



## NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
360-854-2599 www.ncascades.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mt. Baker Snow School is a one-day outdoor winter learning adventure for middle school and high school students combining applied science education with snowshoe-powered exploration. Offered by North Cascades Institute in partnership with Mt. Baker Ski Area, Northwest Avalanche Center, Western Washington University and the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, this opportunity provides students and their teachers with hands-on learning around the themes of weather, watersheds and climate. Instructors will support students as they become citizen scientists--collecting real-world data about watershed health through the lens of snowpack analysis, snow algae sampling, and snow/water equivalency. Learn more at: <https://ncascades.org/signup/schools/snowschoo>

Snow School is held at the Mt. Baker Ski Area. Students, chaperones, and teachers will be transported to and from school in a district bus within the normal school day schedule. Please note: students will not be skiing during this field trip!

Your child's class will be attending Mt. Baker Snow School on \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed with this letter you will find:

- *North Cascades Institute Participant Information and Release Form*
- *Mt. Baker Ski Area Participant Information and Release Form*
- *Required Equipment Checklist*

Please return **BOTH** of the completed *Participant Information and Release Forms* to your child's teacher by \_\_\_\_\_. **Be sure to read and sign the back of the forms.**

The winter mountain environment can be very unpredictable. Please carefully look over the *Required Equipment Checklist* well in advance to make sure your child will be adequately prepared. If your child is missing something on the list, we are happy to loan students anything they need during the program.

Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in accompanying your child's class as a chaperone or if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to sharing this unique field experience with your child!

Sincerely,

*Abby Sussman*  
*School Day Programs Coordinator*  
*North Cascades Institute*



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### MT. BAKER SNOW SCHOOL REQUIRED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Please carefully look over the following checklist and check each item as it is packed. If you have trouble coming up with any of these items, please let your teacher know well before your Mt. Baker Snow School visit, and we will be happy to provide them for you.

Backpack (with two straps, not gym bag style)—packed with the items listed below:

- Rain/Snow jacket
- Rain/Snow pants
- Warm fleece or jacket
- Warm knit hat
- Warm gloves
- sunglasses and/or goggles
- Water bottle (watertight, so you can carry it in your bag without leaking)
- Sack lunch and snacks

Optional: Another bag with dry socks and other clothing for the bus ride home. You will be able to leave your belongings in a safe place in the lodge while we are in the field.

Any required medications: *Your teacher will oversee all medications*

#### **Please!**

Do not bring your phones or any other electronic devices with you on the field trip. Being out in the snow is very wet and cold, and it is best for you and for your devices for them to stay at home or on the bus. It is extremely difficult to impossible to find a phone that has dropped in the snow.



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Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering your time as a Mt. Baker Snow School chaperone! Your participation in this program serves a vital role in making this experience a very special learning opportunity for your child and their class. In order for Snow School to be successful, it is important that all chaperones know how the program works and what is expected of them.

Chaperones will be assigned to one trail group for the duration of the program to help facilitate the group learning process.

The most important chaperone engagement duties are to:

- Actively participate in all lessons/activities with the learning groups (***chaperones should be able to snowshoe ~2 miles and should be comfortable spending all day in the elements***)
- Encourage student participation and cooperation in all activities
- Assist instructors in enforcing behavioral expectations
- Be a positive and supportive role model!

The way you fulfill your role will strongly affect the experience of the students. Although safety is primarily the responsibility of the instructors, you may be called upon for other support.

We look forward to sharing this special experience with you and your children!

Sincerely,

*Abby Sussman*  
*School Day Programs Coordinator*  
*North Cascades Institute*