



February 2020

## Churchdown School Ski Trip 2021 – New York and Killington

Dear Parent/Carer

I am currently investigating the possibility of running a ski trip to America and your son/daughter has expressed an interest. The trip would run over the **February half term 2021**. We are planning on flying to New York, with 5 days skiing in Killington in Vermont, and then a stopover and 2 days in New York. The total length of the trip is around 9 days including travelling.

I have run previous ski trips to America, including this same trip, trips to San Francisco (skiing at Lake Tahoe) and to Las Vegas (skiing at Salt Lake City). These were amazing experiences for the students. The quality of the skiing, snow and hospitality in America is better than that of Europe and ironically, because we will be flying, the travel time to resort is actually less! If you have not skied before then learning in America on the better snow with American instructors means that progression is so much quicker and more enjoyable. The added cultural experience of stopping over in an American city adds a whole new dimension to the trip. The trip is obviously dependant on uptake, but I am currently pursuing the following itinerary:

- ) Fly from Heathrow to New York
- ) Ski at Killington, an excellent ski resort which we have been to before with outstanding snow records and facilities for all abilities from beginners right through to those who can ski well
- ) Time at an American outlet shopping mall on the way back to New York
- ) Overnight stopover in New York including time for a tour of the city and to visit sights such as Ground Zero, Times Square, Central Park, Grand Central Station, the Rockefeller Centre, the Empire State Building, shopping on 5th Avenue, etc

The cost of the trip will be £1,675 and whilst this is obviously a lot of money I have worked hard at getting the price as low as possible, so that when you break down what we are getting, it works out as good value for money. I am aiming to take 40 students on the trip. The trip is open to students of all (or no!) ability and to all year groups.

The cost will include:

- ) Half board hotel – students often share rooms of 3 or 4 in America, with 2 to a large queen size bed
- ) Return flights from Heathrow
- ) Travel whilst in America
- ) Hire of skis, boots, poles and helmets
- ) Lift pass
- ) Morning and afternoon instruction by qualified instructors – 5 hours rather than the normal 4
- ) Evening activity programme (eg bowling, ice skating, watching a hockey match, etc)
- ) Overnight stay in New York including a tour of the city and main sights
- ) Entry to the top of either the Rockefeller or Empire State Building
- ) Trip to an American outlet mall (lots of cheap shopping!)
- ) Travel and medical insurance

Extras to be budgeted for:

- Hire of ski jacket / trousers if required
- Purchase of gloves, goggles etc if required
- Lunches in resort (although they do serve BIG breakfasts and evening meals in America!)
- Getting to and from Heathrow (coach to be booked nearer the time – probably around £15-£20)
- Students who are currently unable to ski will be given the opportunity to take part in a series of lessons at Matson in the autumn
- ) Money for tips. It is customary in America to tip coach drivers, hotel and restaurants a few dollars





- Air Passenger Duty for students aged over 16. APD is included in the cost of the trip for those under 16, however there is an additional £80 payable for those over 16. I would hope that at least a proportion of this could be covered by the trip (depending on the number of over 16 students we take), so the amount I would need should be less, or possibly zero – however I wanted to let you know that this could be as high as £80. Last time we went to America I was able to cover the full cost of the APD without asking for any of the money from parents

Having been to this resort with the school twice before I know this is an exceptional place to ski and there is no comparison between skiing in Europe and skiing in this part of America. If you have never skied before this will be an ideal place to learn (typically around half the trip are novices) and if you can ski already this will provide an ideal opportunity to really improve your technique.

If you wish to reserve a place on the trip for your son/daughter please pay a deposit of £100 and return the slip below to Mrs Roberts in the Admin Office, we are aiming to have filled the trip by 6 March. The easiest way to pay and monitor instalments is via [www.scopay.com/churchdownschool](http://www.scopay.com/churchdownschool) (if you require a link code please contact [car@churchdownschool.com](mailto:car@churchdownschool.com) giving the name of your child); alternatively you can submit a cheque (made payable to *Churchdown School General Fund*) or cash to Mrs Roberts. Once accepted on the trip payments will be monthly, with the balance needed to be paid by October; thus roughly £200 a month from March through to October. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at [djc@churchdownschool.com](mailto:djc@churchdownschool.com)

Students are not selected on a first come basis but once we have enough deposits students will be considered for the trip as follows:

- ✓ Behaviour in school and on previous school trips
- ✓ To ensure that we have an acceptable range of abilities
- ✓ To ensure that we have an acceptable mix of ages and male/female ratio

If you do not get a place your £100 deposit will be returned, but your name can be kept on a waiting list in case anybody drops out.

Once the trip is confirmed and you have been accepted, all payments are non-refundable. In addition, I need to point out that poor behaviour at school which could lead to potential problems on the trip can result in students being excluded from the trip and any financial losses would need to be met by you. In this unlikely event I will talk to you at the earliest opportunity but sincerely hope this will not be necessary.

Yours faithfully

**Mr D Carter**  
Assistant Headteacher

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### America Ski Trip 2021

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the above trip please return this slip to Mrs Roberts in the Admin Office by 6 March indicating method of £100 payment. Please be aware that until we receive payment (via [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com), cheque or cash) the system will not record your child's name on the trip, so do not return slip until payment has been made

Student's name		Tutor group		<b>scopay.com / cheque / cash</b>
Ski ability (circle as appropriate)	<b>BEGINNER</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>	
Parent/Carer's name		Signed		Date
Parent/Carer's email address (essential)				

