

What is Winterfest?

- Winterfest is a competitive-event and leadership training weekend held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee every year. In 2009, Winterfest will take place January 30-February 1.
- Winterfest has occurred every year for more than 30 years! In 2008, more than 2,300 participants converged on Gatlinburg for a great weekend of fun, events, and fellowship.
- Winterfest is open to all Explorers. While the majority of participants are from the southeast, we have posts that participate from as far away as Houston and St. Louis.

What Can We Expect?

- Dances Friday and Saturday night
- Competitive Events*:
 - Target Shooting
 - 4 Different Fire Fighter Events
 - 10 Different Law Enforcement Events
 - Mock Trial
 - Talent Show
 - Volleyball & Water Basketball
 - Engineering Design
 - Basic First Aid & Advanced Emergency Medical
 - Prusik Rope Climbing
 - Snow Skiing

* These were just several of the 2008 events. 2009 will offer more of the same, along with new events to keep your youth excited!

WINTERFEST INFO
WWW.NEGA-LFL.ORG

Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 30, 2009

2:00-10:00pm Check-in
3:00-10:00 Skiing available
8:30-midnight Dance
9:00 Opening Program
9:30 Advisor's Briefing
10:00 Orientation for Crew Presidents and Advisors
1:00am Curfew

Saturday, January 31, 2009

7:30-8:30am Late Check-in
9:00am-Noon Events
1:00pm-5:00 Events
5:00-10:00 Skiing available
8:15-Midnight VIP Reception for Advisors
8:30-midnight Dance
9:00 Awards Presentation
1:00am Curfew

Sunday, February 1, 2009

8:30am-4:00 skiing available
Travel Home

Important Reminders

- Two-deep adult leadership is required. You should have a female advisor if you have any females in your group. Adult leadership is responsible for the conduct of their youth during the conference, including complying with the designated curfews.
- You need to get a Tennessee Tax-Exempt Status Certificate to avoid the State Sales Tax. Information about this will be in the Leader's Guide.



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Exploring



How Much Does it Cost?

- **Youth (14-21):** The registration fee is only \$35 per youth for all youth fees paid by Friday, January 16, 2009. After January 16th, the fee rises to \$50. This registration fee covers all dances, program events, awards, and miscellaneous program expenses. Separate arrangements must be made for food and accommodations.
- **All Others (adults and youth 5-14):** The registration fee is only \$10 per adult/visitor for all fees paid by Friday, January 16, 2009. After January 16th, the fee rises to \$15. This registration fee covers all dances, program events, awards, and miscellaneous program expenses. Separate arrangements must be made for food and accommodations.

Hotel Information

- Complete information will be available late in 2008 in the Winterfest Leader's Guide, which will be posted at www.nega-lfl.org.
- Most posts plan on youth sharing rooms at 4 per room and adults at 2 per room. Be mindful of Youth Protection Guidelines.
- Hotel rooms in the Gatlinburg area generally run \$85-95 per night. A special Winterfest rate will be available later this fall.



Sounds Great! What Do We Need to Do?

- Later this fall, check the Northeast Georgia Council website for information, including the full Leader's Guide: www.nega-lfl.org
- Start promoting Winterfest to your Explorers. Highlight the exciting events, skiing opportunities and fun to be had.
- Consider how your Explorers will pay for the conference. Typical expenses are estimated at:
 - \$35—Conference Fee
 - \$25—hotel room per night
 - \$35—food
 - \$??—transportation
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 - \$90-115—approx. cost per Explorer (wait until the Leader's Guide is published in early Fall before you set specific numbers for your budget for hotel and travel)
- Many posts participate in their council's popcorn sale to finance Winterfest. They give each Explorer a



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goal that will enable the post to pay for that Explorer's Winterfest fees.



- Contact other Post Advisors in your local community. They might want to combine resources to get as many Explorers to Winterfest as possible. It may save everyone money if you can get enough people to rent a commercial bus.
- Contact your local BSA Council Service Center. They may be planning a contingent trip from the Council Office. This often relieves Post Advisors of the responsibility of planning the event—just pay, show up, and have a great time!



Staff Advisor

ANDY PRICE

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