

**Yurt Guidelines**  
for Steam Mill Yurt  
Powder Ridge Ski Touring, LLC

Yurts are wonderful and simple shelters, both hardy and fragile, intuitive and complex. Please have all of the guests, under your reservation and leadership, read and sign this document as part of the yurt reservation packet. You and your guests are responsible for following these guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Cheers!

1. **Getting to the yurt:** You are responsible for your safety and that of everyone in your party. By making this reservation, you are indicating that you have the orienteering skills to navigate to the yurt, regardless of weather.
2. **Wood:** Yurt guests largely rely on firewood for heating and for melting snow for water. The woodsheds should have ample wood; some may need to be split. If wood runs low, notify us as soon as possible!
  - a. Ensure that at least one fire's worth of wood and kindling (split) is inside the yurt, right by the woodstove. Imagine your coldest, most blizzardy ski in, and leave enough wood that the next guests can quickly start a fire to ward off the chill.
  - b. Ensure the woodshed is closed before leaving!
  - c. We cut and haul all of the firewood for all of our guests, so no outside fires, EVER!
3. **Woodstove:** These stoves, made in central Utah, have a proven track record for safety and output. But if things go bad, they can go real bad.
  - a. Firestarter chunks and newspaper are provided in the plastic tote nearest the stove. "Prime" the stovepipe by building a kindling pile for the firestarter, lighting a piece of newspaper and placing it in the back of the stove by the pipe, and then lighting the firestarter. This will draw the smoke up the pipe, not into the yurt.
  - b. The flue damper (on the first or second section of stovepipe) will keep a lot more heat in the stove and yurt, but ensure the stove door is closed and drawing air in when damping it. When opening the stove door, open the flue damper first so smoke isn't pulled into the yurt. The damper is open when the damper handle is parallel to the stovepipe.
  - c. If the stovepipe (or heaven forbid the stove) is glowing red-hot, there is the distinct possibility that the yurt could also glow red-hot, leaving you all to dance around the snow in stocking-feet as your shelter and stuff go up in flames. Please, don't bank the fire.
4. **Propane cookstoves:**
  - a. The propane cookstoves should NEVER be used to melt snow-water or heat the yurts.
  - b. The added insulation seals the yurts better, and excessive use of the propane cookstove could concentrate CO (carbon monoxide) which is potentially fatal! So please use the propane cookstove for cooking only.
  - c. Keep the propane tanks away from the woodstove.
  - d. There are backup propane tanks at each yurt. If a propane tank is empty, please LET US KNOW! If you smell gas at any time, STOP! Shut off tanks at main valve (top of tank).
  - e. To change a tank:
    - i. Shut off the stove and valve on empty tank; make sure new tank's valve is closed.
    - ii. Disconnect the hose to empty tank (with propane, Righty-Loosey, Lefty-Tighty!)
    - iii. Connect hose to full tank & check for leaks by smelling or spraying water.
    - iv. Open valve on full tank, recheck for leaks.
  - f. Turn off the valves ON TOP OF THE TANKS when finished cooking. Make sure these are closed when you leave the yurt!
5. **LED Lanterns:** Two are used at each yurt. The white gas lanterns are being phased out for safety.
  - a. The on/off switch can be held to dim the light.
  - b. Plenty of batteries are in the supply tote for the AA and D battery lanterns.
  - c. The white gas lanterns are enough of a liability that they are in the yurts for backup only. If you must use them, fill the lantern outside while the lantern is cold. Read and follow the instruction manuals. Extra mantles are in the plastic tote with the firestarter materials.
6. **Bunkbeds:** Six sleeping pads are provided. At Steam Mill, there are 2 bunkbeds that each sleep 2 people (1 top, 1 bottom). Two collapsible cots are provided for the 2 remaining guests. They are in green nylon storage bags.
7. **Shovel snow** from around the yurt and woodshed entrances as much as necessary. Most problems with the shelters occur from excessive snow around the entrances or on their roofs.

- a. Use the snowrake (broom with extendable handle) to pull snow off the roof after big dumps - and be careful not to damage the roof!
  - b. Ensure the stovepipe is dug out to ease lighting and prevent leaks.
  - c. Provide a useful corridor between the yurt door and woodshed door.
8. **Drinking water:** Snow used for potable water should be collected from the woodshed roof or nearby.
9. **Grey water** (dish water, other used water) must be strained using the designated strainer and the water disposed of along the path to the outhouse. The bits in the strainer should be burned.
10. **Outhouses:** Stationed out to the west of the yurts.
- a. Dig out snow near the outhouse to allow a safe entrance and exit.
  - b. Take a PAPER BAG & TP (inside PAPER plastic tote) to outhouses at first use. Yurt policy is to place all used TP in the paper bag and burn it in the woodstove, either as necessary or before leaving. TP takes up too much space in the crapper and doesn't easily compost. Don't allow the outhouse to form a 'stalagmite'; burn your paper!
  - c. Ensure the outhouse is secured shut before leaving!
  - d. Urinate in the outhouse or along the path to the outhouse. Keep it sanitary near the yurt. Kick some snow over your pee hole to keep it lookin' good. (Ladies may form their own pee station. DON'T pee on their crouch spot, dudes!)
11. **Safety Items:**
- a. The yurt has two fire extinguishers. Make sure you know where they are, how they operate, and how to avoid needing to use one.
  - b. Carbon monoxide detector - If this detector activates, open the door and get out! When the unit stops, find out why it activated and take appropriate measures.
  - c. Smoke detector - This detector will give false alerts due to cooking and the woodstove. Make sure to replace the battery if it has to be removed.
12. **When leaving (checkout time is 1 PM):**
- a. If you plan on skiing the rest of the day of your departure, make sure the yurt is ready for the next group and leave your packs neatly in the woodshed or a corner of the yurt.
  - b. Empty out all vessels of water so that they don't freeze and crack. However, if the next group is arriving & you talk to them, by all means let them know and leave them your leftover water.
  - c. Remove ALL FOOD! Mice poo and live everywhere because of leftover food!
  - d. Sweep up and clean out the yurt. Remove all microtrash and food particles.
  - e. Shut off white gas lantern and propane at the tank.
  - f. Close both air intake and flue damper on woodstove. Make sure any combustible or meltable materials are away from woodstove. Remove the waterjacket from the woodstove.
  - g. Ensure the outhouse, woodshed and yurt are closed up and yurt locked.
  - h. Please notify Powder Ridge of any issues that need attention at the yurts.

Signed: Participant 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Participant 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Participant 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant 6: \_\_\_\_\_