you to continue skiing/riding for the remainder of the day. Parents, we will contact you and in many cases we will ask you to come to the mountain depending on the injury, the time of day and how close we are to departure. Going to Ski Patrol is not like going to the school nurse because you have an ache or an upset stomach (...or need a break from class!). For those types of issues, you should see the GVSSC Chaperone stationed in the lodge, they will help you and let you know if you need to go to Ski Patrol.

Regarding behavior, Chaperones, Mentors and our Bus Drivers are there to provide a safe trip for everyone to enjoy a day outside on the mountain. We are not on the trip to babysit. Every student is expected to be courteous, responsible for their own gear and clean up their own messes, in the lodge and on the busses. We all want to have a great day and it starts with everyone doing his or her part.

Part III – Risk & Liability

Skiing and Snowboarding are hazardous sports requiring the deliberate and conscious control of your physical body through proper use of your equipment in relation to ever changing variables and dangers. Your safety is directly affected by your judgment in the elements and terrain. Ski or board only within your own ability. Be prepared to stop at all times. Be alert to continually changing weather, visibility and surface conditions. Snow, ice, drop-offs, bare ground, rocks, roots, stumps, trees, debris, barriers, fences, lift towers, ruts, bumps, snowmaking equipment, grooming vehicles, snowmobiles, other skiers, power poles and a multitude of other objects are inherent to the sport of skiing. Be aware that use of a terrain park requires greater skiing or boarding skills and recognize that there are bumps, ridges, spines and other features present that are unique to a terrain park. By registering and participating in GVSSC trips, students and their families assume full responsibility for all actions and injuries while participating. Everything will be done by the GVSSC to assure the safest possible conditions for all members. It is inherently understood that you are skiing and riding at your own risk.