

WILLIAMS OUTING CLUB



WINTER ACTIVITIES GUIDE

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Introduction

Welcome! Winter study is a wonderful time to step back from the intense academic pressures, pursue personal projects and interests, and take advantage of the many on and off campus extracurricular opportunities at Williams. This is also a time where a lot of physically and financially intensive winter activities, like skiing, become a part of campus life. Campus culture often normalizes expressions of wealth and privilege, and it is easy to feel like you're not doing Winter Study the right way if you're not skiing every day or using this time to travel. We at the Outing Club support all students in using their Winter Study time in whatever way they choose or need.

The Outing Club is dedicated to making the outdoors an accessible and friendly space, and we can help those of you who want to take part in the many winter activities but don't have the means or experience to do so. This guide briefly outlines the resources the Outing Club has to offer and gives short descriptions of popular winter activities that we will be leading throughout the winter. While not exhaustive, we hope that this might give you some ideas or spark your interest in checking out some of our programming. Have a great winter study!

~ The Outing Club Board

A membership to WOC costs \$10 (cash or check), which can be purchased at the WOC equipment room. WOC also has a “free trial” program, with which your first equipment loan or no-cost trip is totally free. WOC is committed to working with groups to ensure that everyone is able to access our equipment and programming, regardless of financial ability.

The WOC Equipment Room

The Equipment Room is the home base for many of our trips. Over the years we have collected an assortment of outdoor gear and clothing so that there is no need for members to have their own gear to take part in WOC activities. The Equipment Room is located on Level M of Paresky and is accessible through the stairs or elevator near the rear entrance of Paresky (follow signs on the west side doors near the clothing deposit boxes). A WOC membership allows members to borrow gear at no charge and take gear out for WOC run trips. Equipment room staff can help set you up with everything you need to make an outdoor trip go smoothly, give recommendations for trips and locations, and answer any of your questions. If you have any questions about equipment room resources, please email Alex at afs4@williams.edu or stop by the equipment room in the basement of Paresky during open hours!

Fall/Spring hours: Monday-Thursday, 12:30-1:30 pm; Friday, 12:00-2:00 pm
Winter Study hours: M-F 12:00 pm-2:00 pm; Sa, if snow conditions warrant, 10:00 am-12:00 pm



WOC Equipment: *(this is not everything, just possible things of interest)*

WINTER ITEMS

- Sleds: Mission Hill, Sheep Hill, and the 9th hole of the golf course are favorite local sledding spots.
- Cross-country skis, boots, and poles: The golf course is a great close-by, beginner-level skiing option.
- Snowshoes, poles, and microspikes: Can be used for a winter hike up Pine Cobble (moderate/difficult) or a walk around Cole Field (beginner).
- Winter clothes: Warm and waterproof layers, coats, boots, wool socks, hats, gloves, goggles, neck warmers, and other items are available.

HIKING, CAMPING, AND BACKPACKING ITEMS

- Sturdy hiking boots in all sizes
- Sleeping bags: Ranging from “really warm” to “should only be used inside”
- Sleeping pads: Place them under your sleeping bag for extra cushioning.
- Backpacks: Ranging from day-hiking backpacks to large backpacks suitable for multiday trips
- Headlamps
- Bowls, water bottles, eating utensils, etc.
- Tents: Ranging from sleeping 2 to 4 people each.
- Camping stoves, pots, pans, utensils, etc.
- Local trail maps, compasses, and outing guides.

WOC Ski & Snowboard Program

During Winter Study, WOC partners with local ski resort Jiminy Peak to offer affordable skiing and snowboarding. Ski passes are sold at our yearly sale at the beginning of winter study, and financial aid is available. For those who want to learn or improve, trained student instructors provide daily beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes in downhill skiing and snowboarding, for which PE credit is given.

Financial Aid Policy

We recognize that skiing and snowboarding have high financial and physical barriers to entry, and WOC is committed to making our programming as accessible as possible. Although the current ski pass prices are heavily subsidized by Jiminy Peak, we understand that these prices still prevent many from taking part. Because of this, WOC has begun to extend financial aid for students to purchase 3-Day ski passes. In the coming years, we hope to expand this program to fully meet student demand.

Financial Aid is available for students taking PE classes and purchasing a 3 day lift ticket with or without rentals. For students on financial aid, helmet rental costs will be waived by Jiminy Peak. The amount of financial aid given matches the financial aid percentage given by Williams.



Transportation to Jiminy Peak

Free transportation to Jiminy Peak is offered Monday - Friday throughout winter study. Buses leave from the top of Mission Hill at 1:00 PM and return at approximately 5 PM.



SKI PASS SALE: Wednesday January 3rd, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Lasell Gymnasium

*** Please Contact Scott Lewis (slewis@williams.edu) if you miss the sign up***

To purchase a pass at these reduced rates, you must be a WOC member. WOC memberships can be purchased for \$10 (cash or check) at the ski pass sale or the WOC equipment room.

Lift Ticket Options:

1. 3 Day Punch Card: \$69.00 (\$109.00 with equipment rental)
 2. Mon - Fri afternoon January Pass: \$110 (\$199 with equipment rental)
 3. Full time student "Ski Anytime" Season Pass: \$299
 - a. This may be purchased at any time at Jiminy - have your Williams ID with you
 4. Helmet Rental (Not included with Equipment Rental): \$18/3, OR \$44/January afternoons
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Snowshoes

When the snow gets too deep to walk, snowshoes can help you get out and play! Snowshoes strap onto your boots and keep you from sinking into the snow as you walk, and more balance can be provided with ski poles. These handy tools keep a large number of trails open during the snowy months when otherwise it would be too difficult to use them.



Early snowshoes were made out of wood and animal gut, but modern versions are typically made out of low weight plastics. Snowshoes strap on to all boots and do not require any instruction to use. WOC offers snowshoes of all sizes in our equipment room. Check the weekly calendar for snowshoeing opportunities including beginner walks by the Hoosic River!

Microspikes

Microspikes are an alternative to snowshoes that are used to walk in icy conditions. A web of spikes stretches over the bottom of your boot to provide maximum grip and traction. These are best used during icy conditions without deep snow or for climbing up steep inclines.



Alpine (Downhill) Skiing

Alpine, or downhill, skiing, is a staple of New England winter sports. Skiers enjoy the exhilarating rush of adrenaline that comes from racing down freshly groomed slopes. Alpine skiing has one of the highest equipment barriers to entry, but all equipment can be rented at most ski resorts. Typical equipment includes skis, boots, poles, a helmet, and goggles. Warm and wind resistant clothing is also a must.



Alpine skiing is a difficult skill to learn, but can be wildly rewarding once a low level of mastery has been achieved. Locally, Jiminy Peak and Berkshire East are popular ski destinations for Williams students. WOC runs daily shuttles to Jiminy Peak during Winter Study and offers ski and snowboard classes for all skill levels. Additionally, WOC offers a number of learn to ski days throughout the year for those who want to learn to ski but don't want to commit to purchasing a ski pass and taking multiple lessons. While skiing is snow dependant, most ski resorts can make snow to ensure that people can ski all season.

Greylock Ski Area

For those with their own downhill ski equipment, WOC has six passes to the Greylock Ski Area that can be borrowed from the Equipment Room. The Greylock Ski Area is locally owned and operated and has been home to Winter Carnival festivities. Hours are limited and they do not make snow, so make sure they're running before taking out a pass and hitting the slopes.

Nordic (Cross-Country) Skiing

Nordic, or cross-country, skiing, is a great way to exercise or access some of the local trails when there's too much snow to walk. Special nordic ski boots clip onto skis but allow the ankle to move freely. With the help of poles for balance, the skier can glide quickly over the snow using a motion that resembles jogging. Unlike alpine skis, nordic skis are typically used on relatively flat ground although it is possible to go up and down hills with a good deal of balance and power.

WOC has nordic skis and boots in all sizes and leads beginner trips throughout January. Trained student instructors also lead weekly lessons Monday-Thursday for which PE credit is given. Popular on and near campus locations for nordic skiing include Cole Field, the golf course, and Hopkins Forest. During the winter, Facilities grooms the golf course to make skiing easier.



Telemark Skiing

Telemark skiing combines elements of alpine and nordic skiing to allow skiers to ski rapidly downhill but also travel quickly on flat ground and uphill. Large boots and a distinctive lunging turn motion allow the skier to make sharp turns and descend mountains, but the heel remains free to transfer force on flat ground. Special fabric skins can be attached to the bottoms of the skis to prevent backsliding and permit uphill travel.

Telemark skis are one of the most technical pieces of equipment that we have and are easily damaged or broken. Because of this, we limit our loans to those people who have taken classes and demonstrated proficiency in their use. Don't let this stand in your way, however, as telemark skis can be one of the most fun and versatile ways to take on the snow!



January Calendar of Events

All events subject to change

Jan. 5 Sunrise Hike

Jan. 7 Beginner Nordic Skiing

Jan. 10 Fire Building Workshop

Jan. 10 Polar Bear Swim

Jan. 11 Learn to Roll a Kayak

Jan. 12 Sunrise Hike

Jan. 13 Sledding at the Clark

Jan. 13 Beginner Nordic Skiing

Jan. 13 Greylock winter camp overnight

Jan. 17 Tarp Building Workshop

Jan. 17 Polar Bear Swim

Jan. 18 Learn to Roll a Kayak

Jan. 19 Sunrise Hike

Jan. 19 Climb with Williams After Dark and WOC - Star Walls

Jan. 20 Beginner Nordic Skiing

Jan. 20 Greylock winter camp overnight

Jan. 21 Downhill Ski Berlin Mt.

Jan. 24 Polar Bear Swim

Jan. 25 Last day of Winter study

Jan. 28 - Jan. 30 - Winter camp at Merck Forest in Vermont