



Castle
Mountain



2019 – 2020 SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAM



CASTLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

BOX 610, PINCHER CREEK, AB.

INFO@SKICASTLE.CA

403.627.5101



Dear School Group Organizer,

Thank you for considering Castle Mountain Resort as your school group destination. We believe that the promotion of a physically active lifestyle including outdoor activities is vital to the health and wellbeing of all young people. Our program is designed to ensure a great day is had by all and mitigate the risks of a ski and snowboard trip! Our staff looks forward to making your day a memorable one.

New this season is our full day (4 hour) lesson program. Finding enough chaperones can be a challenge, and we want you and your administration to know that our full day options are a new opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, skiing and snowboarding. Our 1-hour lesson program remains available to those schools with chaperone capacity and whose administration is comfortable w/ chaperone supervision outside of the confines of our lesson.

Everything you need to plan and prepare for a successful school trip to Castle Mountain Resort can be found in this information booklet. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our forms and ensure you have all of your student information before you send them to us. Proper and accurate completion of these forms is vital to ensure that our staff is prepared to cater to the needs of your group and so that your experience is an exceptional one. Please ensure your parents and chaperones have been provided with the parent and chaperone information sheet which will keep them informed on how things will roll out, on the day of your trip.

The most successful trips have well informed chaperones. Please take a moment to consider your chaperone plan and how the ASBIE method we use to organize your groups may affect this plan. While we don't require you to have a chaperone plan, we strongly encourage it and, for that reason, we will provide you with complimentary chaperone tickets for any chaperones that have assigned duties on a chaperone plan (subject to Castle Mountain Resort approval).

Our staff are available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. If you have any questions or special requests about our School Group Program, please let us know prior to your visit so we can do our best to accommodate and address these needs.

We look forward to your visit,

Peter Stewart
Director of Snow School

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NEW FOR THE 2019-20 SEASON

K – GRADE 2 PROGRAM

Our youngest students, from Kindergarten to Grade 2, now receive their lift tickets, absolutely FREE. A minimum of 8 students, within this age group, are required within this age group in order to make a booking.

Younger students require more individual attention and we will be using a new format for these grades to focus more effectively on their skill development. Staff will lead these students through some fun tasks that will help them learn to ski or snowboard more effectively.

This group will meet in the day-lodge between 9:30 AM and 9:45 AM. The lesson will progress until lunch time at 12:00 PM.

CHAPERONE TICKETS

Starting in the 2019-2020 season, Castle Mountain Resort will provide complimentary tickets for all chaperones upon receipt of a completed chaperone plan that illustrates how your teachers and parent chaperones will supervise your group throughout the day. We suggest consulting the ASBIE guidelines or your school board, for the requirements of such a plan. This plan must be submitted minimum one week prior to your visit.

Please refer to our chaperone information package for details. CMR also offers a teacher education session during family week which covers chaperoning methods and educating chaperones on their roles and responsibilities. In our chaperone package you will notice a sample plan which is a good starting point.

FULL DAY (4-HOUR) LESSON

New this season we have a full day (4-hour) lesson program available. While we still offer the more economical 1-hour program, our new full day program offers many advantages. Finding chaperones can be a major challenge for some schools and our full day program eliminates the need for the majority of them. Let us take away the stress and worry of arranging for chaperones, while still having your students enjoy a great rate.

With full day (4-hour) lessons, we would request an arrival by 8:30 AM with your lesson to start

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at 9:30 AM. Our instructional staff will take your group for 2 hours in the morning (until 11:30 AM) and release them for lunch (unsupervised). Your chaperones / trip leaders would be responsible for lunch supervision with students returning for 2 hours of supervised instruction, in the afternoon (12:30 PM to 2:30 PM).

This lesson is required for all schools from the Calgary Board of Education, as per their school board policies. Your school, if from another board, may want to consider this option as the lesson would benefit your students greatly. This new option is a great one, especially if you're struggling to find enough chaperones for a trip.

OPTIONS & PRICING

	<i>Lift Ticket</i>	<i>Rentals (Ski or Board)</i>	<i>1-hour Lesson (min. required)</i>	<i>Full Day (4- hour) Lesson</i>
<i>K – Grade 2</i>	Complimentary	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$56.00
<i>Grade 3 - 12</i>	\$15.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$56.00
<i>Adult Chaperone (1:10 Ratio)</i>	Complimentary or \$49.00	Complimentary or \$30.00	Complimentary	Complimentary
<i>Additional Adults</i>	\$84.75	\$30.00		

LUNCH VOUCHERS

Food and Beverage vouchers are available to pre-purchase, at a cost of \$14, as part of your group trip. Please indicate the number of vouchers you require on your booking form.

ADAPTIVE LESSONS

Castle Mountain is proud to offer an adaptive lesson program for students with physical disabilities. These lessons run in the morning and are priced at 50% off our regular private lesson rates. Advance notice and discussion of the specific requirements of your student(s) is

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required. These lessons are subject to instructor and equipment availability. Please call or email our Snow School for further information about this program.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are available to accommodate students with cognitive disabilities or special needs at 50% off our regular private lesson rates. These lessons can run one-on-one with an instructor or with an instructor and a school provided aide. Advance booking is required and the lesson time will depend on instructor availability. Please call or email our Snow School for further information about this program.

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

- For your convenience, all prices (above) include GST
- Groups must have a minimum of 15 students attending to qualify for group pricing
- 1 complimentary chaperone ticket will be issued for every 10 paid students provided that a chaperone plan is provided. Otherwise, 1 discounted chaperone ticket will be issued for every 10 paid students.
- All complimentary & chaperone tickets must be indicated on your group booking form. Additional adult tickets, requested the day of your visit, will be subject to regular rates.
- Additional adult tickets may be ordered at the group rate above if purchased and ordered in advance
- **All invoices must be paid prior to departure from the resort**

A NOTE ON SAFETY

We have designed our School Program to adhere to the safety guidelines set out by ASBIE (Alberta School Boards' Reciprocal Insurance Exchange) through their Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools document. Accordingly, we have implemented the following safety policies and procedures:

ABILITY ASSESSMENT

On your group booking form, we request an accurate count of how many students you will have in each of our ability levels. Please refer to the Ability Levels chart included in this package. Students will be required to have their abilities formally assessed by a certified ski or

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snowboard instructor. All experienced skiers/snowboarders will participate in the Ability Assessment (Stamp Test) as their FIRST RUN of the day. This assessment will determine which lesson will be most appropriate for their ability level. Beginners will automatically participate in an introductory lesson.

LIFT ACCESS

The Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools requires that students are restricted to terrain and lifts deemed appropriate for their ability level as determined by a Snow School instructor. We use a stamp system based on ability assessment to indicate which chairlift a student may ride. Supervisors, teachers, and parents may not take students on a lift or on terrain beyond the ability level as assessed by our instructors.

Over the day, students will have up to three opportunities to show their skills for a stamp to give them access to the Huckleberry chairlift which services the majority of our intermediate terrain. Students wishing access the advanced terrain on the Sundance (Blue) Chair or the Tamarack (Red) Chair, must earn those stamps during their lesson.

TERRAIN PARK

Students are not permitted in the terrain park. In addition, no rental equipment is permitted in the terrain park.

HELMETS

Helmets are available, at no additional cost, as part of the rental equipment package. Castle Mountain Resort strongly encourages the use of helmets for all students, chaperones, and staff. Please refer to your board policies for helmet use.

INSTRUCTORS

All of our instructors are certified professionals either through the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA), the Canadian Association of Snowboard Instructors (CASI), or an international association equivalent to our Canadian certifications. Our instructors are also required to participate in additional training specific to our school group program to ensure they are fully knowledgeable in all safety procedures and practices.

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LESSONS

Our Snow School follows the measures laid out in the Safety Guidelines for Physical Activity in Alberta Schools (“All students should be grouped appropriately and must participate in a lesson”). Students are split into groups based on their ability as determined by our certified instructors. Lessons will be skill specific from first-time beginners to expert skiers / riders.

MAKING A BOOKING

Bookings for a school group visit can be made up to one year in advance of your trip date. Your initial booking request and all necessary forms / documents can be made / found at <http://www.skicastle.ca/schools/>. When ready, complete your group booking form and submit it to us using the following info:

- Phone: 1-800-754-8667 or 403-627- 5101 X 243
- Fax: 403-627-3515
- Email: snowschool@skicastle.ca (Nov-Apr) or peter.stewart@skicastle.ca (Apr-Nov)

RENTAL SPREADSHEET

- Use the rental equipment form in the format provided and ensure all information is complete prior to submission
- Incomplete information will result in delays the morning of your visit
- Please note that there is a tab for skier information and a tab for snowboarder information at the bottom of the rental spreadsheet
- **Deadline for submission is 2 weeks prior to your visit date**

TICKET ORDER FORM

- Providing us with a breakdown of your students’ ability levels is essential to a great experience. Please provide your best assessment of the ability level of your students on the ticket order form.
- Include ticket orders for all complimentary tickets and required chaperones (1 complimentary or discounted for every 10 students attending). Additional adult tickets purchased the day of your visit will be subject to regular, window ticket rates.
- **Deadline for submission is 2 weeks prior to your visit date**

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PERMISSION FORMS

Any parental permission forms required by your school board and/or division must be created by your school. Please distribute permission forms in accordance with the specific requirements of your school board and/or division.

TRIP SCHEDULE

In an effort to provide the best and most attentive experience possible, we endeavor to stagger our arrivals on busy days. Typically, school arrivals / greetings are facilitated between 8:30 AM and 9:15 AM. Here's a bit more on what to expect, on the day of your trip:

ARRIVAL BY BUS

Please have all students remain seated on the bus until an instructor comes on board to welcome students, provide them information on next steps, and to hand out lift tickets.

INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL

Parents / students arriving by car with their students should check in at the Snow School desk.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT PICK-UP

Rentals will be distributed by the Alpenland Rental Shop staff in the main day lodge. After their initial welcome on the bus, students should gather in the day lodge and await instruction from staff.

HEADING OUTSIDE

Generally, between 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM, we're heading out the doors. Instructors will be positioned as the first point of contact for the students as they head outside from the rental station. The instructors will speak with each student to determine whether they should attend a beginner lesson or if they are able to participate in the Ability Assessment.

BEGINNER LESSONS

Beginner lessons will begin once students are grouped into their appropriate level groupings,

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shortly after heading outside. Students will be directed to these lessons by an instructor positioned at the rental ski and snowboard racks.

ABILITY ASSESSMENT / LESSONS

Those students confirmed to non-beginners, will be directed to instructors facilitating ability assessments at the Green Chairlift. Students will ride the Green Chairlift to the top of our beginner terrain where instructors will be positioned to assess their skiing or snowboarding abilities and assign them to an appropriate lesson.

The ability assessment must be the first run of the day for all intermediate and advanced skiers and snowboarders. After the assessment run, students may have free time to ski until their lesson. Lift access will be restricted to the Huckleberry Chairlift until their lessons.

Generally speaking, lessons for intermediate and advanced skiers / snowboarders will take place at 11 AM. Precise lesson time and the Huckleberry Stamp (if applicable) will be marked on the reverse of each student's lift pass once they complete the Ability Assessment. All intermediate and advanced lessons will meet at the base area trail map. This lesson is the only opportunity students will have to earn the stamps necessary to ride the Sundance (Blue) Chair or the Tamarack (Red) Chair to the upper mountain.

At 1:30 PM there will be one final opportunity, at the ability assessment course on Green Chair, for students to complete the Ability Assessment and earn a stamp to ride the Huckleberry chairlift.

INVOICING

All unused lift tickets must be returned to the Snow School desk by 11:30 am so that our staff can finalize your invoice. The supervising teacher is required to meet with the administration staff at the Snow School desk to review and confirm the invoice. Payment must be made on the day of your trip unless otherwise arranged.

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SKIER ABILITY LEVELS

Level 1	<i>Never skied before / skied once or twice. Unable to stop.</i>
Level 2	<i>Able to complete basic turns on gentle terrain. Slow speeds skiing in a wedge.</i>
Level 3	<i>Able to ski some parallel. May start turns in a wedge on steeper terrain.</i>
Level 4	<i>Skis consistently parallel on all groomed intermediate and advanced terrain.</i>
Level 5	<i>Able to ski parallel on advanced terrain in all snow conditions.</i>

SNOWBOARDER ABILITY LEVELS

Level 1	<i>Never ridden before / ridden once or twice. Unable to stop.</i>
Level 2	<i>Exhibits limited ability to sideslip, on both toe and heel, in both directions.</i>
Level 3	<i>Can link skidded turns on easy & intermediate terrain. Exhibits some edging.</i>
Level 4	<i>Rides advanced terrain confidently. Exhibits edging / turns using lower body.</i>

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TRIP SUPERVISION

Proper chaperoning is an essential portion of any trip. We encourage you to submit a chaperone plan to our Snow School staff at least one week prior to your visit so that we can ensure your day will run smoothly. Ultimately the task of chaperoning and supervision of students is the responsibility of the school as outlined in the ASBIE guidelines or your school boards insurance guidelines. Should you have challenges obtaining enough supervisors to cover your school you may want to consider booking your group under our new full day (4 hour) program.

RECOMMENDED CHAPERONE TEMPLATE / GUIDELINES

A chaperone organizational template is available for you. This template is currently in use by one of our regular school group attendees. You may need to adjust or modify the template. (this template works for 120 children).

According to the ASBIE guidelines for school trips, you need to maintain clear supervision of all of your students. This can be accomplished in two ways: in area group supervision (effective for the beginner area), or one to one supervision (effective for other areas of the mountain). Student grouping will be done at the stamp test once they have their lesson ability and lift access determined. Grouping the experienced students at the bottom of Green Chair and dividing them into groups with chaperones is the most effective method. This will ensure they make it to their lesson on time.

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