

Trip Leaders and Participants Know What to Expect

By Jeff Meyer, Vice President, Suffolk Skidaddlers
From Their *Newsletter*

All ski club members should be aware of both their and the trip leader's responsibility on club trips -- something that is often overlooked, but that applies to all club activities.

Trip Leaders: It is the responsibility of your trip leader to collect money for the trip, arrange for payment to vendors, to hold a trip meeting to disseminate information about the trip, answer questions received by telephone or e-mail within a reasonable time, to be available at club meetings, to ensure that trip participants receive their lift tickets, meal coupons, etc., purchase food, beverages, etc. for the club party and or bus ride and usually a number of other tasks as well. It is not the responsibility of the trip leader to arrange car pools, wake you up in the morning, find your lost luggage, pack your bags, put your lift ticket on your jacket or "be your mother" on the trip.

Trip Participants: It is the

responsibility of participants to make payments on time, attend scheduled trip meetings, or tell the trip leader that you will not be attending so he or she doesn't wait for you, advise the trip leader ahead of time of any specific requirements you may have (i.e., vegetarian meals) so that arrangements may be made. Tell the trip leader if you will not be coming to a scheduled activity on the trip, be aware of bus departure times and be on time, be prompt to scheduled activities such as a group meal, so that everyone does not have to wait because you decided to go to the hot tub, have another beer at the bar, etc. With regard to this last item, a restaurant will usually not begin serving until everyone is present. So arriving late holds everyone up, possibly throws off the restaurant's evening schedule, and potentially jeopardizes the club returning to the restaurant in the future.

Expectations: If a trip

leader asks you to bring something on the trip -- a case of soda, a small cooler, some snacks, etc. -please say "yes". It's not an easy task to buy everything and transport it to a camp site, ski lodge, bus, etc., and your help contributes to the success of an activity. After all, these are club activities where everyone -- including the trip leader -- is supposed to have fun, as opposed to a packaged deal that you paid a lot of money for and should be catered to by the group's escort.

Always bring your ID and medical card as well as a credit card since first aid stations and medical clinics don't always take medical insurance. It's better to be prepared.

Remember that you're sharing your room -- which means splitting the dresser drawers, dividing the hangers, and not taking all of the room's amenities for yourself. If you bring something like a DVD, it should be used for everyone's enjoyment.