



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION
WINTER HUT INFORMATION
PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL GROUP MEMBERS

Backcountry Preparedness The huts are situated between 9,300 and 11,700 feet in elevation. A clear and calm morning at a trailhead can turn quickly (and without warning) into heavy snow and driving winds at higher elevations. Hypothermia, frostbite, and altitude sickness are common winter problems. Be sure that you know how to prevent, recognize, and treat these potentially life-threatening conditions. Bring enough extra clothing, emergency shelter and survival gear, food, and water to spend the night out if you do not make it to the hut ([What's Provided & Equipment Lists](#)).

Traveling to the Huts Be aware that going to a hut requires long climbs at high altitude – some routes are above 12,000'. Routes generally require the use of intermediate backcountry skiing skills. However, some route sections are more difficult and may require more advanced skills. You don't have to be an expert, but you should be strong and stable on your skis, have the right equipment, and know how to use it. Start early in the day and allow plenty of time to reach the hut. We advise planning on an hour per mile pace, and remember to accommodate the slowest member. A common group mistake is intentional separation.

Emergencies & First Aid Self-rescue is the responsibility of your group. Communication of any kind, even in an emergency, is not possible from most of the huts or along trails. If a member of your group is injured or becomes ill on the trail or at the hut, you cannot rely on outside help. Plan ahead and be prepared to execute a self-rescue. Your group should be equipped with first aid supplies and have experience in emergency medical procedures. In the event of an emergency call 911 or contact the appropriate county's dispatch number. Before departing for your trip, leave the following information with a responsible friend or relative:

1. Your exact travel plans including dates, huts, routes, and your plans in case of an emergency.
2. Your car's make and license plate number, the trailhead(s) you will be parking at, and the appropriate county's dispatch numbers listed here:
 - **Eagle County:** In an emergency call or text 911, or call Eagle County Non-Emergency Dispatch at 970-479-2201. Huts in Eagle County include Eiseman Hut, Fowler-Hilliard Hut, Harry Gates Hut, Jackal Hut, Peter Estin Hut, Polar Star Inn, Seipel Hut, Shrine Mountain Inn (Chuck's, Jay's and Walter's), and Vance's Cabin.
 - **Grand County:** In an emergency call or text 911, or call Grand County Non-Emergency Dispatch at 970-725-3311. Huts in Grand County include Broome Hut and High Lonesome Hut.
 - **Lake County:** In an emergency call 911, or call Lake County Non-Emergency Dispatch at 719-486-1249. Huts in Lake County include 10th Mountain Division Hut, Emmelyn Hut, Sangree M. Froelicher Hut, Skinner Hut, and Uncle Bud's Hut.
 - **Pitkin County:** In an emergency call or text 911, or call Pitkin County Non-Emergency Dispatch at 970-920-5310. Huts in Pitkin County include: Benedict Huts (Fritz & Fabi), Betty Bear Hut, Margy's Hut, and McNamara Hut.

Avalanche Awareness 10th Mountain suggested routes have been designed in an effort to avoid as much avalanche hazard as possible, but some degree of danger always exists in the backcountry. Before departing, it is advisable that groups acquire an avalanche advisory from the [Colorado Avalanche Information Center \(CAIC\)](#).

Cellular Phones/Emergency Communication A cellular phone can be helpful in the event of an emergency; however, communication is only possible from some of the huts and some segments of the trails. Your group may want to consider a SPOT, inReach, PLB or satellite phone for more reliable emergency communication, and hand-held, two-way radios for inter-group communication. In an emergency, do not call 10th Mountain – call 911 or contact the appropriate county's dispatch (see above).

Group Leader Since the group organizer (the person who made the reservation) may not be experienced in the backcountry, we recommend that your group discuss how decisions will be made in the field and who will be the leader in the event that problems arise. Be honest when assessing each member's strengths, skills, and experience. If no one in your group can provide leadership, you should consider hiring one of the permitted guide services listed at www.huts.org.

Route Finding/Topographic Maps You are responsible for finding the route to the hut. You must be experienced in route finding in bad weather conditions and be skilled in reading topographic maps and navigating with a compass and GPS. Suggested winter routes are only intermittently marked - with plastic blue diamonds on National Forest land, and tree blazes in designated Wilderness Areas. From one marker, the next is usually not visible. Do not depend on there being a broken track to the hut, or assume that tracks originating at the trailhead will lead to the hut. The maps on the back of 10th Mountain's brochure are intended for trip planning only, not for navigation. Detailed topographic maps should be purchased through 10th Mountain or local outdoor stores, and be sure to visit www.huts.org where you'll find hut and season-specific route descriptions and corresponding GPX files to also assist you in navigation. All groups should have at least one map, and large groups should have multiple maps.

Hut Amenities/Etiquette Hut capacities vary, and sleeping areas are generally divided among several bunk rooms. Overflow camping around the huts is not permitted. Please be courteous of others with respect to noise, quiet hours, use of alcohol, and personal gear storage. Respect other hut users by not using cellular phones. Smoking is not permitted in the huts. For specific information about the amenities at the hut you have reserved, go to www.huts.org and select The Huts. Winter hut amenities generally include the following/see exceptions:

- **Wood-burning heat stove, firewood & fire-starting materials provided. Exceptions:** Chuck's Down & Walter's Down have propane fireplaces, Jay's has a wood-burning heat stove *and* a propane fireplace, Broome has a pellet stove.
- **Propane burners for cooking, propane provided.***
- **Wood-burning cook stove with oven, firewood & fire-starting materials provided. Exceptions:** Fritz', Fabi's, Chuck's Up, Chuck's Down, Jay's, Walter's Up, Walter's Down, Polar Star Inn, Vance's and High Lonesome Hut have propane ovens.* **Exceptions:** Broome and the Seipel Hut do not have ovens.
- **Pots, pans, potholders, dishware, cooking and eating utensils, percolator or French Press, salt & pepper.**
- **Mattresses and pillows on sleeping platforms:** Bring your own sleeping bag and pillowcase.
- **Photovoltaic lighting.* Exceptions:** Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut have propane lights.*Chuck's, Jay's and Walter's lights are on a generator.
- **Paper towels, dish soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and trash bags.**
- **Other:** Benedict Huts (Fritz and Fabi) have hut slippers. Jay's, Chuck's Up, Chuck's Down, Walter's Up and Walter's Down all share a wood-burning sauna. Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut also share a wood-burning sauna. Jay's, Chuck's Up, Chuck's Down, Walter's Up and Walter's Down each have a propane refrigerator.*

*Propane and photovoltaic systems are not fail-proof. Backup systems are in place in the form of wood burning cook stoves (at most huts) and flashlights. 10th Mountain does not refund hut trips because of mechanical failures.

Water Water for drinking, cooking and cleaning is provided at most of the huts by melting snow. Huts are stocked with collection buckets and a large pot for melting snow. It is the hut users' responsibility to filter this water, if they choose to do so. Some huts are equipped with a pump in the kitchen that dispenses water from a cistern fed by a roof-top catchment system. This water is for cleaning only. Do not drink this water, even if you filter it. Depending on the level of hut use and precipitation, the cistern could be dry at the time of your visit. **Exceptions:** Polar Star Inn and Seipel Hut have a unique winter hydrant water source from a spring – filtering is advised, and important directions for proper use are posted. High Lonesome Hut and Shrine Mountain Inn (Chuck's, Jay's and Walter's) all have hot and cold running water – water from sinks at these huts is potable.

Dogs Sorry! DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED. The only exception to this policy is the High Lonesome Hut which is owned/operated privately, requires whole-hut reservations, and provides water from a well, not snowmelt. Visit 10th Mountain's FAQ for information on properties that do allow dogs.

Parking Issues Do not leave valuables in your car at the trailhead. Unfortunately, cars have been broken into and vandalized in the past.

Human Powered Recreation vs. Motorized Use A hut trip should entail both the hard work of getting to a hut and the relaxing comfort that huts provide. We strongly urge your group to carry up what is needed without asking someone else to haul it up for you. Use of snowmobiles to access huts is strongly discouraged and is prohibited at some huts. The hut system was created for non-motorized travel and snowmobile use detracts from this unique experience. USFS non-motorized envelopes surround each hut and snowmobiles are not permitted within these envelopes. For safety reasons, no person physically unable to ski or snowshoe out to a trailhead should attempt to access a hut using a snowmobile.

Multi-Use Recreation Some of the suggested routes to the huts are multi-use. People on snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes and snowboards may all be encountered. Expect and respect all users. For questions about multi-use contact the appropriate ranger district:

- **Aspen/Sopris Ranger District 970-963-2266** Benedict Huts (Fritz & Fabi), Betty Bear Hut, Harry Gates Hut, Margy's Hut, McNamara Hut
- **Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District 970-827-5715** Eiseman Hut, Fowler-Hilliard Hut, Jackal Hut, Peter Estin Hut, Polar Star Inn, Seipel Hut, Shrine Mountain Inn (Chuck's, Jay's and Walter's), Vance's Cabin
- **Leadville Ranger District 719-486-0749** 10th Mountain Division Hut, Emmelyn Hut, Sangree M. Froelicher Hut, Skinner Hut, Uncle Bud's Hut
- **Sulphur Ranger District/Arapaho NF Visitor Info 970-295-6600** Broome Hut, High Lonesome Hut

Arriving at the Hut

Hut Trip Confirmation/Door Lock Confirmation

- The trip confirmation with the hut's door lock combination is emailed to the person who reserved the hut, at the time the hut is reserved. Huts are locked with padlocks, so combinations are necessary for entry. Please post the confirmation letter on the board upon arrival. All users must have a reservation or face eviction by those who do, or by hut personnel.
- **Arrival time is 2pm, please depart by 11am.** Respect field staff and other hut groups, abide by these times.

Fire, Ice, and Snow Precautions

- When first arriving at a hut, familiarize yourselves with **emergency fire procedures and exits**. Fire could occur at the hut and would likely be either a structure fire (inside the hut) or a wildland fire (in the forest outside the hut). In order to decrease the chance of a fire-related tragedy, you need to be aware of the hazards of both types of fires and what to do if either one occurs. If a structure fire is uncontrollable, get everybody out, with their boots and clothing if possible. Report any damage to 10th Mountain.
- When first arriving at a hut, **evaluate hazards due to falling snow and ice** that could occur and avoid exposing yourself to those inherent risks when collecting snow and moving around the hut.

Hut Instructions

Familiarize yourself and your group with all hut instructions posted at the huts, especially in regards to the following actions:

- **Turning on the Lights**
Activate photovoltaic lights by turning on the master switch on the hut's electric panel.
- **Lighting the Propane Stove**
Turn on the photovoltaic system (see above). Activate the safety shut-off timer located near the propane stove (not all huts have a timer). When the timer runs out, it will automatically shut off the gas. Before lighting the stove to continue cooking, turn off the knobs, then reset the timer and finally re-light the stove.
- **Warming the Hut**
If it is necessary to make a fire, keep it small to start. Be sure the flue is open and the stove is drawing well. Gradually make a hot fire, and then let it burn down before bedtime. The huts are well insulated and stay warm through the night. Split wood on the large stumps provided, not on the breakable bricks surrounding the stove. Make enough kindling for you and the next party. Cutting, hauling, and stacking firewood is expensive and labor intensive. Burn it judiciously. Place cold ashes in the metal ash drum.
- **Kitchen Information/Duties**
You're sharing the kitchen, so please don't monopolize it. Keep cooking and preparation time short, and clean up promptly. Pump water is not drinkable, but can be used for dishwashing – not all huts have a pump. Wash and rinse dishes carefully. Use hot, soapy water for washing and add 1 capful of bleach to rinse water. All garbage, including uneaten food and packaging, must go home with you (trash bags are provided). Do not throw trash into the outhouse. Food/condiments attract mice and bears; never leave food outside or at the hut when you depart.

- **Living/Dining Rooms and Decks**

Please don't monopolize communal areas by spreading your gear on tables and couches. Leave your boots

- **Bedrooms and Quiet Time**

Beds are chosen on a first-come basis; assume a full hut for the night. Store your personal gear on or under your bed, not in the communal areas. Please observe quiet time from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Cleaning Up and Departing the Hut

- **Cleaning** Please leave a clean hut. Sweep the floors and stairs, wipe down the kitchen and dining areas, clean and put away the dishes.
- **Garbage** Carry out all garbage, including all leftover food (trash bags are provided).
- **Split/Restock Firewood** Split and restock kindling for the cook-stove and larger wood for the heat-stove.
- **Fill Snowmelt Pot**
- **Shovel** Please shovel decks, stairs and outhouse walkways.
- **Propane** Turn propane stove knobs off.
- **Photovoltaic/Lights** Turn off all lights and turn off the photovoltaic system's main switch.
8
- **Closing/Locking** Close and lock all windows, close outhouse doors, lock any backdoors, and lock the front door behind you.

Cancellations & Changes

Cancellations and Changes must be made 30 days prior to your trip start date in order to receive an 80% hut credit for a future trip. Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to your trip start date will result in forfeiture of your payment. No refunds.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please call 10th Mountain 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday (December through March 15), and 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday (March 16 through November).

10th Mountain Division Hut Association

1280 Ute Avenue, Ste 21, Aspen, Colorado 81611 Reservations 970-925-5775

Email huts@huts.org, Website www.huts.org