

FHS Ski & Board Club



Member Handbook
2025-2026 Season

Dear Families & Students,

Welcome, and thank you for taking an interest in the FHS Ski and Board Club. My name is Brett Thackeray, and I am the FHS and LJHS Ski Club advisor this year. I am also the Spanish teacher here at FHS and at LJHS, so you can also call me Señor Paco.

If you are new to the club, here's how it works:

*** Your \$55 membership pays for our transportation to Showdown. Pay your membership dues at least a week before you plan to participate because you cannot ride the bus until your dues are paid. Once your dues are paid, you may go on as many trips as you'd like.

*** **All students MUST sign up by Wednesday** before each trip they want to take (see schedule). Students sign up on the form posted at the school office for each trip. When signing up, you also indicate if you need a lift ticket, rental equipment, and/or a lesson. (prices on page 10)

Even if you have equipment and a pass, you still need to sign up by Wed. to ride the bus. Make checks payable to FHS. Submit your payment by 4 pm Wednesday.

*** When we arrive at Showdown, a chaperone will hand out lift tickets and students may pick up their rental gear in the rental shack. Lessons start at 10:30 in front of the lodge. You are on your own for lunch. The bus leaves for home at 4:30pm.

*** **ALL beginners must take a lesson on each of their first two visits to Showdown with the club.** ALL lessons are FREE for our club members and chaperones.

Also, we strongly recommend helmets.

As always, we recommend that you talk to your child about safety, responsibilities, and expectations for skiing and snowboarding.

Please feel free to call me with any questions, at any time. The phone number for FHS is 535-2321. I'm normally available from 11:30-12:30 and 3:30-4:00. If you need to reach me outside of school hours (before 8am or after 4pm), please call or text my number below. You may also reach me on the Google classroom (3rsw6hb), Heja (YL-428301), or by email at bthackeray@lewistown.k12.mt.us

If the roads are closed or below zero temps are expected and we have to cancel a trip ahead of time, I'll post it on Heja and the Google classroom as soon as possible.



Happy Sliding!
Brett Thackeray
406.350.0170
Ski Club Advisor

I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the FHS Ski and Board Club and welcome to the life-long sports of skiing and snowboarding! It is our hope that you will enjoy the excitement and thrill of these great sports here in Montana. Skiing and snowboarding can be dangerous, however, and precautions need to be taken. The rules and guidelines established for our Ski and Board Club are intended to increase the safety and protection of each member and the patrons of the area we are using. Have a safe and enjoyable season.

PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

- A.** The club is open to all students of Fergus High School. Parents/Guardians who would like to chaperone are welcome and encouraged to apply. However, sometimes space is limited on the bus. When there is a full bus, we may have to limit the number of adults. If interested, please contact Mr. Thackeray.
- B.** The club is organized for providing all interested students the opportunity to participate in the lifelong sports of skiing and snowboarding.
- C.** The club assesses dues to pay for their transportation to Showdown about 8 times. This is a one-time \$55.00 non-refundable fee to all members.
- D.** Skiing and Snowboarding are FUN! They are one of the few sports where anyone of any skill level can have fun. Don't let your friend's skill or experience intimidate you – just try it – have a blast!
- E.** If you are in sports and other activities, you may still find it worthwhile to join the Ski Club. Trips were planned on these dates based mainly around bus driver availability. Unfortunately some of these dates may overlap with other activities and commitments.

II. PERSONNEL OF THE CLUB

- A.** The Ski Club shall consist of:
 - 1. Any Fergus High School students interested in skiing or snowboarding.
 - 2. One faculty member to organize activities and serve as advisor.
 - 3. Approved parents who have volunteered to ride the bus and help the students.

III. MEETINGS

- A.** Regular meetings aren't scheduled. Meetings will be held as needed. Listen to morning announcements and monitor Heja for announcements.
- B.** The advisor shall call additional special meetings when necessary.

IV. DISMISSAL FROM THE CLUB MAY RESULT FROM:

- A. Any disruptive behavior during club meetings.**
 - 1. A warning will be given for the 1st offense.
 - 2. Membership termination will result from the 2nd offense.
 - 3. Severe behavior may result in termination upon the 1st offense.
- B. Any disruptive bus trip behavior.**
 - 1. A warning will be given for the 1st offense.
 - 2. Membership termination will result from the 2nd offense.
 - 3. Severe behavior may result in termination upon the 1st offense.
- C. Any disruptive behavior at Showdown.**
 - 1. A warning will be given for the 1st offense.
 - 2. Membership termination will result from the 2nd offense.
 - 3. Severe behavior may result in termination upon the 1st offense.
- D. A missed deadline for the return of the handbook policy/insurance release form.**
- E. The possession of any illicit materials; tobacco, drugs or alcohol.
(SEE THE POLICY in the FHS PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK.)**
- F. Theft or destruction of any kind to any other person's property.**

V. TRANSPORTATION

School District #1 will provide a bus for all the club trips to Showdown. The Ski and Board Club, by its dues, pays for the fuel & bus driver. You must ride the bus in order to participate in club activities and discounts. If you travel to the hill with the ski bus, **you must return with the ski bus unless prior arrangements have been made with administration.**

A. Activity Bus Guidelines

1. **Students are to remain in their seats, facing forward, with seat belts properly fastened, while the bus is in motion.**
2. Keep the aisle clear of obstructions. Do not hang over or on the arm rests or the back of the seat. Feet on the floor or the foot rest.
3. Each row is to have members of the same sex. Students are to be segregated by gender into different portions of the bus; i.e., girls in front, boys in back, with advisors in the middle.
4. Refrain from being excessively noisy, keeping the noise level below that which disturbs the driver.
Headphones or earbuds must be used with any media players.
5. Remain QUIET in all City Limits and absolutely silent at all railroad crossings.
6. Carry-on items are to be kept to a minimum, (handbags, lunch sacks, and a blanket are allowed). In case of sudden stops or an accident, minimizing potential items flying around will minimize injuries.
7. All large bags/equipment must be stored in the under-bus baggage compartment.
8. All waste materials are to be properly disposed of in a receptacle supplied.
9. Cold sandwiches, fresh fruit, juice or canned pop, milk in cartons, candy bars, chips and 'fast food' can be consumed on the bus. **NO NUTS on the bus.**
10. When possible, there are to be no students on the bus while it is parked, without being accompanied by a chaperone or an advisor.

In case of an accident or circumstances where the bus must be evacuated quickly, make every effort to observe the following directions:

1. Proceed in an orderly manner to the exit nearest your seat, (the bus driver will point them out to you). Leave all personal items and exit the bus through these emergency exits.
2. Move to a safe point, as directed, 100 feet or more away from the bus and gather in one group to make it possible for a check to see if all passengers have been evacuated.
3. Passengers will follow the directions given by the driver or one of the Advisors or Chaperones.

B. Showdown Trips

1. FHS students sign up at the office by the Wednesday prior. Showdown and the bus barn need an accurate count by Wednesday. Please call the advisor ASAP if you signed up and are unable to attend.
2. **The bus will begin loading at 6:30 a.m. and will depart promptly from the front of FHS at 7:00 a.m.**
 - a. Anyone who is late will be left at home.
 - b. Family emergencies and illness are to be the only reasons for not showing up - please call or text the advisor asap.
3. Arrival at the ski area
 - a. There are different computer generated tickets for your lift &/or equipment needs. If, for any reason, a member has a ticket or tickets that you don't need, or shouldn't have, you must return it to a chaperone as soon as possible.
 - b. After the tickets and coupons are handed out you may proceed directly to the rental shop for your equipment and/or to the chair lift.
 - c. If you are taking a lesson, proceed to the ski school area below the lodge (near the magic carpet) by 10:30 am or 1:00 pm.
 - i. The lessons will start at 10:30 am - be early.
 - ii. If you miss your 10:30 lesson, you can attend one at 1:00 pm.
 - iii. Roll call will be taken by the advisor before the lessons begin.
 - iv. You will be placed into different levels of skiing ability for your lessons.
 - v. You must attend a lesson during your first and second trips, if you are a beginner skier or snowboarder.
4. Noon meal: You are on your own. Either a sack lunch or bring money. Usually \$10-\$20 will purchase lunch at the lodge. Showdown provides hot oatmeal and a brownie or cookie for free to every club member.
5. For the return trip back to Lewistown we will load by 4:30 p.m., take roll call, and depart from the hill. This means you should be at the base lodge no later than 4:00pm. **If you are late for loading the bus, you may be dismissed from the club.** We should arrive back to FHS by approximately 6:30 p.m.
6. Acceptable bus behavior includes low noise level both to and from the ski hill; promptly following advisor directions; and generally positive, respectful attitudes. You are expected to properly wear your seat belt while the bus is in motion.

VI. CLOTHING – WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

One secret to skiing and snowboarding well is being comfortable. It will be no fun if you're wet or cold, so choose clothing that will keep you warm and dry. Also, use clothing that allows for free body movement with arms and legs.

Most skiers dress in layers of light wool and cotton. It's better to wear two light sweaters than one heavy sweater. Clothes should fit, but not be too tight or too loose. Layering allows the skier to shed or add clothing depending upon the demands of the weather.

- A. **First layer:** Thin insulation layer: wool, cotton, or synthetics designed to be a first layer are all good options.
- B. **Second layer:** One light sweater or turtleneck covered by a warm sweater; ski or snow pants. Blue jeans are not recommended, but some people wear them. The second layer should also insulate and perhaps be water resistant if it's a "warm" day.
- C. **Outer layer:** If no helmet, then some kind of warm hat or ear protection: water-repelling warm gloves and a warm coat that will shed moisture. Sunglasses or ski goggles are strongly recommended, as well as sunblock. **Helmets are not required for Ski Club members, but are strongly recommended.** No long scarves or shorts when skiing. This practice is dangerous on the lift and is not safe if an accident should occur.

VII. SKI/SNOWBOARD LEVEL INFORMATION

- A. First timers: People who have never skied before, or are not comfortable stopping.
- B. Beginners: People who have skied about 4-6 times but only ski the green or the easiest runs. People who feel confident in stopping and want to work on better turns.
- C. Intermediate: People who have limited experience but can ski some blue runs. People who are very confident stopping, turning, and very seldom lose control.
- D. Advanced: People who are excellent skiers and enjoy the more challenging runs.

VIII. SKI SAFETY

A. MONTANA LAW: SECTION 23-2-736 MCA SKIER'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND INHERENT RISKS; Otherwise known as the Montana Skier Responsibility Act of 1989.

The following provisions are important to all skiers:

1. A skier is responsible for knowing and skiing within the range of his/her ability and for abiding by the requirement of the Skier Responsibility Code.
2. A skier shall maintain control of speed and course so as to prevent injury to themselves or others and shall obey all posted or other warnings and instructions of the ski area operator.
3. No skier involved in an accident with another skier may depart from the scene of the accident without leaving personal identification, notifying the proper authorities, and obtaining assistance when a person involved in the accident is in need of medical or other assistance.
4. A skier must accept all legal responsibility for injury or damage of any to the extent that the injury or damage results from risks inherent in the sport of skiing.

B. Ski Signs of the Mountain



GREEN
Least Difficult



BLUE
More Difficult



BLACK
Most Difficult



EXTREME
Caution

These four symbols are the International Trail Marking System and are used at Showdown to denote the relative degree of difficulty. You, as a skier, are obligated to learn what the signs mean.

C. Skier's Responsibility Code

The following guidelines are from the National Ski Area Association. These guidelines are used at all ski resorts and are referred to as the **SKIER'S RESPONSIBILITY CODE**. This is a partial list and is designed for your own protection.

1. Always stay in control. You must be able to stop or avoid people or objects.
2. People ahead or downhill of you have the right-of-way. You must avoid them.
3. Stop only where you are visible from above and do not restrict traffic.
4. Look uphill and avoid others before starting downhill or entering a trail.
5. You must prevent runaway equipment.
6. Read and obey all signs, warnings, and hazard markings.
7. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
8. You must know how and be able to load, ride and unload lifts safely. If you need assistance, ask the lift attendant.
9. Do not use lifts or terrain when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
10. If you are involved in a collision or incident, share your contact information with each other and a ski area employee.

Winter sports involve risk of serious injury or death.

Your knowledge, decisions and actions contribute to your safety and the safety of others.

If you need help understanding the Code, please ask any ski area employee.

It is each member's responsibility to know the skier's code of conduct on the slopes. Please be safety-conscious at all times whenever and wherever you are skiing. Risks inherent in the sport of skiing result from terrain, the amount of snow, conditions of the snow, temperature changes, and skier use. Always be aware of changing conditions at all times and expect the unexpected.

IX. SKI CLUB TRIPS AND COSTS

Trips are subject to change based on weather, bus availability, and club funding.

Sign up and pay by

Wednesday Dec. 17
Wednesday Dec. 17
Wednesday Dec. 17
Wednesday Jan. 7
Wednesday Jan. 14
Wednesday Jan. 21
Wednesday Jan. 28
Wednesday Dec. 17
Wednesday Feb. 18
Wednesday Mar. 4
Wednesday Mar. 18
Wednesday Mar. 25

TRIP DAYS

Saturday Dec. 20
Saturday Dec. 27
Mon/Tues. Dec. 29 - 30 (overnight in White Sulfur Springs)
Saturday Jan. 10
Saturday Jan. 17
Saturday Jan. 24
Saturday Jan. 31
Thur/Sat Feb. 5 - 7 (overnight at Fairmont / Discovery)
Saturday Feb. 21
Saturday Mar. 7
Saturday Mar. 21
Saturday Mar. 28

*We realize it can be difficult to plan ahead. Showdown has so many schools, clubs, and groups attending on Saturdays now that they need more time to prepare rental equipment and plan for instructors than they used to.

Therefore, this season we are requiring sign up and payment by the dates listed above.

Lift Tickets and Rentals

*If a trip is canceled after you pay,
your money will be refunded or credited towards a later trip.*

PRICES FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

<u>The price quotes for:</u>	<u>Skiing or Snowboarding</u>
Lift Ticket Only	\$25
Rental Only	\$30
Lift Ticket and Rental	\$45
Lift Ticket, Rental, and Lesson	\$45

- *Prices are subject to change at Showdown year to year.*
- *Prices above have been updated as of November 11th, 2025.*

ALL LESSONS ARE FREE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

A. The bus/rental sign up sheet

1. Students must sign up for each trip on the sheet in the FHS office. Please indicate what you need to pay for and amount you have paid. **Remember, even if you have a season pass and equipment you still need to sign up to ride the bus.**
2. The transportation department (and assigned bus drivers) reserve the right to cancel any trip based on weather, road conditions, or low attendance numbers.

B. Cost & Payment Schedule

1. A \$55.00 membership fee must be paid before your first trip. The \$55.00 fee covers all bus trips to Showdown and is non-refundable. If you decide to join Ski and Board Club later in the season the \$55.00 fee **must** be paid prior to your first trip.
2. Please pay weekend fees (lift ticket and rental costs) by check written to FHS by the Wednesday deadline.
If you would like to pay through Infinite Campus please see Mrs. Hersel.
You **MUST** pay before you will be allowed onto the bus.
3. **If you can not afford to go, please contact Mr. Thackeray privately, as special arrangements may be made. Any special arrangements must be made prior to the signup deadline for the trip.**

C. Group Ski Lessons

1. Showdown requires that first-time boarders and skiers take two lessons during their first two trips to Showdown.
2. Showdown is providing free lessons to the FHS Ski Club this season.

Turn in \$55 dues, permission slip, and rental form to Mr. Thackeray in the Spanish room asap - at least one week before you plan to participate.

Please pay with a check made payable to FHS, or visit with Mrs. Hersel about online payments.

***The FHS Ski and Board Club recommends use of a helmet for all skiing & snowboarding. Safety is paramount for all club members.**

****Please take time to review the entirety of the handbook with your child and make sure they understand the rules of both the club and the mountain.**

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FILL OUT, SIGN & RETURN WITH \$55.00 STUDENT DUES.

**Please put the check and registration form in an envelope with your name on it.*

I HEREBY UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THIS HANDBOOK GOVERNING THE FERGUS HIGH SKI AND BOARD CLUB AND SHALL ABIDE BY THEM.

I GIVE MY CHILD _____,

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ANY OR ALL OF THE SKI AND BOARD CLUB TRIPS SCHEDULED DURING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR. I REALIZE SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING ARE SPORTS WHERE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTAL INJURY OR DEATH AND HEREBY RELEASE THE LEWISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL, SCHOOL DISTRICT #1, AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES FROM ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY IN CASE OF SKIING/SNOWBOARDING RELATED INJURIES OR DEATH TO MY CHILD. IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, MY CHILD MAY BE TRANSPORTED TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL FOR HIS/HER SAFETY AND/OR MEDICAL CARE.

WE HAVE AN INSURANCE POLICY WITH _____, (Name of Insurance Company) WHICH WILL COVER THE COSTS INCURRED FROM ACCIDENTAL INJURY.

PLEASE SIGN & RETURN THIS FORM.

PLEASE PRINT.

Printed name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed name of Student: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening/Weekend Phone Number: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

Email Address: _____

In case we can't reach you:

Emergency Contact Name

Phone Number