

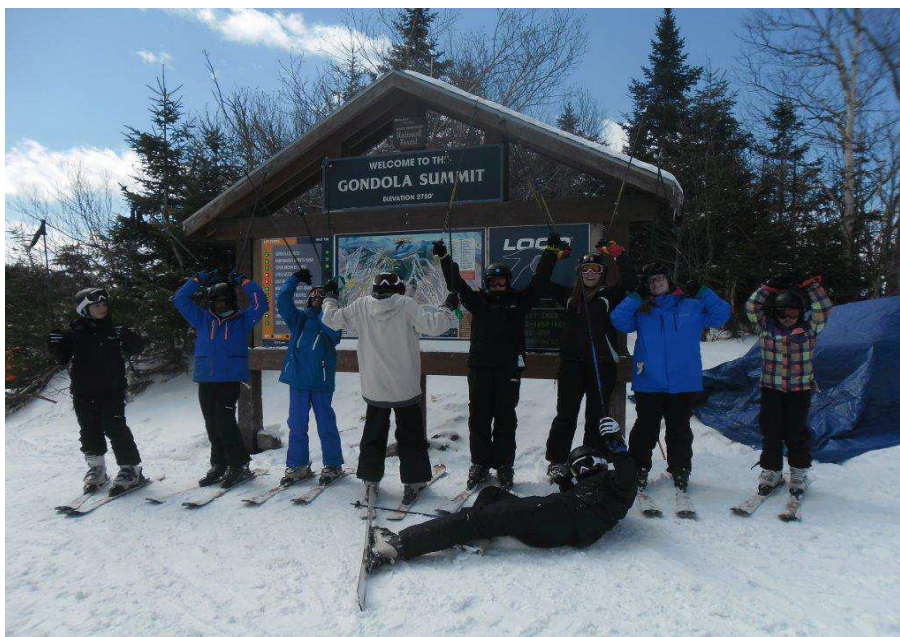
MF/AG/P:/SkiAmericaTrip/Year 7
July 2017

Dear Year 6 Parents / Carers

SKI AMERICA 2018 with OVERNIGHT STOP AND DAY TRIP IN NEW YORK

Shirley High School is offering students the opportunity of a lifetime - to ski in America. Successful ski trips at Shirley High School have been run for the last 30 years and they are famous for their fun, adventure and friendships as well as giving the students a learning experience that they can only obtain from being on such a trip.

We had a very successful trip to Loon, New Hampshire, USA in April 2015 where the students enjoyed 4 hours of skiing or snowboarding for five days and then après ski activities such as bowling, swimming, cinema, and use of the hotel's games room. En route to New York for the overnight stopover, we had 3 hours retail therapy at a Danbury Mall shopping outlet and then later that evening, after booking into our hotel, we had dinner at the Hard Rock Café in Times Square. The last day of the trip included a sightseeing tour of New York City, including a visit to Grand Central Station and its famous 'whispering posts'. Eating lunch on the Hudson river at 'Hudson Eats' concluded the day before we finally set off for JFK to fly home. It was a great trip and both the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



We have managed to negotiate an excellent price for another ski trip to New Hampshire on the East Coast USA, to the resort of Loon. This is an excellent resort providing an excellent experience for all of their visitors. They pride themselves on their award winning ski areas, thanks to top to bottom snow making and fanatical grooming, providing expertly designed and maintained trails for all to enjoy. Even the beginners will be able to ski from top to bottom of the mountains in a matter of days.



For more information about this resort please do visit their website:

<http://www.loonmtn.com>

Our accommodation in the resort will be in the excellent Woodward's Inn and Suites which also has its own swimming pool and games room.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website:

<http://woodwardsresort.com>

As well as 5 days of skiing or snowboarding, students will have; apres ski evening activities in the resort and an overnight stopover in New York where they will have the opportunity to eat their evening meal in Times Square, shop at Woodbury Common Premium Shopping Outlet or Danbury Mall as well having a sightseeing tour of New York City.

This will take place in the Easter 2018 school holidays - the dates are yet to be confirmed.

Considering the excellent resort of Loon and its skiing / snowboarding opportunities, the high standard of hotel accommodation, brilliant opportunities for après-ski activities and an overnight stay in the city of New York; the trip, at a cost of £1500, represents excellent value for money.

What's included:

- Return scheduled flights from London, including all airline and airport taxes
- All coach transfers in UK and USA, as well in resort shuttles
- 6 nights half board accommodation at ski resort
- Excellent hotel with en-suite facilities, cable television, use of leisure facilities
- In resort representation and 24 hour emergency service
- Excellent ski facilities in the resort
- 5 full day lift pass
- 5 days hire of quality skis, boots, poles and helmets
- 5 x 4 hour ski tuition from qualified instructors
- Evening entertainment / après ski e.g. bowling, ice skating, tubing, cinema.
- 1 night New York stopover – including hotel, breakfast, dinner in Times Square
- New York City sightseeing and shopping at designer outlets
- Fully Comprehensive travel insurance
- 'Ski Loon 2018' hooded sweatshirt

Extras to be budgeted for:

- Dry slope ski / snowboarding sessions are organised for the half term preceding the trip. (allow £40 payable in February 2018)
- ESTA (electronic) entry visas - compulsory for all UK citizens wishing to travel to the USA. Applied for individually online at a cost of \$14.
- Daily lunch money - approx. \$20 per day in resort
- Pocket money for the trip
- Ski / Snowboard Clothing

How to Book

If you would like your child to participate in the Ski America 2018 trip to America please return the reply slip by **Friday 8 September 2017** and make a **non-refundable** first deposit payment of £500 via ParentPay:

- Log in to Parentpay.com
- Click on 'Items for Payment' and select Ski America 2018
- Please note: You **cannot** use your Paypoint Card to pay for trips as this is only compatible with school lunch payments

**PLACES ON THIS TRIP CAN ONLY BE SECURED BY RECEIPT OF THE NON REFUNDABLE
FIRST DEPOSIT PAYMENT ON PARENTPAY.**

PLACES ARE OFFERED TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

Following receipt of the non-refundable deposit payment of £500, the following minimum payments (also to be made via ParentPay) will be due as follows:

Payments due by:

31 October	2017	£300
30 November	2017	£200
31 December	2017	£200
31 January	2018	£200
28 February	2018	£100

Total £1500

These dates must be adhered to, but you can pay more than the monthly minimum should you so wish. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the payment schedule, please feel free to contact me.

Please be aware of the following important information:

- The first deposits totalling £500 is non-refundable.
- Payments will need to be made by ParentPay. No cash or cheques will be accepted.
- In the event of cancellation, refunds can only be returned for illness. Should a student be excluded from school, or his/her behaviour causes concern within the school after having been accepted on a school trip, the Principal has the right to stop the student going on the trip. In this event money paid cannot be refunded unless a replacement can be found.
- Passport arrangements: all students will require a full individual passport, which must have at least **6** months to run on our return date. Money paid cannot be refunded for failure to make arrangements in time for either renewing or applying for a passport.

Please note that our ski trips are generally over subscribed and places fill very quickly. We therefore operate on a first come first served basis with places secured by payment of the deposit only. If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



M. Francis
Senior Vice Principal
Ski America 2018 Party Leader

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE – REPLY SLIP

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO MS FRANCIS BY FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

To: Ms Francis, Ski America 2018 Party Leader

Re: Ski America 2018

I give my permission for my son / daughter to participate in the Ski America 2018 trip.

I confirm that I have paid a £500 non-refundable first deposit direct into the Ski 2018 account on ParentPay and that I am scheduled to pay the remainder of the balance over five payments totaling £1000.

I confirm that I have read and understood the important information, in particular the details regarding cancellation and the passport arrangements.

Full name of student: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Title and full name of Parent / Carer(s): _____

Signature of Parent / Carer(s): _____

Date: _____