

Saturday - Session 1 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm):

Snowshoe Mountain Hike

Experience the beauty of serene Mount Christopher by snowshoe in the crisp morning. Participants will learn how to properly select and fit a pair of snowshoes before tackling a challenging but short expedition to the summit. Enjoy the views at the top of the surrounding Western Foothills.

Learn to Hunt: Introduction to Rifle Shooting

Have you recently completed your hunter education or maybe you're interested in recreational target shooting? Or maybe you're simply looking for more information on the various types of firearms, action types, and what they are best used for. This workshop will fully prepare you with a focus on safe gun handling, types of rifles and their uses, and how to shoot accurately.

In this workshop we'll cover:

- Safe ways to handle various firearms
- Types of common firearms
- Action types of rifles
- Differences between bullet calibers
- Choosing the right firearm for hunting or target shooting
- How to store and secure your firearms.

This workshop will be a blend of hands-on demonstration, practice, and live fire exercises led by professional staff and range safety officers. You will soon be prepared for the upcoming season whether it's hunting, or a day at the range. This is great for the new hunter or shooter, and an excellent refresher for experienced folks.

Hiking Preparedness

Experience the magic of winter hiking and backpacking! In the stillness of the season, the sound of wind moving through frozen pine needles creates a serene, otherworldly atmosphere. Winter backpacking and mountaineering offer a unique opportunity to explore hidden peaks and trails that few dare to traverse. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn essential skills for planning and enjoying your own winter adventures. Topics include:

- Winter traversing techniques.
- Packing strategies for day trips and overnight excursions.
- Choosing and using winter camping gear, including sled pulks.
- Layering and staying warm in cold conditions.

We'll begin indoors to review equipment and foundational skills before heading outside to practice step techniques with and without snowshoes. Together, we'll set up a mock winter camp, where you'll discover tips and tricks to make your winter camping experience more comfortable and enjoyable. Embrace the adventure of the season and take your outdoor skills to the next level!

Ice Fishing 101

Maine has some amazing opportunities to get out on the hard water. In this session, participants will learn the importance of ice safety, how to drill holes, set traps and vertical jig artificial baits. We will cover warm and cold water fisheries and tactics to be successful and if all goes to plan, we may even catch a fish! We will introduce you to different types of equipment including electronics, shelters, augers, traps, and baits. Join us for some fun on the ice, but be prepared, it can get cold out there!

Saturday - Session 2 (1:00 pm - 4:15 pm):

Map and Compass

While GPS devices are popular, mastering basic map and compass skills remains essential for backcountry navigation. In this course, you'll learn how to:

- Read and interpret topographic maps.
- Properly use a compass to orient a map, set a bearing, and plot a course.
- Apply advanced techniques like triangulation and declination compensation.
- Plan effective and safe routes through wilderness terrain.

Discover how enjoyable and empowering it is to navigate using these timeless skills, and gain confidence in finding your way, no matter where the trail leads!

Campfire wild game cooking

Discover the delicious world of wild game cooking! As more people turn to wild game for healthy and sustainable table fare, this workshop will explore ways to prepare wild game meat for your next meal using recipes that are easy to follow and do at home. You'll leave with recipes, new ideas and a deeper connection to where your food comes from. Please note that game meat selections may vary based on availability.

Winter Survival

Are you ready to face an unexpected night in the wilderness? Whether caught in a sudden snowstorm or lost during a short snowshoe hike, being prepared can make all the difference.

In this workshop, you'll learn essential survival skills, including:

- Dressing for unpredictable conditions.
- Building a shelter to stay warm and protected.
- Starting and maintaining a fire in challenging environments.
- Effective signaling techniques to call for help.

Equip yourself with the knowledge and confidence to handle the unexpected and safely navigate outdoor emergencies.

Learn to Trap - Beavers

Trapping for fur bearers has been a tradition for thousands of years and today's trappers participate in this activity for various reasons. Trapping helps keep wildlife populations stable and healthy, protects property and habitat, and provides biologists with valuable data to help prevent and manage disease and predict population trends. It's an exciting way to spend time outdoors, while learning the habits and habitats of various species. Learn about the biology and identification of furbearers; types of traps; how and where to set a trap; skinning; and fur handling. We will also provide information on getting your trapper safety certificate and trapping license.

Sunday Expedition (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM):

Ice Fishing Expedition

For this expedition, we will take to the ice on a local warm-water pond in search for an action-packed, flag popping experience. Similar to the introduction course, we will cover basic tip up set up, ice safety, and identifying fishy areas. We will also cover some vertical jigging techniques and electronic usage to take full advantage of catching fish and passing the time. Once lunchtime hits, we will cook out on the ice. If you are looking for the real deal ice fishing experience, this is one you won't want to miss! Bring your own chair, extra gloves and a warm hat and let's catch some fish!

Snowshoe Hike Expedition

Winter snowshoe hikes can be a great way to get outside during those cold winter months. Join us as we travel into this magical winter wonderland on a leisurely snowshoe hike to a remote pond and mountain right here in Western Maine. Along the way we will discuss some hiking tips

and tricks, talk about survival skills and what to do in emergencies. At lunchtime, we will cook a warm meal on trail to warm us back up. This will be a great introduction for those that are interested in short day hikes or multi-day trips. Grab your boots, hats and gloves and let's get going! Snowshoes will be provided but if you have your own, feel free to bring them!

Fly Tying

Making your own flies is a great way to spend your time when you can't be on the water. Tying flies can be as simple as you like or as complicated as you dare to tie. Either way tying flies connects you to the fishing method we love as you dream of that giant brookie inhaling your creation.

This extended session will help you get started on learning the basic methods of making flies and you will learn about the various materials used to make flies. We will follow traditional recipes to create some classic Maine Trout flies. At the end of the day words like "Hornberg" and "marabou" will roll off your tongue like a seasoned tyer. All tools and materials will be supplied – bring your own "cheaters" (reading glasses) as they may be helpful!

An Introduction to Snowmobiling in Maine: Hitting the Trails with Confidence!

Maine is the ultimate retreat for snowmobiling. With 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails, there is much to explore! In this workshop, we will dive into the fun and excitement of snowmobiling with plenty of closed-course riding opportunities while also discussing many important factors to consider when planning and enjoying your ride.

These topics will include:

- Proper riding attire for a long day on the trail
- Pre ride maintenance and inspections
- Maine Laws and Landowner Relations
- Rider Operation and machine usage
- On the Trail etiquette and safety practices
- Repairs and Breakdowns while on the trail
- Deep Snow and Getting Stuck (Or Unstuck)
- Transportation, Loading and Unloading your machine
- Survival Skills useful on the trail

This workshop will have you thinking like a real snowmobiler ready and excited to hit the trail!

** Disclaimer: This workshop requires having enough snow to operate the machines. In the case there is a lack of snow, participants will be asked to join alternative sessions. (Do your snow dance!)