



## **Wachusett Mountain Ski Area Field Trip Options (pilot program)**

*All field trip options are free, including parking, but allow for optional add-on features such as purchasing box lunches and skyride services.*

### **Option 1: Self-Guided Visit**

*Recommended for 3rd through 12th grades.*

School, Scout or Youth groups are invited to explore Wachusett Mountain Ski Area for the day and explore the trails, use the restrooms and purchase lunch. The field trip reservation form should be completed to guarantee lunch choices and space for your group. Groups are encouraged to preview our online resources and utilize the self guided tour maps to enrich their educational experience. Students and youth groups must be accompanied and supervised by teachers/adult chaperones. Adult chaperones and teachers should read the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area Chaperone Guide to help ensure a safe and enjoyable visit. Option 1 is a free program. As explained in the field trip sign up form, the only fees are if your group selects the options of purchasing lunches or reserving skyride tickets. For the safety of your group Wachusett Mountain Ski Area requires 1 adult per 8 students grades 6-12 and 1 adult per 6 students grades 3-5.

### **Option 2: Combination Guided and Self-guided Tours**

*Recommended for 4th through 12th grades.*

This option is great for groups preferring a more structured tour experience but requires detailed coordination between mountain and school staff. An example of an itinerary would start with our snowmaking team offering a 20-30 minute presentation to the entire group and inviting questions from the students and teachers. Afterwards, smaller groups would then proceed to rotate between a mix of 3 - 5 stations around the base lodge and lower trails. Stations might include following the 30 minute "self guided" Snowmaking or Geology of Balance Rock tours; trying a Nature's Beat activity; embarking on a Scavenger Hunt or Geocaching adventure; participating in a school planned outdoor recreation time; or following the trail map on a 2- 3 hour round hike to the summit. Classroom space is also available as a station for school staff to host an art in nature activity or a hands-on project. If needed, lunch time could be scheduled as one of the station rotations to help keep the group sizes small. For the safety of your group Wachusett Mountain Ski Area requires 1 adult per 8 students grades 6-12 and 1 adult per 6 students grades 4-5.