

Trail Classifications

Updated: 11/27/2023

The following trail classifications are intended for use by Trip Leaders planning activities as well as for club members to determine if an activity is a good fit. The descriptions that follow are to be considered general guidelines. The Trip Leader may modify as appropriate for the activity being planned.

EASY

Outings of this type will generally consist of activities that:

- are two to four miles long with vertical gain of 500 feet or less
- have little or no trail obstacles for hiking and water crossings that are shallow and allow easy stepping to cross
- are along unpaved, developed trails (think state parks) with good footing and often are double track width
- have flat or gentle slopes and tracked trails for skiing

MODERATE

Outings of this type will generally consist of activities that:

- are four to seven miles long on unpaved terrain with vertical gain of 1,000 - 1,500 feet
- have hiking obstacles that could involve climbing over fallen trees, stream crossings on stones or fallen log bridges and rocky and rooted footing
- are on single track trails with steeper side slopes
- have tracked trails but with steeper and longer slopes and curves for skiers

DIFFICULT

Outings of this type will be for persons in good physical condition, experienced in hiking/skiing/snowshoeing and will consist of activities that:

- are more than seven miles long, on unpaved terrain and are on single track trails
- have hikes with vertical gain of 1,500 feet and greater
- have hiking obstacles that could involve steeply sloped trails, climbing over fallen trees, stream crossings on stones or fallen log bridges, rocky and rooted footing, crossing talus fields and steep or vertical side slopes
- have steep slopes for skiers that require proficiency in balance, turning and speed control and that may not be tracked