



Operating Best Practices Winter 2020

History

Founded in 1973, the Cross Country Ski Areas Association serves as the trade association for over 150 cross country ski areas and account for over 85% of cross country skier visits at formal ski areas. CCSAA is a non-profit organization representing member ski service providers and promoting beset practices for the cross country ski and snowshoe industry

Safety First

The cross country ski and snowshoe industry is committed to the health and safety of our guests, staff and communities.

These best practices in accordance with the scientific guidelines from the infectious disease experts including the CDC and WHO should be considered when creating your operations plan for the coming year. Additionally, cross country ski areas must also comply with all Federal, State and local ordinances or Provincial ordinances.

In the communities where our ski areas serve, cross country skiing provides an outlet similar to hiking, biking, running and paddling. We exist in the open spaces where managing small groups of skiers with safety is the number one priority. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are an integral element in providing a safe and enjoyable experience while taking advantage of the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation.

The Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Industry

24.3 million snow sports participants

5.2 million cross country ski participants with 38% in the backcountry.

350 ski areas with an average season length of 108 days

Cross country skiing is weather based activity requiring constant monitoring of conditions and daily adjusting of operations. Cross country ski areas are confident in their expertise at managing outdoor recreation spaces and it provides low risk, high value recreation. It is our goal to provide that recreation to our guests even if some indoor activities need to be modified.

Cross country skiing is very different than alpine skiing as there are no lifts for uphill travel. Additionally, the trail network is vast spreading out skiers over many kilometers of trail. Our crowds are considerably less than alpine reducing choke points familiar to the alpine side. Cross country skiing is the perfect activity to participate in during the pandemic situation.

Note from the Executive Director

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are important activities for winter recreation in snow covered areas. They provide both physical and mental benefits to participants and are specifically important during this time with COVID and the long winters.

Having spent the summer and fall months in conversations with member ski areas and other associations, I am confident that the cross country ski and snowshoe industry will be prepared for the coming winter and willing and able to comply with all CDC and local, regional and federal guidelines in protecting the staff and guests.



Benefits of Cross Country Skiing

Cross country ski areas provide low risk outdoor recreation opportunities for millions of guests each year and is uniquely positioned to do so.

Wide Open Spaces - Similar to the golf industry, cross country skiing takes place in the wide open spaces of golf courses, national forests, private reserves and other vast and open land allowing participants to easily social distance. Ski area operators manage traffic patterns and movement to ensure the guests have the best experience possible.

Gear – As cross country skiing is a winter activity, guests arrive with face coverings and gloves and participate with many layers of clothing

On The Trails – Groomed trails range from 10' to 20' wide with upwards of 20 to 30 kilometers in length or more. Skiers may easily social distance while skiing and passing.

Mental and Physical Well Being – Cross country skiing is known for its [mental and physical health benefits](#).

Keeping Guests Safe

Face Coverings Required – Face coverings will be required at all cross country ski areas in accordance with the CDC and local ordinances. This will include both indoor and outdoor areas when physical distance cannot be achieved. The exception will be for eating and drinking.

Physical Distance – Cross country ski areas will enforce physical distance rules in all areas of the operation. This will include indoor and outdoor spaces. Ski areas will create individual plans unique to each area to allow for physical distancing.

Cleaning and Disinfecting – Cross country ski areas will create new cleaning and disinfecting plans for all high touch areas of the operation including, doors, restrooms, rental shops, retail operations and common areas. All cleaning products used will conform to CDC guidelines and will be effective against COVID-19.

Operational Plans – Cross country ski areas will modify existing operating policies to meet local, federal and CDC guidelines. This will include both overall and departmental policies to comply with local ordinances.

Communication – Cross country ski areas will communicate all operating plans and requirements to guests via their websites, social channels, direct e-mails and on-site signage. Guests will be reminded that they share the responsibility of keeping the environment as safe as possible by wearing face masks and physical distancing.

COVID-19 Reporting – Cross country ski areas will follow all CDC and local health ordinances when reporting a positive case of COVID-19. All employees must be adequately trained in these practices by the ski area.



**ALWAYS WEAR A MASK
IN THIS FACILITY**

Keeping Employees Safe

All cross country ski areas employees will be trained in COVID-19 safety and disinfection techniques following CDC and local recommendations.

Wellness Checks – Cross country ski areas will perform daily wellness checks of all employees prior to the start of their shifts. Employees will be sent home or asked to stay home if they have come in contact with a positive COVID-19 case or exhibit any symptoms.

Symptoms include:

- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fatigue

CCSAA BOD

Chair/Treasurer – Richard Hodges, 10 Week Winter, UT

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