



Chaperone/Teacher Guide

What are your responsibilities as a chaperone?

You are responsible for the behavior of the students in your group. Please stay with them at all times. Wachusett Mountain Ski Area requires 1 adult per 8 students in grades 6-12 and 1 adult per 6 students grades 3-5.

Where do we enter for our field trip?

Buses will drop students near the main entrance of the base lodge. Lead your students down the main hallway of the base lodge to reach the open carpeted area located directly across from the restrooms. Staff will be on hand to welcome you and to address the group once everyone is settled in. Bags/backpacks can be left in this space.

What are the recommendations for clothing and footwear?

Comfortable closed toe shoes are recommended and necessary for walking on any of the trails. The 30-50 minute self guided tours will direct your group outside along a mix of dirt and paved paths and gradual sloping terrain. Lightweight jackets or hats may be needed depending on the weather. There are no covered areas outside to congregate.

Is there lunch space available?

Your group leader will have already made arrangements for students to purchase lunch from our cafeteria's set menu. There are picnic tables outside of the base lodge available on a first come first serve basis. It is recommended that your group leader decide where students may or may not sit. Please inform your students of their responsibility to clean up their tables and throw waste in the designated bins. (There may be a prior agreement for your students to bring their own lunches in which case the seating options are the same, however, there is no refrigerated space available for storing lunches.)

What are some of the accessibility features at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area?

Features such as low-slope ramps, power-assisted doors, elevators and accessible washrooms aim to improve accessibility in and around the base lodge. There is an expansive paved pathway wrapping around the base lodge leading to an outdoor picnic area and allowing proximity to the slopes and snowmaking pond. To reach the lower mountain trails guests can make prior arrangements to use their vehicle to ride up Mountain road. On the right there is access to the unpaved 1.4 mile Balance Rock Road which can be followed to the intersections

of the Donbrowo, Balance Rock and Old Indian Trails. From Memorial Day to Columbus Day there is an additional paved auto road allowing visitors to drive to the summit. Vehicles can enter at the Wachusett State Reservation's Visitor Center located on Mountain Road just 1 mile up from the ski area.

Am I expected to teach while I am with my group?

During the self-guided tours at least one adult should be directing the students to follow the prompts on the sheet. There may be times when the prompt directs students to be quiet or to draw, etc. It is expected that the chaperones will do their best to help the students stay engaged in the activities.

How do I get to my next station and how much time should I stay there?

Your group leader will draft a master schedule for the station rotations. Then you will follow our self-guided maps and outlines to help navigate your group from one station to another. There will be a recommended time frame for each station posted on the sheet and the master schedule.

What if someone in my group gets hurt?

First Aide services are available at the Customer Service counter where the EMT staff member on duty can be reached.

Should our school nurse come on this field trip?

Nurses are encouraged to come for the field trip. If you are the school nurse please check in with our EMT or Ski Patrol staff member when you arrive to agree on a protocol in the event of an injury or health concern. There may be a need for you to carry a walkie talkie or to share your mobile number.

Tips for Students

- Stay with your group at all times.
- Plan to use the restroom while you are in the base lodge.
- Enjoy being outdoors with nature. Take your time to breathe in and listen to nature's sounds.
- Please be respectful of life on the mountain- don't leave behind trash, pick flowers or plants, or deliberately damage anything.
- As you walk around the mountain, think of how it might look at other times of the year- which season do you think would be your favorite to be on the mountain.. Why is that?
- Follow the events calendar posted on **wachusett.com** because there are many opportunities for you to come back with your family and friends for a day of hiking or fun.

Thank you all for coming! If there is anything not covered here that you would like to know more about, please reach out to Colleen Coakley at colleen@wachusett.com or by calling 978-464-2300, ext 3701.. We appreciate all you are doing for the children and hope you have a great field trip to the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area.