PACIFIC SKYLINE COUNCIL · SCOUTING AMERICA

SNOW CAMPING & WINTER SAFETY

2027 A course for adult leaders: conduct fun, safe snow trips for your troop.

1 · SEMINAR
Sat., Jan 9
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Los Altos (location TBD)

2 · GEAR CHECK
Mon., Feb 1
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Los Altos (location TBD)

3 · CAMPING PRACTICUM
Feb 5 – 7
Fri. 5 PM – Sun. noon
Sierra Nevada Sno-Park (TBD by snow)

WHY

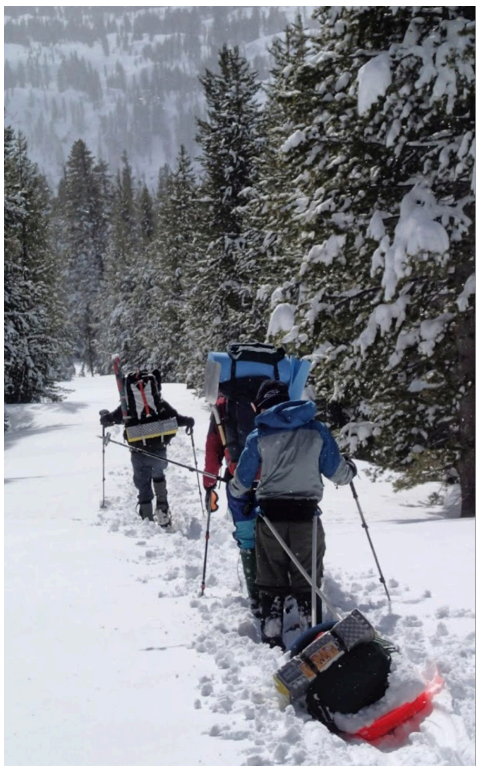
A must for leading winter camping and backpacking trips for Pacific Skyline Council Scout and Venture units. Bring the hands-on experience back to your troop and keep its adventures going year-round.

WHO

Registered adult Scout leaders, and Senior Scouts over 16 with two-deep leadership and Director approval. Moderate backpacking experience and knowledge of BSA procedures expected; High Adventure Training preferred.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

Start with a full-day seminar on clothing, sleep systems, stoves, weather and winter driving. Then prove your gear at a hands-on pack inspection and stove test. Finish with two nights on the mountain: build a snow shelter, cook in the snow, and practice navigation.



Practicum trail, hauling gear by sled and pack.

REGISTER EARLY: LIMIT 15

Adult leaders with High Adventure Training have preference. May be canceled for low enrollment or lack of snow.

www.pacsky.org
Council Training Resources

Cost: $185 includes course manual, lunch and parking. Personal food, travel and gear not included.

David Webster, Course Director
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PACIFIC SKYLINE COUNCIL · COURSE SYLLABUS FOR ADULT LEADERS

SNOW CAMPING & WINTER SAFETY 2027

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Register: www.pacsky.org

The aim is to equip you to introduce *Scouts* to winter safely. Across three sessions you will learn to plan, equip, and lead a winter trip, then practice it in the snow.

1 · Seminar	2 · Gear Check	3 · Practicum
Sat., Jan 9 · 9:30 AM – 4 PM · Los Altos	Mon., Feb 1 · 6:30 – 8:30 PM · Los Altos	Fri. Feb 5, 5 PM – Sun. Feb 7, noon · Sierra

SESSION 1 · SEMINAR

full day, ~7 hrs

MORNING: FOUNDATIONS

- **Welcome, aims and admin;** why winter is fun, the activities that keep Scouts coming back
- **Form patrols:** your team for all three sessions

ROUND-ROBIN STATIONS (20 MIN EACH)

- **Clothing and footgear:** layering, no cotton
- **Sleep systems:** bags, pads, dual closed-cell foam
- **Snow travel:** skis, snowshoes, sleds vs. packs

HEALTH, SAFETY AND KITCHEN

- **Hypothermia skit** and cold-injury first aid ("when in doubt, treat"); conditioning
- **Patrol meeting:** plan an emergency-scenario presentation, set carpools
- **Winter kitchen:** meal planning, stove exhibit and lighting demo, then cook lunch in the field

AFTERNOON: LEADING THE TRIP

- **Water and dehydration;** preparing for the practicum
- **Round robin:** Leave No Trace in snow, shelter intro, tents and anchoring, where to go
- **Trip planning and behavior management** with Scouts
- **Winter driving:** vehicle prep, chains, road conditions; the riskiest part of any trip
- **Weather and go/no-go decisions;** wrap-up

Due by Session 2: BSA Medical Form Parts A, B & C.

TAKE IT BACK TO YOUR TROOP

Council awards: **Snowflake** (snow activities; cabin or RV), **Polar Bear** (camp in snow; age 11+), **Arctic Wolf** (snow backpack, camp 1+ mile out; age 14, or 13 and finished 8th grade). pacsky.org/winter-camping-awards

SESSION 2 · GEAR CHECK

weeknight, about 2 hours

Bring a fully packed pack as for a several-mile snow trip, and wear one complete set of the clothing you plan to use in the snow.

- **Gear checks, why and how:** adults are checked too, at least a week before any Scout trip
- **Winter "Scoutmaster 20":** the essentials a leader verifies before departure
- **Inspections:** check a partner, then get checked; practice both sides
- **Stove testing:** bring the stove you will use at the practicum
- **Patrol menus:** one 3-day menu plus your in-snow menu, reviewed by staff
- **"Winter Aware" video** and discussion

Due at the door: Medical Form Parts A, B & C (students and staff). Missing or failing gear means a make-up inspection before the practicum.

SESSION 3 · MOUNTAIN PRACTICUM

2 nights in snow

Patrols camp together. Tents go up first as the emergency shelter; everyone then builds and sleeps in a snow shelter.

FRIDAY EVENING · SATURDAY

- **Fri.:** arrive, carpool check-in
- **8:00** briefing; **8:30** snowshoe gear to camp
- Set up patrol sites and tents (1 hr)
- **10:00** avalanche-evaluation demo
- **Snow shelters:** build your own, to about 4 PM
- **4:30** supper: melt snow, cook, clean up
- **7:00** cooking debrief; **7:15** behavior cases; **7:30** campfire; **8:30** bed in your shelter

SUNDAY

- **7:00** breakfast and headcount; patrol leaders report to the Director
- **9:00** navigation exercise (time permitting); **10:30** snow activities
- **10:45** review and recognitions; evaluation turned in for your certificate
- **11:00** break camp, dismantle shelters, check out with the Registrar or Director

Required: uniform in town and on the road · BSA Medical Form Parts A, B & C and insurance card copy (both sides) · carpool plan · all three sessions. Dates tentative; locations set by snow and staff availability. May be canceled for low enrollment or lack of snow.