

Noble View Outdoor Center

Winter Hiking Weekend

February 8th thr. Feb 10

Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA is approximately 2 hours' drive west of Boston.

Includes two nights lodging in cottages and hot meals from Friday dinner thr. Sunday lunch.

Cottages have electricity and wood-stove heating. A short walk from either cottage is a bathhouse with toilets and hot showers.

Hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing will be offered depending on snow conditions.

\$105 per person for AMC members or \$115 for non-members
(remains unchanged from last year)

To register email:

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Southeastern Mass Chapter of the AMC

This year the SEM Chapter puts on its sixth annual winter weekend at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA about two hours west of Boston.

Noble View is one of the AMC's larger land holdings. Located on 358 acres atop a quiet, pristine mountaintop it offers great views of the Pioneer Valley to the east of Mt. Wachusett. From the deck of the cottages the hill offers a great sledding area before the tree line starts. The trails wind through quiet woodlands passing cellar holes, brooks and a pair of stunning waterfalls.

One great aspect of the location is a paved and ploughed access road allows you to drive right up to the Noble View center, unpack and then park your car 100 yards back down the road in a convenient and safe parking lot on the Noble View property. If you're new to winter activities this is a great way to experience cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or winter hiking without the additional challenge and stress of having to backpack all your food and equipment up to your base camp.

The center boasts three buildings: two modernized cottages with electricity and wood stoves (that keep the cottages toasty) and a heated bathhouse with composting toilets, hot showers and running water for cleaning dishes. It's all quite comfy. The chapter reserves all rooms in both cottages for the weekend, so we have the place to ourselves.

People arrive any-time after 3pm Friday hot food is available in the kitchen throughout Friday evening for people to grab when they arrive. All other meals we sit down and eat together.



On Saturday we will get up for a hot breakfast and then prepare for the morning activity. If there's enough snow a snowshoeing hike will be offered as well as cross-country skiing, otherwise a regular winter hike will be offered. Due to the relatively low elevation over the years we have got to explore trails that are snow-covered, icy, or free from snow and ice. We will go at a leisurely to moderate pace comfortable for all.

Most people take part in one of the organized activities (bring your own equipment), but some choose to do an activity of their own or simply sit in front of the fire and read. The Noble View weekend is intended to be relaxing, unpretentious and easy going.

After the morning activity we will return to the cottage for a hot lunch that the volunteer cooks (amazing people) have been preparing, this year Sandy Santilli and Hadley Donaldson will be our cooks. After lunch, afternoon activities will be provided. The leaders will take you on different trails from the morning; some years we go down and view the frozen Big Pitcher and Little Pitcher waterfalls, a stunning sight in the winter.

After returning from the afternoon hike there will be a social hour before dinner. You can bring your own wine or beer and appetizers (please drink responsibly). After dinner, yoga will be offered by Jeannine Audet. If the sky is clear the pitch-black hilltop is perfect for star-gazing. In addition, the main cottage boasts two large comfy lounges for socializing as well as a kitchen, all of which are kept toasty warm by a wood stove. Cards, board games, jigsaw puzzles etc. are available.

On Sunday there will be a hearty breakfast, followed by a morning hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski. After returning from the morning activity lunch is laid out, it is leftovers Sunday.

This fun and relaxing weekend is very popular and in past years has filled up fast, so I recommend you register early.