

# Truckee 8 INSIDER'S GUIDE | WINTER 23-24

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

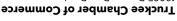
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ON THE COVER: Emily Hay, Palisades Tahoe Ski Patrol and Firefighter. Photo © Chris Talbot Photography



CORRECTION FROM LAST ISSUE: Fall Fly Fishing: Scott Ferguson, a longtime local, husband and father, Co-Founder/Co-Owner of Truckee Laundry, and avid angler is the Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Trout Creek Outfitters along with Miles Zimmerman. Read more about how Trout Creek Outfitters built their successful business under News on Truckee.com. Scott avoids the limelight, but we know him well. Our apologies.







### **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

# Welcoming Winter, Hope it's Kinder this Year



"As much as people might be grumbling that summer was too short and last years winter was too big, there is still a feeling of excitement in the air as winter approaches."

And just like that, winter is back! It feels like only yesterday I was trying not to slide down Northwoods or pull my back out from the endless shoveling. As much as people might be grumbling that summer was too short and last year's winter was too big, there is still a feeling of excitement in the air as winter approaches. For this edition of Truckee's Insider Guide, we have gathered some great winter stories, including what to do when you want to stay indoors, learning about ski patrollers, and how to park at some of our big resorts this winter, and more.

# A Beginner's Guide to Snowshoeing in

When you are ready to get out and explore Truckee in the winter, snowshoeing is a great way to do that. Truckee and the surrounding area have some of the best snowshoeing around. Whether new to snowshoeing or a pro, turn to **page 8** for some of our favorite locations to explore this winter.

# Snuggle Up, Buttercup! Exploring Truckee's Great IN-doors

Most of us moved to the Truckee Region to enjoy the great outdoors in both winter and summer. That said, sometimes you need to get out and explore the great IN-doors. Scroll to page 22 to learn about some of the awesome things you can do when you can't (or don't want) to be outside. These include candlemaking, cooking classes, or the library's many fun programs.

# Resort Parking - How to Be Successful this Winter

After last year's impressive winter, Palisades Tahoe and Northstar California are implementing new parking programs. These programs have been thoughtfully created to try and mitigate traffic congestion on our busiest days. Turn to **page 30** to learn how to

be the most successful in getting to the slopes this winter.

## **Lessons Learned**

If you are like me, you are hoping for a slightly less intense winter than last year! That being said, it's good to review some of the issues of last winter for takeaways that can help in the future. Flip over to **page 14** to see what we learned from our big winter and what we can take forward into the coming snowy season.

## **Check Out Truckee's New Dining Options**

Local chefs and restaurant entrepreneurs have been busy opening up new and exciting eateries in Truckee over the last year! Flip to **page 18** to read about some new culinary developments.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Insider's Guide as much as my team and I enjoyed researching and creating the articles.

# Jessica Penman

PRESIDENT AND CEO
TRUCKEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EDITOR, TRUCKEE.COM AN INSIDER'S GUIDE





#### Truckee.com

An Insider's Guide Winter 2023-24

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# What's happening...

WINTER EVENTS

Scan to see all the events going on this winter!



DECEMBER 15 Festive Friday Downtown: Date Night Sip & Shop

**DECEMBER 31** Light Up the Night, Tahoe Donner

JANUARY

5, 12, 19, 26 Sunset Snowshoe Tours

FEBRUARY 22 Sugar Rush Networking Mixer + Big Life Connections

FEBRUARY

23-25 World Cup Ski Racing at Palisades Tahoe

FEBRUARY 29 -

MARCH 10 North Tahoe Snowfest

MARCH 3 The Great Ski Race

MARCH 23 Truckee Rotary's Chris Matthews Memorial Crab Feed

MARCH 26 Annual Pain McShlonkey Classic

MARCH 27 Sierra Skogsloppet XC Fun Ski Race

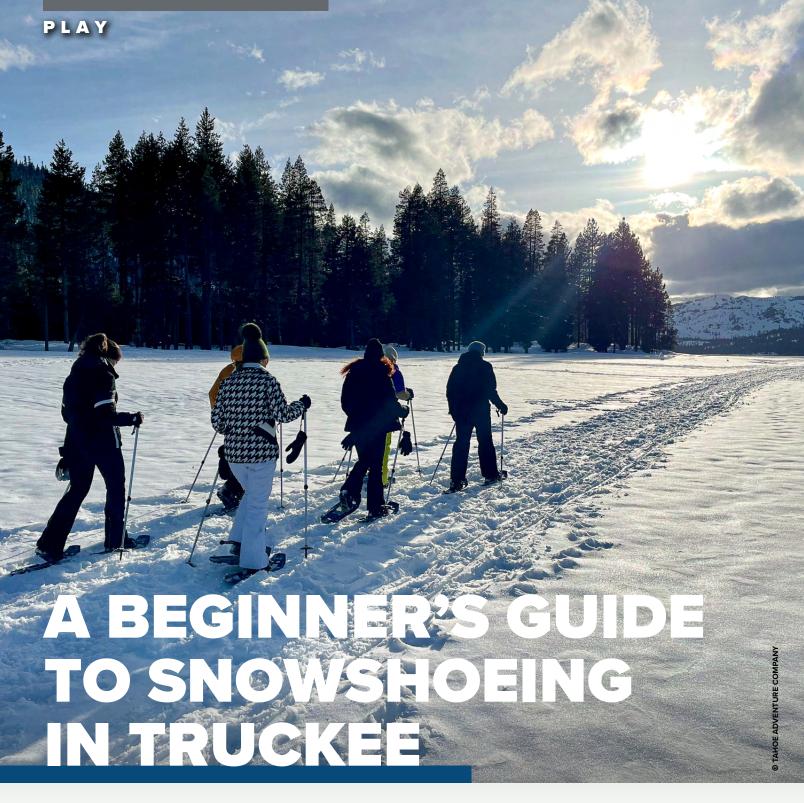
APRIL 5-7 Winter Wonder Grass

APRIL 24-27 Truckee Follies

### FOR DETAILS AND COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS: TRUCKEE.COM/EVENTS







Experience the hushed atmosphere of the forest, the sparkle of an untouched blanket of snow, and a new view of your favorite Truckee trails. Snowshoeing, like hiking, is a forgiving outdoor activity without a steep learning curve. It allows you to connect with nature while also enjoying a hearty cardiovascular workout without putting a lot of strain on your joints. So bundle up, grab your supplies, and get out and explore this winter on your snowshoes. Here's how.

**Pro tip:** Make sure you have the AllTrails app downloaded on your phone before heading out. Find the trail or area you'll be hiking in and download the appropriate map so you don't get lost!



# **GEAR UP**

First, you'll need a pair of snowshoes. If you're not ready to buy your own pair just yet, there are several businesses around town that will rent them to you. Mountain Hardware and Sports, Tahoe Dave's, Tahoe Mountain Sports, Tahoe Donner Adventure Center, Tahoe Adventure Company, and Tahoe Sports Hub all offer snowshoe rentals. Most of these businesses, minus Tahoe Adventure Company, sell some of the gear you'll want to bring with you as well.

Use this checklist to make sure you have everything you need for a fun, safe, and warm excursion. Carry items in a medium-sized day pack or hydration pack.

# **Snowshoe Day-Trip Packing List**

- Hiking poles
- Water
- Snacks
- Lunch if you're going to be out for longer periods
- Optional: Thermos with hot beverage!
- Phone with camera and GPS
- Compass
- Map
- If you're going to be out all day, or you're going into the backcountry, always bring a first aid kit with emergency supplies and flashlight or headlamp

## What to Wear

- Snowshoes
- Waterproof snow boots
- · Wool or synthetic hiking or ski socks
- Moisture-wicking base layer
- Insulated jacket or vest
- Snow pants or bibs
- Gaiters if not using snow pants
- Ski gloves
- Beanie
- Neck gaiter
- Sunglasses

# WHERE TO GO

Local resorts have dedicated trails for snowshoers, making it easy to trek long distances. For a more intimate experience with nature, local trails are great for beginners, however, if there isn't a trail that's been broken yet, your hike may get strenuous.

## Resorts

The resorts mentioned below offer dedicated snowshoe trails, however, snowshoers are welcome to use ski trails as well; just be sure to stay at the edges of ski trails and out of the striding tracks. These resorts offer rentals and lessons. Check their websites for details.

## **Tahoe Donner Adventure Center**

tahoedonner.com

Explore 11 km of singletrack trail specially designed for snowshoers in addition to the 100 km of ski trails at Tahoe Donner Cross Country Ski Center. This is a great place to start as they offer a snowshoe rental package that includes snowshoes and adjustable poles. They also offer private lessons and tours for individuals and groups to learn basic skills and gain knowledge about the local flora and fauna from one of their friendly guides.

# **Royal Gorge**

royalgorge.com

Royal Gorge offers 49.5km of dedicated snowshoe trails for a peaceful opportunity to meander through old growth trees, in and out of snowy ravines, and up to some of the most spectacular views in Tahoe.





# **Backcountry Trails**

Experience the beauty of the High Sierra and alpine forests by snowshoeing through the backcountry. These areas are great for beginners, as they are close to main roads but still offer that remote feel. Before heading to the backcountry, ensure you have packed everything you need—safety first!

# **Coldstream Canyon**

Access Coldstream Canyon via Coldstream Road. Begin your hike by heading left from the end of the road and past the gate, where you'll trek up a glacial moraine. Make sure and wear layers on this hike; the beginning is steep, and you may quickly start sweating. Continue on until you reach a viewpoint of Coldstream Ponds. You can turn around here, or hike around the pond. The entire loop is around 6 miles.

## **Donner Memorial State Park**

This is a great option for families with young children, or those who are very much a beginner. For \$5 per vehicle from October 1 through April 30, park in the Donner Memorial State Park day parking lot. Start your journey by

heading west toward Donner Lake. Meander through tall Jeffery Pines and listen to the songs of the birds. Make your way over to the south shore and China Cove for views of Donner Lake. Never attempt to walk on Donner Lake, even if it appears to be frozen.

### **Prosser Reservoir**

Another picturesque area for families and beginners, the Prosser area offers wide, exposed landscape that you can explore for miles. Hike under the dome of the sky with views of the reservoir and rolling hills of powdery white snow. To get there, take Prosser Dam Road until it ends and park on the side of the road. Suit up, and head out in any direction! Again, do not attempt to hike on the reservoir itself, even if it appears to be frozen.

# **Tahoe Donner Summit**

High in elevation with some exposure, make sure you check the weather before heading out on this gorgeous hike. Reach the Glacier Way parking lot, which gets crowded on weekends, by heading up Skislope and taking a left on Glacier Way. Explore the area or do an out and back to Johnson Canyon for exceptional views. If there's too much activity at Glacier Way, try your luck at Carpenter Valley. To get there, turn north off Alder Creek Drive between the Tahoe Donner subdivision and Highway 89 onto Carpenter Valley Road. While the gate is closed during the winter, you can park just to the side of it and snowshoe in among a serene pine forest. Follow the fire road, and if you see snowshoe tracks that meander into the woods, take some time to explore this beautiful area, but be sure to have your compass, map, or GPS handy.





# UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

These guided hikes offer snowshoeing experiences that you'll keep with you forever. From hiking under the moon to snowshoeing up to a 4-course gourmet meal, book early, because these tours tend to sell out.

# **Northstar California Twilight Snowshoe Tour**

northstarcalifornia.com

Take an evening to slow down and enjoy the peaceful setting of the Sierra Nevada during Northstar's guided, evening snowshoe tours that meander through the pine tree lined forest. During the adventure, snowshoers will also relax around a fire pit to enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate. Dogs on leashes are welcome to join.

# **Guided Snowshoe Tour and Chalet Dinner at Alpine**

palisadestahoe.com

For those who are 21 and older, join a guided snowshoe tour to the mid-mountain Chalet at Alpine Meadows, where you'll enjoy a 4-course Bavarian inspired meal, champagne, and wine. Snowshoes are provided. Make your reservation at least one week in advance.

### **Full Moon Snowshoe Tours**

tahoeadventurecompany.com

Take in the brisk mountain air as you snowshoe under the moon and learn about the High Sierra. As you travel by moonlight, knowledgeable guides will discuss natural history and astronomy, sharing fascinating facts about the moon. Stop along the way to take in the beautiful views and enjoy snacks and hot drinks. This tour is popular with all ability levels and ages (8+). Browse the Tahoe Adventure Company website for even more snowshoeing tours!

# TIPS + TRICKS

- **1.** Choose the right trail! Select a location that matches you and your group's ability level. Look for trails that are aligned with the experience you're looking for, whether it's a quiet, easy walk through the forest or a steep climb to a view.
- 2. Check the weather and trail conditions. Make sure the trail you want to explore is open and safe for snowshoeing. Avoid heading out during heavy snowstorms or in avalanche-prone areas. Check avalanche conditions at sierraavalanchecenter.org.
- 3. Experiment with technique. Practice walking with a slightly wider stance than usual to avoid stepping on your own snowshoes.
- **4.** Put safety first. Tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return. Always follow trail markers and stay on designated paths.
- Leave no trace. Pack out all trash, be aware of your surroundings, and keep distant from any wildlife you may encounter.
- Take a break! Stop and enjoy the scenery, a hot beverage, and a snack.

Now you're well-prepared to embark on a snowshoeing adventure that's not only enjoyable but also safe and memorable! Gear up and Truckee.



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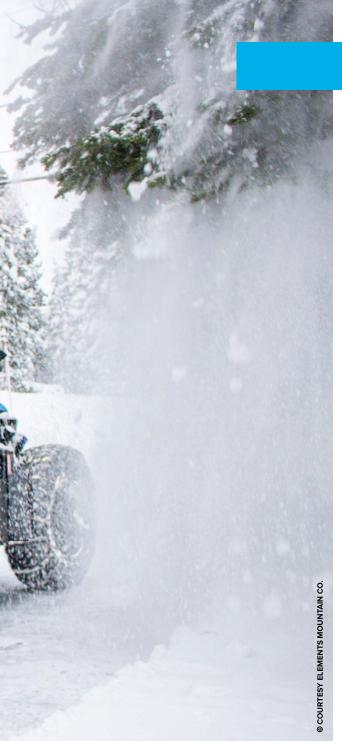








Many truckee residents live here because we love winter sports and snow. We're used to and relish big snow storms. Most of us already know that we should stock up on supplies before big storms and how to winterize our homes and cars. While last winter was considered extreme, the winter of 2019 was so severe it was dubbed "Snowmaggedon," with Moonshine Ink even producing commemorative t-shirts for those who lived through it. And if you look back in history, which is easy to do by watching *Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche* documentary, currently one of the top movies on Netflix, we realize that years of big snow storms aren't that unusual in Truckee-Tahoe. Despite the experience of previous extreme winters, the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services reported an unprecedented surge in roof-related problems and other damage last season. So, what did we learn from last winter?



# **Roof Maintenance**

The extreme snowfall of 2023 resulted in a surge in roof-related issues, leading to a significant increase in permit applications for roof repairs at the Town of Truckee Building Department. In an effort to expedite repairs, the department temporarily waived certain requirements. However, many homeowners delayed seeking contractors until the fall, which created challenges in securing timely repairs.

So why is this the first year that we've heard about so many roof issues and ice dams? Aren't our roofs built to a code that should withstand snow storms? According to Gabbart & Woods Structural Engineers, "Snowloads are based on what we expect to see in a given year, but it's possible to have a bigger year than roofs and houses are designed for. When that happens, you simply have too much weight on your structure and you need to get it off. The cost and inconvenience of shoveling a roof can seem large at the time, but if you don't remove the snow and have a failure, the cost of preventative measures likely dwarfs the cost of repairs due to damage."

The winter of 2022/2023 had a significant amount of consecutive storms with unusually cold temps, so there was less melting/runoff than in many years. Roof snow loads are based on 25 pounds per cubic foot. In Truckee, snow loads range from 180 psf (pounds per square foot) in Glenshire, 200-210 psf in Prosser, to up to 450 psf at the top of Skislope Way in Tahoe Donner. So in Prosser, so if there's 7 feet of snow on your roof, you're at snow load. If there's a big snow or wet rain/ice storm in the forecast, it's likely going to go beyond what a roof is designed for, so you need to remove the snow to prevent damage, or worse - roof failure. A home on Rainbow Drive in Prosser Lakeview completely collapsed last March.

Ice dams were a widespread problem this past winter. Ice dams develop during cold winter months if warm air from your home or attic melts snow on your roof, which then refreezes once it reaches the colder edge of the roof. Here are some tips to prevent ice dams from forming:

- **Insulation:** If you have an attic or crawl space, keep the temperature at 32\*F or below to help prevent the snow from melting. You can help achieve this by making sure it is properly insulated
- Prevent air leaks: Check and seal any openings where warm air
  or heat could escape into the attic, such as insulating or caulking around
  vent pipes, exhaust fans, chimneys, attic hatches and/or light fixtures.
- Improve ventilation: Increase the number or size of attic, roof or soffit vents that allow cold air to circulate and flush warmer air out during the winter.
- Install a water-repellent membrane: If your roof is shingles, when replacing the roof covering, installing a water-repellent membrane underneath the shingles provides an extra barrier to help prevent water from seeping inside and causing damage should an ice dam form.

Monitor your roof throughout the winter to ensure an ice dam isn't forming. Make sure gutters and spouts are clear, use a roof rake to clear 3-4' on the edges of your roof after storms if you can. If you see an ice dam forming, remove it as soon as possible to prevent damage. Safety should always be your top priority. It's best to avoid using ladders or climbing on the roof in icy conditions without proper safety equipment. If you're uncomfortable removing snow or ice dams, consider working with a licensed contractor to ensure a safe and effective solution.





# **Be Kind to Your Plowers**

It can be frustrating being stuck at home and not able to get out of your driveway, but both Town of Truckee Public Works and many private snow removal company staff worked nonstop to keep the roads clear last winter. The Town of Truckee reported that Public Works staff, including the street maintenance, fleet, and facilities crews, worked more than 9,000 hours of overtime between Thanksgiving and Easter. They moved 7 billion pounds of snow to our roadway shoulders using plows, and then moved that snow a second time to roadsides using snowblowers. An additional 1/2 billion pounds of snow was removed from our trails and sidewalks, and more than 5,000 truckloads of snow was hauled out of our commercial areas. Most of these staff members worked the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Martin Luther King, and President's Day holidays, as well as 75% of the weekends for 4 months straight.

Staff routinely took up residence in the Town's dormitories to be sure that they were able to make it to work during storm cycles that closed the freeways and state highways, or rushed home to clear their own driveways, berms, and roofs before the next shift. Everyone was 100% committed to providing excellent service and worked as a team to keep our town running during the epic winter. So give them a smile and a wave when you see them this year, or even warm cookies.

# **Slow Down**

When faced with severe weather and school cancellations, taking it slowly or staying home all together is always the wisest choice. Unless you're an essential worker, venturing out on the roads is often unnecessary and can pose risks. Embrace a leisurely pace when you are doing any of the following activities:

- **Driving:** It's much safer to drive on icy and snowy roads at slower speeds. In addition to this, when berms get really high like they did last year, there is decreased visibility and often narrower roadways. Nobody wants to hit pedestrians, pets, or a plow they didn't see because they were zipping around a corner with a high berm. Even if you have the best traction possible, saving 30 seconds getting to your destination is not worth causing an accident and injury.
- Shoveling: PTs and chiropractors were in high demand last winter. Even if you have a great snowblower, there's often a lot that you have to dig out and shoveling can be really hard on your body. Yes: it needs to get done but take the time to pay attention.
  - can be really hard on your body. Yes; it needs to get done, but take the time to pay attention to what your body is telling you and take breaks every now and then. Not being able to get out of bed the next day is counterproductive and painful.
- In town: A lot of snow can mean a lot of extra visitors. Many Truckee restaurants and shops have been short-staffed for some time. If you're stuck in a long line or traffic, take a deep breath and try to be positive and remember all the reasons you feel lucky to live in Truckee.



# **Get to Know Your Neighbors**

In a storm, it is easy to settle into your own routine and forget about your neighbors who may need help. If the power is out for hours and you have a wood stove, a neighbor could be grateful for an invitation to come warm up. For some, asking for help doesn't come easy. However, according to research, helping someone, whether a friend or a stranger, relieves time-related stress better than spending the same amount of time on you. So go ahead and shovel your single-mother neighbor's front steps if you see she hasn't gotten to it for days. It feels good to help others and you might need help sometime too.

Check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbors: Make sure they have enough food, medication, and other
essential supplies. If they need help getting groceries or prescriptions, offer to assist them.

- Share resources and information: If you have access to generators, power banks, or other resources, share them with your neighbors who may need them. Also, keep them updated on weather forecasts, road conditions, and emergency services information.
- Help with household chores: If your neighbors are elderly or have young children, offer to help with tasks like clearing snow from their walkways or driveways, running errands, or babysitting.
- Offer emotional support: Storms can be isolating and stressful. Lend a listening ear, offer words of encouragement, and simply be there for your neighbors during this challenging time.
- Organize a neighborhood snow removal team: If you have a group of willing neighbors, organize a team to take turns clearing snow from fire hydrants, sidewalks, and public areas. This can make a big difference for everyone in the neighborhood.

Remember, even small gestures of kindness and support can make a world of difference for your neighbors during a winter storm. By working together and looking out for one another, we can create a stronger and more resilient community.

The winter of 2023 was a stark reminder of the challenges and joys of living in a snowy region. While we may be accustomed to big storms, the severity of last winter highlighted the importance of preparedness, kindness, and a sense of community.



A surge in demand for construction and building repair work that comes after a big winter like the one we had last winter (2022-2023) will transform a lot of handymen into "contractors." We are not denying the skills of these people, but we advise you to find a licensed and bonded contractor with a reputation to uphold for your projects.

First and foremost, contractors working on a job totaling \$500 or more for labor and materials in the state of California must be licensed by CSLB. To become licensed, a contractor must pass a licensing examination, verify at least four years of journey-level experience, carry a license bond, and pass a criminal background check.

Hiring a licensed contractor is a wise decision because they understand the complexities involved and can provide expert advice and solutions, which will show in the quality of the finished product. Besides being illegal, unlicensed contractors lack accountability and have a high rate of involvement in construction scams. They also are unfair competition for licensed contractors who operate with bonds, insurance, and other responsible business practices.

Licensed contractors have a reputation to uphold which means they will deliver high-quality work that meets industry standards and regulations. They are covered by insurance and their work will be compliant with the strict building codes and regulations we have here in Truckee. Their knowledge of these codes will ensure that your construction project meets all the requirements necessary, which ensures the safety and legality of the work being done. CSLB urges consumers to follow these tips when dealing with a building contractor:

- Hire only licensed contractors and ask to see the license.
- Verify the contractor's license by checking online at www.cslb.ca.gov.
- Don't rush into decisions and don't hire the first contractor who comes along.
- Don't pay more than 10 percent down or \$1,000—whichever is less.
- Don't pay cash, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
- Get more than one bid, check references, and get a written contract.
- Contact CSLB if you have a complaint against a contractor.

Also be aware that consumers are not legally required to pay a person who is not state-licensed, and cannot be sued for non-payment.

By Jordan Brandt, Elements Mountain Company. Elements is celebrating 45 years of serving the Truckee community and is proud to be a licensed and bonded contractor (CSLB# 480916) with deep local knowledge and experience and skilled craftsmen.



Truckee has been a longtime leader in culinary excellence in the Tahoe area. Moody's Bistro, Bar + Beats, Bar of America, and The Lodge Restaurant & Bar in Tahoe Donner are examples of go-to restaurants that have been serving excellent cuisine for decades. As our population continues to grow, so do the dining options. Following are some exciting developments in Truckee's dining scene.

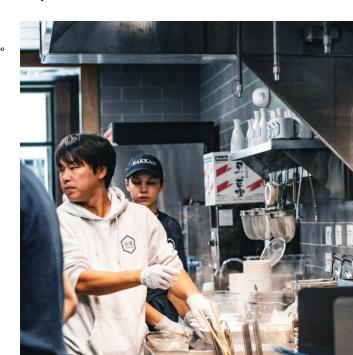


# Mountain Lotus Cafe

Plant-slant mobile kitchen Mountain Lotus Provisions recently teamed up with Mountain Lotus Yoga's owner Scott Fitzsimmons to provide a high-quality, vegan dine-in experience with Mountain Lotus Cafe. Chef Raymond Applegate's dishes are inspired by the "Blue Zones" of the Pacific Rim (see sidebar) and highlight the diverse local food systems of the northern Sierra Nevada region. His Meatless Monday Supper Club offers a three-course prix fixe menu exploring the distinct flavors and regions of the Pacific Rim. Guests can order online each week by Thursday at midnight and either pick up their meal or dine on Mondays between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. The cafe features a rotating elixir menu, local beers, and natural wines. Guests will be delighted by what this space has to offer, whether it's hosting a private event or stopping by to experience a Mountain Lotus curated event — such as open mic night or a live DJ set with a state-of-the-art sound system in this beautifully remodeled former church.

# Rakkan Ramen

Rakkan Ramen has become a popular spot since it opened late this summer on Soaring Way, across from Raley's. The restaurant faithfully follows Chef Ryohei Ito's original Rakkan Ramen recipes and uses the same high-quality ingredients. Rakkan Ramen has received numerous awards for its ramen, including being chosen as one of the top 100 ramen restaurants in Japan by one of Japan's most popular food review forums, Hyakumeiten. The star of Truckee's Rakkan Ramen menu is their ramen, of course, but they also serve dumplings, pork buns, gyoza, and other delicious Asian fare. Their menu is suitable for those following a "Blue Zone" diet and they are also exceptional at meeting dietary needs for all. The menu includes clear labeling of gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. The restaurant offers five vegetarian broth options, each available in a vegan variation. Of course if you want traditional toppings of pork, and egg - they have those too. Rakkan offers traditional wheat ramen noodles, gluten-free noodles made from rice and potato, and vegan noodles made from kale. They pride themselves on sourcing high-quality ingredients that are as local as possible, providing a great work environment for their staff, and connecting with the community.





# **Buoy and Trap Seafood**

Buoy & Trap Seafood, owned and operated by fifthgeneration Rhode Islander Zack Duksta, brings a taste of Northeastern-style and premium quality seafood to Truckee. Zack's culinary journey began in his childhood, shucking oysters and grilling striped bass with his dad. Zack left the world of finance to move to Truckee, getting out on the mountain and lakes and working at downtown restaurants and bars for the past 10 years. He opened Buoy & Trap in February 2023. It is both an eatery and fish market and he also caters private events. Dining in means pulling up high stools at the counter and often chatting with Zack as he works. Zack serves up traditional New England lobster rolls that are exceptional. You can also choose from a selection of fresh seafood—oysters, salmon, halibut filets, and more. Zack, who is the head chef, is more than happy to give you tips about how to cook your seafood. Whether you're looking for fresh seafood to prepare at home or prefer to savor it on-site, Buoy & Trap has you covered.

# Casa Baeza's Food Truck

Look for Casa Baeza's state-of-the-art new food truck serving up freshly cooked Mexican food at lunch. Casa Baeza co-owner and chef Cesar Aguilar has been taking his mobile restaurant with a complete kitchen including rotisseries to where people are hungry and welcome a break for warm, delicious Mexican food. He's been parked at the new hotel development site at Gray's Crossing across from Frishman Hollow Apartments several days a week. Along with pop-ups, Casa Baeza's food truck is available to book for private catering events. Cesar enjoys the opportunity to expand his business and to provide another delicious, affordable option for events. See Cesar's Big Life Local profile on page 12.

# **◆** What Are Blue Zones?

Blue Zones are 5 populations across the world that are considered to be the healthiest in the world, where people live longer than other communities despite representing different cultures and diverse locations. The Blue Zones identified are: Ikiria, Greece; Okinawa, Japan; Loma Linda, California; Oligastra Region, Sardinia; and Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica. The characteristics that all Blue Zones have in common are sticking to mainly a plantbased diet, minimizing stress, moving regularly throughout the day, and having a clear sense of purpose. There is a Blue Zone movement to help bring these practices into more areas and cultures, led by adventurer and author, Dan Beuttner, who discovered these communities in his extensive world travel. You can find articles, recipes, and information about how to join the movement on bluezones.com.



# Sugar Bowl

This summer, Sugar Bowl welcomed new Executive Chef Jason Landas. After delighting guests with many private events at Lake Mary into the fall, he has been hard at work pulling his culinary team together for dining throughout Sugar Bowl and revamping the menu for The Dining Room at Sugar Bowl Lodge. Jason has been cooking in 3-star Michelin-rated restaurants for the past 14 years. He is a very versatile chef specializing in California cuisine and his primary focus is ultra seasonality - cooking with foods that are abundant for the season - as well as fresh twists on traditional favorites. Jason's goal is that people will come to enjoy dining at Sugar Bowl, whether or not they are skiing or staying at the resort. Sugar Bowl also recently hired head sommelier Clay Reynolds, who has curated an eclectic wine collection that will complement Jason's culinary creations.



# **Tangerine**

Tangerine, a new classic French bistro, opened in October to rave reviews. Located in the original Philosophy building at the west end of downtown Truckee, Tangerine is a welcome addition to Truckee's dining scene. Tangerine is the second Truckee restaurant by Brandon Kirksey, Executive Chef and Co-founder of Great Gold Hospitality Group. Great Gold in Truckee's Pioneer Center is a local and visitor's favorite, serving innovative and fresh Italian dishes since it opened in 2020. Tangerine's menu offers an array of traditional French dishes, including French onion soup with sherry and gruyere, duck foie pate with blackberry jam, mussels with fresh house-baked baguette, cassoulet with duck confit, cote de boeuf steak frite and more. French wines and local wines made using grape varieties indigenous to France are served to complement the French menu.

# The Pub at Donner Lake

The Pub at Donner Lake reopened Memorial Day weekend with a new owner and head chef, Brian Reynolds (left). Open daily from noon to 8:00 p.m., this popular Donner Lake neighborhood pub boasts a full bar with craft cocktails made by August, a longtime Truckee bartender. It's a great place to unwind after work or watch a ball game while enjoying a casual dinner. Brian, a career restaurateur who is often seen chatting at the bar with customers, wanted to keep the pub's "elevated pub faire" style menu, but is gradually adding more entree options and vegetables. "I wanted to keep what existing pub customers like, but know that many want a full meal - it's so convenient to have a neighborhood pub you can walk to instead of driving to town for dinner," said Brian. "You can still get your fish & chips and burgers, but we've added specials based on what's in season." One of those specials currently available is grilled chicken breast with a fresh mint-pomegranate glaze served on Truckee Sourdough with melted provolone. The Pub's pork pozole is a favorite, following the recipe of Brian's grandmother from Michoacan. Another new twist is a delicious curry dip to go with the fries, reminiscent of a London pub, which is an influence that Brian is embracing. He has also added family-style specials, such as a whole roast leg of lamb or a beef roast, or a roast chicken, meant to share. Brian noted that there will be limited supplies of the shared specials, maybe 2 or 3 a night of each. Follow the Pub at Donner Lake on social media for their latest news and specials.









**ACHIEVE TAHOE** offers year-round adaptive, inclusive recreation programs designed to serve people with intellectual, sensory, and physical disabilities. We strive to serve all ages and all disabilities in their individual quest to build health, confidence, and independence through outdoor recreation.

Learn more at AchieveTahoe.org or contact us today at **530.581.4161** or info@achievetahoe.org



# SNUGGLE UP, BUTTERCUP!

Exploring Truckee's Great IN-doors



There are two sides to Truckee in the winter: one that takes place outside—playing in the gifts of winter storms, skiing, riding, sledding, and making snowmen, and one that takes place inside. Whether it's fierce mountain weather, a need to escape the crowds, or you just want a break from the cold, local businesses have a diverse range of options to keep your hands, bodies, and minds busy all winter long. Here are some of our favorite ways to enjoy the flip side of Truckee's winter.

# MAKEIT

Learning how to make something with your own two hands creates a feeling of accomplishment and provides you with the building blocks to develop new, relevant skills. Imagine slicing apples on a cutting board you created, closing the curtains you sewed, or lighting a candle you poured.

Take advantage of one of Truckee's most creative spaces and learn something new at Truckee Roundhouse. Their five workshops include woodworking, metalworking, textiles, technology, and ceramics, spread out in a 4,600-square-foot hangar at Truckee Tahoe Airport. As a community-centered nonprofit, the Roundhouse offers classes, materials, space, and connections to learn, create, and meet other local artisans.

Even if you've never worked with one of those mediums, their non-intimidating courses will give you the confidence to work with various tools on various projects. Create a chair, a table, a frame, a ceramic bowl, upcycle clothes, and more. Once you've demonstrated you can use the tools safely, become a member and begin working on your own projects. Prefer to work at home? Check out their sock monkey, clock, or wallflower weaving take-home kits!

Want to try making candles for yourself or to give as gifts? Our Rustic Heart Candle Shop recently opened a new store in the Pioneer Center. The owner, Christine, is fun and creative and only carries natural ingredients. They offer affordable candle-making classes with beautiful vessels, with guidance and everything you need to make your own custom candles. It's a fun group activity as well. Check ourrusticheart.com for class schedules and information, or just stop by their lovely shop in the Pioneer Center.





With the sun dipping down so early, it might be a good time to try out those elaborate recipes you've been shelving. Connect with your partner, kids, or yourself and explore recipes that fit the season. Winter produce includes citrus, potatoes, garlic, onion,

Support local farms by purchasing locally grown produce at Tahoe Food Hub and New Moon. Not sure how to cook with a particular squash or need some fresh ideas? Try a recipe from Tahoe Food Hub's website (tahoefoodhub.org/recipe-book), like the Crispy Potatoes and Kale with Chimichurri Sauce; Leek, Onion, and Broccoli Quiche; or Pasta with Charred Lemon, Broccoli, and Spring Onions.

If you're downtown, grab a new cookbook from Word After Books and explore a new cuisine! Whether vegan, Indian, or you want to try your chef's mitt at baking, cooking warms the home and the soul. Need kitchen gadgets or just want to drool over some beautiful dining linens and accessories? Stop in The Cooking Gallery downtown.

Check out the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District (TDRPD) for cooking classes. They've offered Italian Cooking classes for adults and a Playing With Food course for kids. Find their schedule and current offerings online at tdrpd.org.

Stay active at the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District Fitness Track and indoor Aquatics Center, open seven days a week. Fitness and pool memberships are affordable and have tiered pricing for residents, nonresidents, youth, adults, and seniors.

For adults that like group sports, consider joining one of TDRPD's adult sports leagues, like basketball, hockey, volleyball, futsal, and cornhole. Or, consider taking a fitness class, Qi Gong class, or learning how to play pickleball.

There's nothing like a calm yoga class during a snowstorm. Check out Namaste Holistic Healing and Yoga Center for classes like Prenatal Yoga, Alignment Focused Vinyasa, Self Care and Meditation, and more. They also offer community classes at half the rate of regular classes, making yoga an affordable option. Stretch and strengthen those ski legs to avoid injury!

For more hard-hitting classes that increase your heart rate, Tahoe Mountain Fitness offers boxing, strength training, HITT (High Intensity Interval Training), Pilates, and more. For in-depth and personalized workouts, sign up for personal training and get oneon-one guidance with an expert trainer. Round-out your healthy lifestyle with nutrition coaching to get your dietary needs on track. And if you get overwhelmed by all their offerings, they also offer progress tracking and planning to map out your road to success. It's like a one-stop-shop to get your body and mind clear and fit!





# PLAYIT

If you're looking to pass the time in a creative way with your young children, head over to the KidZone Museum, where the littlest of the littles through grade schoolers can explore, learn, and keep their hands and bodies busy. Drop in during their winter hours, available online, or buy a tax-deductible membership. This winter, the playroom theme is Winnie-the-Pooh! They also have clothes for dress-up, an art room with paints and brushes, a science room, and a soft area for crawling babies.

Keep your mind sharp with a lively game of Monopoly, Battleship, or Yahtzee! If you're looking for a new (or old) board game, head over to the Truckee Variety Store in downtown Truckee; they've got all kinds of fun games in stock for your next game night.

Need a break from competition? The Truckee Library has a jigsaw puzzle exchange program; bring in a puzzle and take another one home. Keep up the exchange to see how many you can complete over the winter.

# LEARN IT

Maybe you have a business idea that you've always wanted to explore. Or you want to learn more about Truckee's history or ecology. The Truckee Library and Word After Word Books offer extensive selections of books that will make you an expert on various interesting topics like the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, the Donner Party, writing a business plan, building out a camper van, songbirds of the Sierra, and more.

To dive deep in local history, take a trip to the Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center at Donner Lake. They're open all winter from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for major holidays. Travel through time and meander through engaging exhibits that highlight the Washoe people, the emigrant experience, the Donner Party, the Chinese workers, and the construction of the railroad.

Continue your journey through Truckee's history by visiting the Truckee-Donner Historical Society's museums. The Museum of Truckee History, near the California Welcome Center in downtown, features several well-preserved artifacts from our town's rich past. Don't miss the ski exhibit, which tells the story of Truckee's first skiers and outlines the path to hosting the 1960 Winter Olympics. Across the street, near the Coffee Bar, the Historical Society offers tours of the old jail. Docents love to tell the stories of the many artifacts stored on the second floor. To deepen your appreciation of

the railroad and its significance, head over to Truckee Donner Railroad Society's Railroad Museum, housed in a former Southern Pacific Railroad bay-window caboose next to the historic railroad depot in downtown Truckee. Because these museums rely on volunteers to operate, you may have to make an appointment for your visit, making the tour that much more intimate! Visit truckeehistory.org to book a museum and jail tour. Visit tdrrs.org/museum to inquire about the railroad museum.

And then there's your cliché indoor winter activity—snuggling up with a good book and a hot cup of tea or cocoa. Consider setting up a dedicated reading nook at home—find a small space, like a rarely used corner, string up a strand of twinkle lights, grab a few comfy pillows and a warm blanket, and enjoy some downtime. A great place to look for supplies is Mountain Hardware and Sports and the new Humane Society of Truckee Tahoe's thrift store—Thrifty Tails Boutique in the West Truckee Shopping Center.

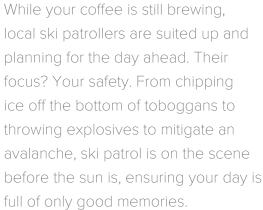
When the sun sets early, and darkness covers our natural playground, or when a blizzard keeps us from the resorts, opportunities for exploration, connection, and growth burst behind Truckee's closed doors.







# Skiing Without Ski Patrol Is Risky Business



While ski patrollers come from various backgrounds and interests, they all have one thing in common—a steadfast love of skiing. This common bond connects them and the mountains they patrol. "You get an intimacy with the mountain. And you really understand the conditions... so much so that you become an expert that allows you to be the best skier you can be," said Sugar Bowl ski patroller Dan Mirkin.

Ski patrollers are CPR certified and armed with advanced first aid knowledge gained through the Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) course offered by the National Ski Patrol (NSP). The OEC course consists of intensive training on assessing, treating, and comforting injured skiers and riders. Mike Sinclair, an aspiring ski patroller, recently took the OEC course and was surprised by the thorough instruction he received. "The quality of training is far beyond what I expected. We have everything from physicians to long-term National Ski Patrollers to

registered nurses instructing us," he said. "So, we're getting a lot of information from many relevant sources. There's an instructor for every single student, and they run us through one-on-one practice scenarios."

With medical and mountain knowledge to back them, a ski patroller is constantly assessing all potential dangers at the resort every day.

# A Day in the Life of a Ski Patroller

As the sun's rays slice over mountain peaks, the ski patroller is already on the move, ensuring that every skier and snowboarder can enjoy a day on the hill without becoming injured or lost. "Our main goal is safety. Avalanche mitigation, signage, ensuring the grooming is on point... it's all about ensuring the public can enjoy their skiing experience without getting into places they shouldn't," said Dan. With no ambulances, helicopters, or easy way down, patrollers are the lifeline for those who become injured.

On a typical day, without a snowstorm, patrollers start early with a morning meeting well before the lifts begin turning. They are given assignments across the mountain, ranging from checking medical gear to ensuring signs and ropes are placed correctly to inspecting toboggans. Some arrive even earlier to gather essential weather data, which gets sent to organizations like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

When storms roll in, the routine is much more intensive. "Control days," as they're known, can start as early as 5:15 a.m. The morning is a buzz of activity, from the "bomb squad" gathering explosives for avalanche control to route leaders planning avalanche mitigation efforts. Riding a lift in the pitch black of early morning while holding a bag of explosives is a surreal experience only a ski patroller can relate to. Storm days are dynamic, full of strategy, and require an intricate understanding of the mountain.

As Dan explained, the "patroller eye" is honed over time, constantly on the lookout for anomalies and potential dangers on the slopes. But beyond safety, some ski patrollers are also busy inspiring youth.



"Our main goal is safety. Avalanche mitigation, signage, ensuring the grooming is on point." - Dan Mirkin





"This is definitely different than anything else that is done in Tahoe." - Amy Warren



# The Northstar Junior Patrol Program

Northstar's Junior Patrol Program is backed by a simple idea: immerse youngsters in the day-to-day life of a ski patroller, providing them with a mix of fun and real-world skills. Open to the public, it attracts a variety of young skiers, providing participants with a broad understanding of the responsibilities carried out by a ski patrol team. For kids who have left ski racing or for those interested in the medical or rescue professions, the Junior Patrol Program connects youth with some of their heroes: real ski patrollers.

Amy Warren, Executive Director of the Northstar Team Foundation, noted, "This is definitely different than anything else that is done in Tahoe." The free program provides uniforms sponsored by Helly Hanson that the students can take home and lift tickets for anyone who doesn't already have a pass.

The program's 14- to 15-year-old participants start with understanding the basics of being a ski patroller. They visit bunkers, familiarize themselves with the daily routine, and learn crucial skills. These include CPR certification and splinting, sponsored by Sierra Rescue.

"They do live scenarios," Amy explained. "So I'll be flat out on the hill, and they have to come over and figure out what is actually happening." This hands-on approach using real equipment ensures that by the end of the program, participants are well-versed in the challenges and responsibilities of a patroller.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the program, according to Amy, is watching the kids' transformation. "They come in a bit reserved and unsure," she said. "By the end, they have such a sense of agency. They can clearly articulate their needs during practice scenarios; they're on the radio, they're calm and professional."

The program does more than train youngsters; it creates "stewards of the mountains and safety ambassadors for the next generation," as Amy put it. Participants emerge with a deeper appreciation of the mountain and the safety mechanisms in place. They understand the importance of signage, the role of ropes, and the enormous responsibilities that patrollers bear.

The success of the Junior Patrol program can be credited to individuals like Sammy Hawkins, a key figure in the program's conception and execution. With her dual roles in Sierra Rescue and Northstar Patrol, Sammy has been pivotal in shaping the curriculum and ensuring it remains engaging year after year.



"It was the coolest experience of my life," recalled Phoebe Bruns, a former program participant. "We even went on one minor call, and I got to help."

The Northstar Junior Patrol Program will be open to six athletes this season. To be eligible for the program, students must be in grades 8-10, at a level 7 skiing ability, be available for all program dates, and submit an application. Program dates for the 2023/2024 season are January 20-21 and February 3-4 with a shadow day in March.

Applications will be accepted from December 1 through January 6. The announcement of people chosen for the 2023/2024 Junior Patrollers will be January 13. To apply, submit a video essay and email to NSjuniorpatrol@gmail.com. Your video must include your interest in the program, a favorite lifetime experience, and footage of yourself skiing.

The next time you're out carving new lines, remember the indispensable role of the ski patrollers who make it possible. They do it for the love of skiing, the mountain, and your safety. One glaring issue is the modest pay that doesn't reflect the level of expertise and risk involved in the job. Phoebe reminds us: "If there's no ski patrol, you're not safe."

As the sun dips below the horizon, the ski patroller takes a final glance over their territory. Their day might be long, and the pay might not be the best, but the love for the mountain, the thrill of the slopes, and the camaraderie among peers make it all worthwhile. (See Ski Patroller Emily Hay's profile, page 25) For them, every new day is another chance to dance with the elements, and they wouldn't have it any other way.









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# The **Hows** and **Whys** of Truckee

# How do I park at Northstar and Palisades Tahoe this season?

In response to traffic congestion, both Palisades Tahoe and Northstar California have executed new programs to help alleviate issues. Here's how to get that space you need ahead of time! Carpooling or riding free public transport is always recommended, and it's more fun when you're riding with friends.

# FREE PARK + RIDE!

Hwy 89 (Palisades) - Offering Park and Ride services on the half hour on weekends beginning 12/16-3/31. Also the entire week of 12/25, and 3 day weekends for MLK and Presidents Day. Park and Ride lots will be at the TTUSD District office in Truckee and the parking lot between the District office and Truckee High School. Park and Ride lakeside is at the Tahoe City Transit Center.

Hwy 267 (Northstar) - Offering hourly Park and Ride services on weekends beginning 12/16-3/31. They will offer one 3-day weekend for MLK weekend. The Lift Truckee Coworking Space across from the Truckee-Tahoe Airport will be the Park and Ride parking lot this year.

As Town of Truckee Transportation Manager Alfred Knotts says, "Make TART your first and last chair."



# PALISADES TAHOE

# WHY A RESERVATION SYSTEM?

Palisades Tahoe's new system was created to "improve onmountain experience by reducing traffic congestion and providing assurance there will be a parking space for our guests without them having to arrive hours before first chair. The potential benefits of the program include a reduction in traffic, improved traffic flow, a better guest and employee experience, less impact on our community, and a reduction in our carbon footprint." -PalisadesTahoe.com.

## **HOW IT WORKS**

Mid-week parking is free and doesn't require a reservation. Just show up Monday through Friday for first-come, first-served parking (except for some holiday blackout dates).

#### When to Reserve

Advance reservations are required for parking at Palisades Tahoe, both in Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows, on weekends and holidays before 1:00 p.m. only. Paid and free parking reservations are mandatory on these dates:

- December: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31
- January: 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 27, 28
- February: 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
- March: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31
- April: Reservation requirements will be determined based on demand.

#### **Free Reservations**

- The majority of parking spaces are allocated for free reservations.
- Free reservations will be available for booking every Tuesday for the upcoming weekend and holidays.
- The inventory is released in two segments: 50% at 12:00 p.m. and the remaining 50% at 7:00 p.m.

## **Paid Reservations**

\$30 per spot, per day

- Paid reservations can be made by anyone to secure parking well in advance.
- Each guest can reserve up to 10 paid parking spots at once.
- Paid reservations were made available for booking for the entire 2023-24 season late this fall.

#### How to Make a Reservation

It's easy! Just create an account at parkpalisadestahoe.com.

# **Alternatives**

- If all reservations are booked for a specific date, guests are encouraged to use regional public transportation, park and ride options, or carpool with friends who have reservations.
- Carpooling with three or more people may grant access to designated parking spaces closer to the lifts, however, you must have a reservation.



# NORTHSTAR CALIFORNIA

### WHY A RESERVATION SYSTEM?

"Traffic/road congestion and parking challenges have been a serious topic of conversation within our community for a while, and the 2022/23 winter season was perhaps the most challenging yet. These are not just Northstar issues – they are deeply felt across all of Tahoe, and certainly at every resort in the region. After taking a deep dive into our current parking practices and traffic patterns, learning from other resorts across our network, and much consideration and conversation here in-resort, we believe that a reservations-based parking program can, and will, make a difference."

- NorthstarCalifornia.com

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

The Village View lot will remain free without need for reservations Monday – Friday during the winter season, except peak periods; it will also be free (without reservations) after 1:00 p.m. on weekends and peak periods.

Castle Peak lot will also remain free every day, no reservations required.

#### When to Reserve

Parking at the Village View and Lower Village Preferred Paid lots will require reservations and a fee Saturdays, Sundays, and peak periods:

- December: 16, 17, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 (please note, NOT on the 25th)
- January: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 27, 28
- February: 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
- March: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31
- April: 6, 7, 13, 14

#### Cost:

For the Village View lot, reservations for vehicles with 3 or fewer occupants before 1pm will be \$20 and free for 4+ people in a vehicle on weekends and peak periods.

For the Lower Village Preferred Paid lot, reservations will be required on weekends and peak periods before 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 during the week (Monday – Friday) and \$40 on weekends and peak periods, regardless of how many occupants are in a single vehicle.

## How to Make a Reservation

Parking at the Village View and Lower Village Preferred Paid lots requires reservations during weekends and peak periods, and payment will be required ahead of time online when you make your reservation. Payment is not required if you have 4+ people in your vehicle if parking at Village View - in that case it is free, but a reservation is still required.

Reservations can be made via parknorthstar.com

# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A Truckee WINTER?



# Winter Storm Outages

Plan now for potential winter outages by brushing up on generator safety tips, identifying alternative heat sources, and making sure your contact information is up to date on your TDPUD online account so we can communicate with you. Follow our social media channels and bookmark our website so you'll always be in the know.

# **Prepare Your Home**

Visit tdpud.org/wintertips for how to navigate common winter issues we see in Truckee homes. Now is the time to prepare to avoid frozen or burst water pipes, snow piling up on electrical panels and fire hydrants, and heat escaping through leaky windows and doors.

# **STAY CONNECTED** TO TDPUD

The best way to stay informed during an outage or an emergency is to enroll in TDPUD's text alerts. Visit tdpud.org/outage for a step-by-step guide for how to sign up.



(530) 587-3896 | tdpud.org/wintertips

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# Live well. Work well. Love Well.

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