

# WINTER TREK



- A Learning Adventure in the Snow
- Sponsored by the US Forest Service, Heavenly Ski Resort, Tahoe Heritage Foundation and City of South Lake Tahoe

# WHAT TO EXPECT

- 1) Ride the Gondola
- 2) View Tahoe from mid-station
- 3) Snowshoe adventure at the top
- 4) Back to the classroom



# GONDOLA RIDE

- One adult per car
- Sit; don't stand
- Gondola may stop
- No screaming
- Scavenger hunt
- Check out the view and animal tracks under you
- Fear of heights?
- Very safe



# MID-STATION STOP



- Everything out of Gondola car
- Bundle up
- Cold and windy
- Icy WALKways

# WHAT IS A BASIN?



**One outlet**

**Surrounded by  
mountains**

**63 streams  
flow into lake**

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR



- Lake Tahoe's color
- Geology: plate tectonics, volcanoes & glacier action
- Three states of water

# MADE IT TO THE TOP



# PUTTING ON SNOWSHOES REQUIRES PATIENCE



**Listen to directions and learn  
to put on your own snow shoes**

# PROPER PROCEDURE

- 1) Pinch alligator clips
- 2) Loosen straps
- 3) Insert foot
- 4) Toes halfway through window
- 5) Tighten toe strap
- 6) Tighten heel strap
- 7) Tuck away loose ends



# ASK FOR HELP



# SAFETY RULES FOR SNOW SHOEING

- Watch where you walk:
  - tree wells
  - “widow makers”
  - mounds of snow
  - other snowshoes
- Stay together:
  - near adults
  - never on your own
- Ranger Sandwich
- If you feel poorly, let an adult know

**Keep your gloves on**



**Allow space between others**

# LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN



# WHAT ANIMALS WILL I SEE?

- **Hibernators?**

*No, they're sleeping.*

- **Migrators?**

*No, they've already left.*

- **Adaptors?**

*Possibly! If we are quiet and alert.*

# WON'T FIND HIBERNATORS



**Chipmunk**



**Calif. Ground Squirrel**



**Bullfrog**



**Garter Snake**

# TRUE HIBERNATORS

- Heart Rate drops
- Nervous System shuts down
- Body Temperature drops
- Don't urinate or defecate
- Sleep through cold months
- Six week cycles throughout winter
- Bears are NOT true hibernators

# OUR BLACK BEARS EXPERIENCE TORPOR



# WON'T FIND MIGRATORY ANIMALS



**Belted Kingfisher**



**Little Brown Bat**



**American Robin**



**Mule Deer**



**Great Blue Heron**

# MIGRATORY ANIMALS GET OUT OF TOWN

- Temperatures and weather are too severe
- Leave for better climate
- Head south or to lower elevations
- **Migrating can be very difficult!**

# MAY FIND WINTER ADAPTORS



**Chickaree  
(Douglas Squirrel)**



**Western Gray Squirrel**



**Deer Mouse**



**American Marten  
(Pine Marten)**

# AND MORE ADAPTORS



**Mountain Chickadee**



**Clark's Nutcracker**



**Coyote**

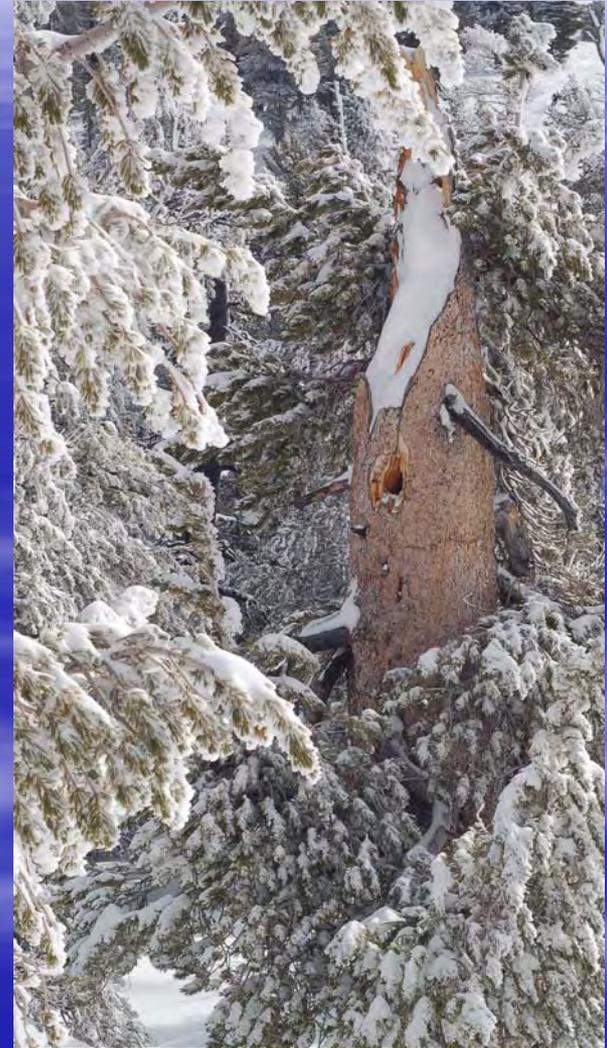
# SIGNS OF ADAPTORS



**Black Bear scratch marks**



**Deer Mouse home**



**Bird or squirrel home**

# FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW



**American Marten  
tracks**



**Western Gray  
Squirrel tracks**



**Black Bear tracks**

# ADAPTORS CHANGE TO SURVIVE

- Add layers
- Change activity period to find prey
- Change color
- Prepare by stocking up on food
- Eat in excess in the fall to store fat

# LET'S EXPLORE AND HAVE SOME FUN

