



## SnowShoe Challenge FAQ

### **Who can participate in the SnowShoe Challenge?**

The Snowshoe Challenge is open to the public and people of all ages. People of all ages fitness level can easily participate together. Younger hikers may need a hand here or there.

### **What equipment is needed?**

Snowshoes, ideally larger ones designed for backcountry use. Smaller, trailrunning snowshoes may be adequate for some users, but may not provide enough flotation for others.

A GPS unit is optional, for those who want to GeoCache the route.

### **What is GeoCacheing?**

GeoCache is the sport of hiking to a fixed point using provided GPS coordinates. It is available, but not required for the snowshoe challenge. Hikers can alternatively follow the marked trail.

### **How will the trail be marked?**

The trail will be marked with pink surveyor tape along with intermittent red and blue 'SnowShoe Challenge' signs.

### **Will we be hiking on the ski trails?**

Not really. The course will be laid out around the main ski trails and may cross them from time to time, but will primarily be off established trails, in the woods.

### **What will the trails be like; how hard will they be?**

That is obviously a matter of perspective, but the goal will be to make them about 1-2 miles in length and take roughly an hour to complete. The terrain will vary and attempts will be made to take advantage of unique terrain features such as hills, rock outcrops etc. As future courses are set out, feedback from participants will be welcomed to determine if the courses should be harder or easier.

### **What does the 'Challenge' or competition involve?**

This is not a race. Participants can go at their own pace and may complete the course at the time of their choosing.

Each course will have several waypoints. They will be found by hiking along the course or may be directly accessed by GPS coordinates as described above. At the waypoint there will be sign with a simple question related to a 'theme for the week'.

After completion of the course, participants will e-mail their answers to the questions to the Challenge director.

The winner will be the participant who correctly answers the highest percentage of all the question over the course of the Challenge. The total number of questions will be a function of the weather- the longer there is enough snow to make snowshoe enjoyable, the more different courses can be set and the more total questions possible to answer. In the event of a tie, the winner will be chosen by drawing from among the tied individuals. There will be a small non monetary prize for the winner.

### **How will I know if a new course has been set?**

There will be a posting to the NTN's website anytime a new course is set. In addition all participants who have entered will be e-mailed when a new course is available.

### **How do I enter?**

All that's needed is to e-mail the SnowShoe Challenge director at:  
[ntnpresident@gmail.com](mailto:ntnpresident@gmail.com)

This is the same e-mail that is used to send your answers in, so you can do both after completing your first course.

In the e-mail please indicate name, age and e-mail contact information.

For families doing the challenge together, a single e-mail with the information for all members is adequate.

### **What does it cost?**

The SnowShoe Challenge is free for all members of the NTN. Non-members will pay \$5 per person for each time they do a course. This covers entry fee and a reduced fee daily trail pass (since the groomed trails aren't used).

The fees can be paid to the trail host or if none is present can be deposited in the wall mounted pay slot.

### **How do I get started?**

The information for the start location, the gps coordinates for geocaching and general course description is posted on the Snowshoe challenge bulletin board mounted by the changing room door in the trailhead facility.

