

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SKI CLUB OF SARASOTA

(Revised 10/2019)

1. The Ski Club of Sarasota is a club made up of volunteers, not a professional travel agency. The club arranges group travel for members, not the public at large. Those requiring significant individual attention may be better served arranging their own trips with professional travel agents who are ready, willing, and able to cater to individual personal needs.
2. Trip participants are responsible for:
 - paying annual dues and submitting annual application form with all adult signatures.
 - submitting trip reservation forms with all adult signatures and deposit for each trip.
 - making 2nd payment (usually \$500 per person) by September 1st, or earlier if so notified.
 - providing information requested by trip leader in a timely manner, generally with 2nd payment.
 - finding an acceptable roommate or paying a single supplement to have a single room.
Trip leaders may suggest pairings, but individual travelers should meet to discuss compatibility.
3. Lodging and rooming assignments, airline request, etc. are determined by sign-up priority status. Priority is established upon signing up for a given trip with a trip reservation form and paying the necessary per person deposit. Priority is maintained by making payments on time and submitting requested information on time. Failure to do either may result in losing priority status.
4. Members should direct questions about specific trips to the group trip leaders. When efforts to reach a trip leader are unsuccessful, feel free to contact a club officer. Members should not call our travel agents or wholesalers without first consulting with a trip leader. Other providers such as rental shops, ground transportation etc. agree to provide discounted services based upon dealing with the group through group leaders, not numerous individual participants. There should be no contact with any provider except through group leaders.
5. Trip leaders may request specific information relating to rentals, side trips, special functions, etc. Participants must respond within the appropriate time frames in order to pre-arrange and qualify for special discounts, etc. Members who fail to provide information in a timely manner may be prevented from participating in a given activity or lose special group privileges or pricing.
6. Trip leaders are not expected to give service in the following areas: medical advice, mountain guide services, ski instruction, baby-sitting, escort service, baggage handling, personal assistant or ski companion. If you need any of these services, be prepared to pay for them or bring someone along to provide them for you.
7. Air carriers, both commercial and charter, are the single component of our trips over which we have the least control. Not surprisingly, airlines are the cause of most of the negative feedback to the club. Airlines may cancel flights, bump passengers or have mechanical problems resulting in delayed flights or missed connections. In the event of any flight time change, change of departure gate, etc. it is the responsibility of each traveler to remain at the gate area in order to avoid missed connections. A great feature of group travel is group rates are economical. In addition, airlines are reluctant to "bump" a member of a group. A down side of group air travel is it is not possible to reserve specific seat assignment like non-group travel. An effort is made to seat traveling companions together, though this is not always possible, particularly for those low on the sign-up list. Airlines hold a specific number of seats for the group but will not specifically assign seats until they have accommodated their full fare passengers. Groups get seat assignments after everyone else. Travelers should not attempt to deal directly with the airline regarding upgrades, changing seat assignment, etc. until the tickets are actually issued in your name (i.e. in the reservation computer).
8. A photo ID is required by airlines. For domestic travel a valid driver's license will suffice. International trips require a passport or additional documentation. For international travel, members are required to provide a photocopy of the information page of the valid passport to the group leader. Each traveler is responsible for providing necessary documentation and photo ID.
9. Baggage handling at the destination site is often prepaid. Travelers may tip extra for exceptional or extraordinary service. Bus and van drivers are usually very helpful loading and off-loading baggage. Tips for bus drivers are pre-arranged or handled by trip leaders. When smaller vehicles are used, tips are at your discretion depending upon the service provided by the drivers. You should keep an eye on your baggage to

insure that it gets on the appropriate van or bus. Ultimately each traveler is responsible for his/her own baggage.

10. Airlines have varying allowances and requirements regarding baggage. It is the travelers' obligation to research the rules for the airline on which they travel. Baggage fees are solely the responsibility of the individual traveler.
11. Lodging property choices are assigned according to priority status. When two or more parties are sharing a unit, the party with the highest status will be in charge of decision making for that unit. Lodging units at destination sites are assigned for each type of unit by the property management according to the sign up priority list provided by the trip leader. Expect there to be variations in unit size, view, furnishings, etc., especially in condominium properties where private individuals own and decorate the units. Typical condo units have a "master" bedroom with a king or queen bed and additional bedroom(s), which may have separate beds. Condo mates should flip a coin or use some other method that is mutually agreeable to determine who gets priority in choosing bedrooms. When individual travelers are paired, "separate beds" will be requested, but in some cases the properties are not able to comply. Some properties may offer a "roll away" bed for an additional fee. Otherwise, there may be a sofa, or sofa sleeper.
12. Group travel requires scheduled transportation to depart "on time." If you are a "late person" you will probably be left behind! It is the responsibility of each traveler to show up on time.
13. Trip insurance may be offered by some wholesalers. When available and purchased, insurance is an arrangement between the insurance company and the traveler. The Ski Club of Sarasota may make members aware of trip insurance availability, but is out of the loop as far as answering questions and/or claim questions. Coverage is generally effective when your check clears. Trip cancellation coverage generally will cover only those portions of the trip provided by the wholesaler (in some instances only the airfare and not the ground portion).
14. Delays due to weather, mechanical breakdown of transportation providers, etc., may result in additional charges such as transportation to a secondary airport, an additional night of lodging, extra meals, etc. These risks are inherent with travel to mountain country in winter. Additional charges are the responsibility of the traveler, not the Ski Club of Sarasota. Travelers should be prepared to deal with these situations.
15. On some trips, members may be allowed to provide their own transportation. When allowed, the traveler is responsible for providing all transportation, including ground transfers. A written request must be approved by the trip leader when trip reservation is initially made or soon thereafter. In some cases it is not possible to separate transportation from the trip package.

FSC TRIPS:

Florida Ski Council (FSC) trips usually feature evening parties or special functions.

Admission to FSC functions requires a name badge and occasionally a ticket, credential, or voucher. Without a name badge and these documents trip participants may be denied access.

The FSC parties may involve several hundred participants. There might be crowds and some lines, particularly at the very beginning of the function. Arrive a little later to avoid the lines. Do not expect for everyone to find a seat at the same time. It is customary to share available seating by allowing others to use your seat after you have finished eating.