

Outdoors for All 2021 Winter Policies

Contents

Outdoors for All Registration and Refund Policies	2
DSHS Respite Funding	2
Financial Scholarships	2
Payment Policy.....	2
Cancellation Policy	2
Program Cancellation.....	2
Registration Transfer Policy	2
Outdoors for All Essential Eligibility Criteria	3
COVID-19 – Essential Eligibility Criteria	4
Winter Policies	5
Drop-off/Arrival & Pick-Up	5
Indoor Access	5
Rental Equipment	5
Marker Binding Release of Liability	6
Helmets	6
Program Management and Expectations	6
Staff and Volunteers	6
Behavior Policy.....	6
Staff and Volunteers	6
Abuse Prevention and Reporting.....	7
Electronic Communications and Social Media.....	7

Outdoors for All Registration and Refund Policies

DSHS Respite Funding

Outdoors for All will not be accepting DSHS (DDA) Respite Funding during the 2021 winter season. Due to changes in lesson times and eliminating transportation options, Respite Funding is not a viable payment option.

We anticipate accepting DSHS (DDA) Respite Funding for summer programs in 2021 (should COVID-19 subside in our community).

Financial Scholarships

Financial Scholarships are available to participants based on the availability of funds and on a first come, first served basis. In the 2021 winter season, financial assistance may cover up to 80% of total activity cost, with a maximum award of \$700 per participant per season. To be considered for financial scholarships participants must be registered for the program for which they are requesting financial aid. Please complete a financial scholarship application on our website (available on November 2nd). As with any registration, a \$50 deposit per activity must be submitted to secure a place in the program regardless of financial scholarship application status.

*Only veterans and military personnel who are eligible for VA services are deposit exempt.

Payment Policy

A refundable \$50 deposit is required for each registration (*veterans eligible for VA services are deposit exempt).

Full payment is due 7 business days prior to the start of the program. Registrations that are not paid in full 7 days prior to the program start will be moved to the waitlist for that program and are not guaranteed registration.

Cancellation Policy

Canceled registrations 14 calendar days prior to the first program activity day will receive a full refund including a \$50 deposit.

Cancellations less than 14 calendar days prior to the first program activity day will forfeit the \$50 deposit per program.

Cancellations less than 7 calendar days prior to the first program activity day will forfeit the

\$50 deposit and full program fee, including fees for equipment rentals, lift tickets, and any additional concession costs.

Program Cancellation

If Outdoors for All cancels programming and is unable to offer a make-up date or session Participants will receive a pro-rated refund of activity fees based on the duration of the program and activity days cancelled.

Participants that are unable to attend make-up dates are eligible for a refund per the restrictions listed above.

Registration Transfer Policy

Should you need to change your registration to a different activity, or program location please contact the office as soon as possible, a \$25 transfer fee will be applied.

Outdoors for All Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC)

Outdoors for All programs and activities are suited for a wide range of individuals with disabilities however not all programs and activities are suitable for all abilities. The qualifications for participation in each of Outdoors for All's programs may vary for each program and activity. Outdoors for All does not discriminate, exclude, or deny any qualified individuals from participation in its programs and activities.

If an individual participant is unable to meet the below criteria, we may be able to assist the individual with a reasonable accommodation unless it alters the fundamental nature of the activity or compromises the health and safety of participants, volunteers, staff, or self.

Participants (as well as staff & volunteers) of any Outdoors for All program or activity must meet these following minimum qualifications to participate:

1. Be able to manage personal care independently or with the assistance of a companion. Personal care is identified as but not limited to: changing clothes, personal hygiene, eating, using the restroom)
2. Be able to follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with the assistance of a companion
3. Be able to safely tolerate elevation of 3,000ft and above for the duration of activity time – for snow sport activities, outdoor climbing, and hiking
4. Be able to transfer safely in and out of equipment independently or with assistance
5. Be able to remain adequately hydrated, fed, and properly dressed so as to remain generally healthy, regulate body temperature, and be able to avoid environmental injuries such as hypothermia, heat-related illness, sunburn, and frostbite
6. Be able to effectively signal or notify staff, volunteers, or companion of personal distress, injury, or need for assistance
7. If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by medicating independently or with the assistance of a personal care attendant or with a verbal prompt by a staff member
8. Be prepared to participate in physically strenuous activities that may require physical ability beyond what many people are accustomed to in their day-to-day lives
9. Be able to wear all safety equipment correctly such as, but not limited to, helmet, spray skirts, or personal flotation device
10. Be comfortable traveling in outdoor settings where access to advanced medical care may be delayed
11. Contribute to a safe environment— Be able to refrain from behaviors that pose a risk (such as aggression, inability to set boundaries, lack of safety awareness, drug/alcohol use or influence) to self or others, independently or with assistance
12. Appropriately fit in and use the equipment for the body type, height, and weight without going beyond the weight capacity or other limitations of program equipment

COVID-19 – Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC)

Outdoors for All's additional EEC have been added in light of the on-going pandemic. These additional EEC are set in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and align with State and Federal health guidelines.

Participants (as well as staff & volunteers) of any Outdoors for All program or activity must meet these following minimum qualifications to participate:

1. Be 7 years old or older
2. Be able to maintain 6ft social distance
3. Be able to wear a facial mask during program engagement (per the WA State Dept. of Health guidelines and CDC)
4. Be COVID-19 symptom free within the 10 days before participating in an Outdoors for All activity (or 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test); complete daily health survey before entering Outdoors for All facility or program area (i.e. symptom chart, temperature, etc.)
5. Confirm no contact with individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms within the last 10 days
6. Be a returning Outdoors for All participant or volunteer (new participants & volunteers considered on a case by case basis, with Program Director approval)
7. Be capable of meeting on snow to begin lessons (limited use of indoor facilities to prepare for a lesson)
8. Be able to tolerate 2+ hours in an outdoor environment with wintery conditions (limited use of indoor facilities for rest breaks; no lingering indoors)
9. Be capable of transferring into/out of equipment independently or with the support of a party member
10. Be capable of donning/doffing equipment independently or with the support of a party member (ex. ski boots, helmet, etc.)
11. Be capable of loading and unloading a chair lift independently (*adaptive equipment assistance available if PPE worn)

2021 Winter Policies

Drop-off/Arrival & Pick-Up

Because Outdoors for All programs will have limited access to indoor space this winter season, participants must be prepared for programs upon arrival at the lesson location. Check-in for lessons will take place outside, on the snow level.

Participants should arrive ready to participate, and no more than 10 minutes before the start of their lesson time. Participants under the age of 18, or those that do not drive themselves, are to be picked up from the activity area by a family member, legal guardian, or approved caregiver, no more than 10 minutes after the conclusion of their lesson. For every 10 minutes that the participant is left in the care of an Outdoors for All staff member or volunteer (beyond the first 10 minutes after the conclusion of their lesson), Outdoors for All will charge a \$15 Late Pick-Up Fee to the participant's ActiveNet account. Participants cannot return to programs unless this late fee is paid in full.

Indoor Access

Outdoors for All programs will have limited access to indoor space this winter season. Participants must be prepared for programs upon arrival at the lesson location. There will be no bag or personal item storage inside; unless the items support a medical need. In Summit West programming, at the Summit at Snoqualmie, participants needing an accessible route to snow from the parking lot can traverse through the Outdoors for All building to access the snow level of Summit West.

Rental Equipment

To reduce the frequency of shared equipment for stand ski, snowboard, cross country ski, or snowshoe rentals, participants in a 7-week series, paying to rent equipment from Outdoors for All will be issued gear on a first come, first served basis (or as supplies last). Participants will be responsible for transporting their equipment to/from the activity area for their weekly lessons. Normal wear and tear to equipment are acceptable. Participants are responsible for the upkeep of the equipment throughout the season, reporting damage to Outdoors for All staff, and the safe return of the equipment on the final day of lessons. Should the equipment face damage beyond normal wear and tear, or is lost/stolen, the participant is responsible for the maintenance, or replacement, of the equipment through a reputable winter equipment technician.

Participants renting adaptive ski equipment (sit skis, snow sliders, or other large pieces of adaptive equipment) for the 7-week series will leave their equipment at the activity area at the conclusion of each lesson. Outdoors for All has a select number of each type of adaptive equipment, but we will do our best to limit the sharing of adaptive equipment between participants and will clean equipment appropriately between uses.

Participants interested in renting sit ski or other adaptive equipment outside of the 7-week series offerings will be considered on a case by case basis. Participants must have participated with Outdoors for All previously or have another adaptive sports program to verify their experience. Participants must either be independent in the use of the equipment or have support from individuals who have completed Outdoors for All volunteer training or have been verified by another adaptive ski organization.

Outdoors for All will not rent stand equipment outside of the 7-week series offerings.

Marker Binding Release of Liability

Participants using stand skis must complete a Marker Binding Release of Liability prior to receiving ski equipment. This Release of Liability is used to properly set the release value of the bindings based on the participant's ski ability level, ski boot size, age, height, and weight. Should the participant have a change in status for any of these factors, it is the participant's responsibility to notify the Outdoors for All staff to have the release value of the binding reevaluated, and complete a new Marker Binding Release of Liability.

Helmets

Anyone participating in an Outdoors for All downhill lesson or using Outdoors for All downhill equipment must wear an appropriate winter sports helmet.

Program Management and Expectations

Staff and Volunteers

Outdoors for All staff are trained instructors in adaptive recreation and passionate about bringing the outdoor experience to everyone. We also utilize the support of trained volunteer instructors and interns during program sessions. All staff members and volunteers are trained to deliver Outdoors for All programs with an emphasis on safety, then fun and learning.

Winter staff members and volunteers are provided the tools and training to coach small groups and one-on-one lessons for downhill skiing and snowboarding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. In order to best serve the unique needs, abilities, and interests of participants, staff and volunteers have access to participant health forms; better known within Outdoors for All as the Participant Information Form. Staff and volunteers are trained to utilize the information provided in the Participant Information Form to make equipment selections, set up equipment, and create weekly lesson plans tailored to each student. Staff and volunteers acknowledge the sensitive nature of each participants' form and receive training on information privacy.

Outdoors for All staff and volunteers work to support the needs of each participant within the selected activity and program. The Outdoors for All staff and volunteers are not trained to support activities of daily living; such as toileting, medical needs, dressing, or behavioral needs. Please see behavior policies in the next section regarding caregiver requirements for participants who need support with activities of daily living.

The Outdoors for All Foundation will not discriminate in any of our endeavors based on disability, race, religion, sexual or gender orientation, or national or ethnic origin.

Behavior Policy

Outdoors for All staff and volunteers are dedicated and trained to help all participants have a successful experience within programs, and specifically within the activities taking place during the program. If a participant requires 1:1 care in the school day, or in the execution of their activities of daily living, they will need a caregiver within the program as well. This includes medical needs, behavior concerns, wandering tendencies, as well as assistance with toileting or changing clothes, etc. If this kind of supervision is necessary, a caregiver or chaperone is **REQUIRED** to accompany the participant at no additional fee. Please note at registration if a caregiver will be attending

and provide contact information for them. Within certain activities, it is not possible to have a caregiver or chaperone attend alongside the participant. If you are not sure if an Outdoors for All program is the right choice for you or your participant, please contact our office to request an assessment and ensure a safe and successful experience.

*While our community and State are impacted by COVID-19, group size limitations and access to indoor space to support activities of daily living could limit the participation of those needing a caregiver or chaperone. Contact our office if you have any questions.

[Abuse Prevention and Reporting](#)

Outdoors for All does not tolerate abuse or neglect of any kind, between any association of staff, volunteers, participants, family members, or caregivers. In Washington State, abuse or neglect is defined as the physical, sexual, or emotional injury of a child (or vulnerable adult) by any person under circumstances which cause harm to the individual's health, welfare, or safety; or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child (or vulnerable adult) by a person responsible for or providing care to the child.

If there is suspected abuse or neglect, or a claim of abuse or neglect, taking place within an Outdoors for All program, or with a participant who is involved in an Outdoors for All program, Outdoors for All has a legal and ethical responsibility to report such suspensions or claims to the appropriate authorities and/or support investigations into such claims of abuse or neglect. During an investigation, Outdoors for All may limit the participation of individuals involved in the claim. Outdoors for All does not have an obligation to share the details of an investigation with those involved in the claim, in order to protect the privacy and prevent retaliation of those involved.

Staff and volunteers complete yearly training on abuse and neglect prevention, and reporting practices within Washington State.

[Electronic Communications and Social Media](#)

Outdoors for All staff and volunteers to utilize electronic communications in order to provide program updates and notifications on the status of programs. Staff and volunteers are trained to keep these communications professional. When writing to a youth participant, or a vulnerable adult, staff and volunteers are advised to include a parent or legal guardian in the communication or to include another staff member. The most common form of electronic communication is email. Text messages between cellphones are occasionally utilized in order to provide quicker updates on the status of programs.

Outdoors for All asks that participants writing to staff or volunteers also keep communications professional in nature, and program related. Should a participant send electronic communications that are not related to a program, staff, and volunteers are asked to report these threads of communication to the Program Director for follow-up with the participant, and/or the participant's parent or legal guardian.

Regarding social media, staff are asked to not follow or "friend" any participant. Should a participant choose to follow or "friend" a staff member, staff are advised not to accept the request from the participant. Should a participant choose to follow or "friend" a volunteer, volunteers are discouraged from accepting the request, especially from youth participants (or vulnerable adults).