

Erie Ski Club Presents:

# Big Sky Montana!

Feb, 5-12, 2022



Land packages from \$1370.

Early signup special! \$50 discount to club members who sign up and deposit by June 1, 2021!

Air rates have not yet been published, working on that.

See details below or email [BigSky2022esc@gmail.com](mailto:BigSky2022esc@gmail.com)

**Big Sky:** Yeah, it's big! 5850 acres, 4350 vertical feet, 38 lifts. There is plenty of skiing for all abilities from newbies to people who belong in Warren Miller movies. (Some of the terrain requires you to have an avalanche beacon and shovel!) It is also one of the least crowded resorts in the US due to the remote location and limited lodging at the resort. Big Sky is an expensive resort, the sheer size and limited crowds explains that, but the "bang for the buck" is definitely there. Check out the resort at:

[www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com)

**Bridger Bowl:** We will be bussing to Bridger on Wednesday for a day trip. Bridger is one of the not so little gems that get passed by, and that's a shame. They have 2000 acres and 2700 vertical feet at all ability levels, serviced by 8 chairs. Check them out at: [www.bridgerbowl.com](http://www.bridgerbowl.com)

We will also be very close to Yellowstone, that opens up a lot of other activities such as snowmobiling.

**Transportation:** We are arranging this trip much earlier than usual, that was necessary because Big Sky is already almost sold out with other clubs! As a result of this, group air is not yet posted for these dates so we cannot quote that yet. Stay tuned! We will try to book flights out of both Cleveland and Pittsburgh as usual. It may be more practical to arrange "individual air" as this is often less expensive. Our tour operator can arrange this or you can book yourself. Just be aware that you will need to be at the airport to use our bus.

A bus will be provided from Bozeman to Big Sky, this will be scheduled to accommodate arrivals. When we see air schedules, we will finalize this. If you are booking your own air, I would advise a morning flight! A grocery stop will be provided.

There is no "airport overnight" on flight day so we will bus directly from Big Sky to the airport. Again, this will be scheduled when flight schedules are posted. We will try for morning flights so we aren't getting back late.

**Lodging:** 7 nights of lodging are included with 2 options.

**Huntley Inn.** The classic motel in the village. It's slope side, breakfast is included, and it's being remodeled for next year. Heard lots of great things about this lodge.

**Big Horn Condos.** We have 2 3BR, 6 person condos reserved. More may be available if needed. 2BR condos are sold out at this time. These are a short walk from the lifts and a good value at a lower price point. We will ask about guaranteed bedding as groups sign up.

## Options and costs

**Base cost.** Includes ground transport, lodging and Bridger lift ticket

Huntley package            \$1470   Single Supplement   \$1160

3BR condo package        \$950   Single Supplement   \$640

<b>Lift tickets</b>	Non-senior	Senior (must be 70 years young as of Feb 6, 2022)
1 day at Bridger	Included!	Included!
3 Day Big Sky	\$420	\$380
4 Day Big Sky	\$560	\$505
5 day Big Sky	\$640	\$590

**Air** Will be added to this flyer when that information is available.

## Discounts

If you buy an IKON pass through Ski.com on the web site provided, you will receive a \$30 discount on this trip. Note that you will only receive a discount on ONE trip through ski.com. See the discussion on IKON passes below!

For members who sign by June 1, a \$50 discount will be applied.

## Deposits and payments:

\$500 deposit due at signup. Note that more may be required when air is booked depending on terms of the air contracts.

\$500 due Sep 15, 2021

Payment in full by Nov 25, 2021

## Travel insurance:

We are arranging a group policy with Travel Protectors as in the past. When that policy is up, you will be able to purchase that directly from Myra at 703-443-9055. More information will be distributed when you sign up.

**Want to double up on trips?** The **Western PA Ski Council** is running a trip to **Jackson Hole** the week after this trip, quite a few people will be combining these 2 trips for a 2 week vacation. Air will be arranged to Bozeman and back from Jackson WY, and we will rent SUVs to drive between the trips to make this work. Both Big Sky and Jackson are on the IKON pass and if you are going on both trips the pass will save you money. Yeah, we planned it this way! We've done this before and it works well.

### **To Sign up**

Contact me via email, I will "pencil you in" pending receipt of your documents. This will hold your spot while the snail mail does its thing.

To make it official:

Complete the signup form.

Provide a copy of your driver's license or passport. (RealID compliant!)

Include your \$500 per person deposit

Send it all to my address below.

### **Contact:**

Vince Dunsworth

12660 Smedley Rd.

Waterford, PA 16441

PLEASE USE THIS EMAIL FOR ALL TRIP RELATED CORROSPONDANCE. [BigSky2022esc@gmail.com](mailto:BigSky2022esc@gmail.com)

### **Cancellation policy:**

Upon written notice, you will receive a refund of recoverable expenses as incurred by the club due to your cancellation. This will vary depending on when you cancel. You may be charged for your roommate's single supplement if your cancellation results in an unused bed. There may be re-ticketing charges. If you need to cancel, please contact the trip leader ASAP to determine what the penalties will be.

## **IKON Pass!**

So as you have noticed, the lift tickets have got to be quite pricey. This is not just at Big Sky but all over. If you plan to take more than one trip, an IKON pass (Or EPIC if you are going to Brand V resorts) makes sense. You do need to be aware of blackout dates and what each pass offers.

There are several levels of IKON pass to choose from. Watch blackout dates and what resorts are included. You need to upgrade to a “plus” pass to access the Aspen areas and Jackson, that’s a \$150 kicker.

So if you do decide on an IKON, watch which option you are getting and make sure you get what you want.

Note that the “early” pricing is out now and these rates WILL go up. There is a renewal discount also, and that stay or go away.

They do offer a “pass protection plan”, not a bad idea!

The Big Sky trip is being run through Ski.com, they are offering the \$30 discount on the trip if you purchase an IKON pass through this web site. <https://erie-ski-club-passes.events.ski.com>. (One Ski.com discount per pass.)

WPSC’s Jackson Hole trip is the week after the Big Sky trip, it is being run through Winter Ski and Sport, a different tour operator. They are offering a \$60 discount if you buy your IKON pass through them. If you are planning to do both of these back to back trips, my advice would be to buy your pass through them. Here’s the info on this, for those on the JACKSON trip.

Buy your IKON through Winter Ski & Sports, [www.winterskiandsport.com](http://www.winterskiandsport.com) and click on IKON order tab. BE CAREFUL AND PURCHASE THE RIGHT PASS. IKON BASE PLUS PASS IS \$729 PLUS \$150 FOR JACKSON/ASPEN. The IKON price will go up the longer you wait. Must be on the Jackson trip to qualify for \$60 room discount

Note that you can only get one discount for buying an IKON pass through the tour operator, The Jackson trip offers the larger discount so if you are on that trip but it there.

## **COVID Considerations...**

I know this talk is depressing, but these things do need consideration.

COVID should be almost gone by this Fall, but in the event it isn't we, as a group, can cancel the trip up to Sept 15 if COVID is still a problem. I am not sure what the criteria is for this but with the vaccinations in progress it should not be an issue.

If we have 20 people who want to go, the trip is on.

If we have less than 20, we MAY be able to negotiate a reduced minimum from the suppliers but no promise can be made as we will need to negotiate with the suppliers.

After Sept 15, there are penalties for cancelling so trip insurance is HIGHLY recommended. Regular insurance will not cover you if you decide to cancel for fear of COVID. If you actually have COVID they should cover it. "Cancel for any reason" insurance would cover ANY cancellation but you get a reduced payout. Note that for the "cancel for any reason" coverage you need to purchase the insurance at your first payment.

There is a clause in our contract with the resort that in the event of a mass cancellation due to many factors including pandemic, full refunds will be given. This applies to the land package on the other end. (The Bridger portion is booked separately so excluded.) Airlines have their own policies separate from this. Airlines generally do not give cash back but give vouchers for future travel. Again, more information will be coming.

There has been some talk of the airlines requiring proof of vaccination to board. Just talk for now but it makes good business sense that they would require this to boost confidence so more people fly.

# ERIE SKI CLUB TRIP AND TOUR AGREEMENT

- A. DEPOSIT:** The initial deposit for **Big Sky MT: \$500 upon signup.**
- B. CANCELLATION AND/OR CHARGES:** Erie Ski Club (ESC) reserves the right to withdraw the tour, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time, or make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant prior to departure time. ESC may add supplemental cost such as but not limited to fuel surcharges, taxes, and currency exchange rate and airport departure charges to the price of this trip.
- C. RESPONSIBILITY:** ESC is acting as agent for the applicant and shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to baggage or property, for any loss, injury, personal injury, death, accident, delay, inconvenience, or any other loss during, or occasioned by applicant's participation or lack of participation, in any trip or tour. Trip participants will ski or snowboard at their own risk.
- D. REFUNDS:** A full refund will be made to applicant if the trip is canceled by ESC except and unless where such cancellation is necessitated or caused, either wholly or in part, by applicant's cancellation or failure to make timely payments. Failure to make timely payments, at trip chairperson's discretion, may be deemed cancellation.
- 1) When someone cancels, ESC will refund the amount paid minus any and all amounts of cost caused by the cancellation. This may include ticket change fees, service fees imposed by travel agents, single supplements caused by a cancellation or other charges not listed here.
- 2) Regardless of when reservations are made, a passenger may cancel only by mail, sent to the trip chairperson's address listed on trip. Applicant shall be liable to ESC for any monies expended or paid by ESC over and above payments made by applicant to ESC.
- 3) ESC will not profit from a cancellation, but cannot afford to lose money either.
- E. OTHER:** Participant shall be a ESC member or a CMSC or WPSC club member with reciprocal trip privileges. Any trip or tour and this Agreement are subject to CAB rules and regulations.
- F. TSA RULE:** As of May 2009, it is mandated from TSA that we know your **COMPLETE LEGAL FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME AND LAST NAME ALSO BIRTH DATE AND GENDER FOR TICKETING.** Not supplying the information can cause no airline ticketing or cancellation from trip. To facilitate obtaining and verifying this data a copy of your passport is needed with your application.

## CHECK the options desired:

- Big Sky Ski Pass:**      5 day        
                                    4 day        
                                    3 day        
                                    IKON Pass       IKON pass # \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you purchase your IKON pass at Ski.com?   
(Senior discounts if applicable will be calculated based on birthdate)
- Lodging:**      Huntley       Condo       Single Supplement
- Air:**      PIT       CLE       None

## PRINT YOUR COMPLETE LEGAL NAME according to TSA RULE – (ATTACH A COPY YOUR Passport)

### TRAVELER 1

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ • Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ • Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_

### TRAVELER 2

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ • Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ • Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ • Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ski Club Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Rooming Preference (w/whom) \_\_\_\_\_ If no suitable roommate is found, you may be required to

pay a single supplement for a private room. All roommates must agree to be roommates/condo mates!

**In Case of Emergency, contact (please fill out):**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ )** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposits will be accepted until trip is full.** When trip is full, your name and deposit will be held on a waiting list until there is an opening.

**Final payment is due as stated on the trip flyer.** If balance is not received by this date, the people on the waiting list will be given priority. The trip chairperson will not call to remind you that your balance is due. It is your responsibility! Your deposit will be automatically forfeited!

**Enclosed is my check for \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Make checks payable to Erie Ski Club, Inc. )**

**I do hereby accept the foregoing terms of this agreement.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (**TRAVELER 1**) of Applicant (If Applicant is under 21, have parent or guardian sign) SIGN PLEASE, THANK YOU

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (**TRAVELER 2**) of Applicant