

Catamount Yurt Information

Please understand that it is the responsibility of the yurt user to locate the yurt. Yurt rental fees will not be refunded if the yurt is not located. The yurt is locked. Don't forget to get the combination before heading out for your trip.

Trail Head: End of plowed portion of McNabb Road. McNabb Road can be reached by driving 7 miles out of Inkom on Rapid Creek Road. Turn right onto McNabb Road and drive to the end of the road. *Be sure to parallel park in the designated area about 100 feet from the end of the road. Vehicles parked in the turn-around area or in front of the private drives will be ticketed.*

Access to this yurt is on private land and is permitted by an easement from local landowners These landowners operate motorized vehicles (snowmobiles, snowcats, etc.) for access. Please be respectful of the land and their use of motorized vehicles.

Route Description: Follow the snowbound McNabb road for a little more than a mile until you reach the gate. Turn right onto the road behind the gate. Follow this road and continue along for about another mile. The Road meets a junction take the left uphill. If you pass this junction a no trespassing sign is your marker that you have gone too far. After traveling on the road for a short time you'll have an option to either take a left at the large pine tree for a lower angle trail to the yurt. (easier) or (more difficult) you can continue on the road for about a quarter mile, the yurt is in the trees on the left. **Yurt Not visible from the road.**

Route Finding Caution: The ski route to the yurt goes across rolling wheat field country over a snow covered road. During times of poor visibility and new snow covering the road, it can be very difficult to locate the route to the yurt. You and other members of your party should take a couple of day trips prior to your planned use of the yurt to make sure it can be located. Be prepared and treat all tours with respect.

Difficulty: Beginner to Intermediate. Even though this tour has some of the least elevation gain and distance of the yurt system, it can be difficult for some individuals. Be prepared and treat all tours with respect.

Distance and Elevation Gain: 2.25 miles distance. 816 feet climb. **Avalanche Potential:** Low

Map Needed: USGS Topographic, 7.5 minute series "South Putnam". Trail maps of the Westside Ranger District of Caribou Targhee National Forest can be downloaded at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ctnf/about-forest/districts/. Once you access the site, choose the Westside option. (*The attached photocopied map is for reference only. Skiers should use original U.S.G.S. quad maps while on Yurt tours.*)

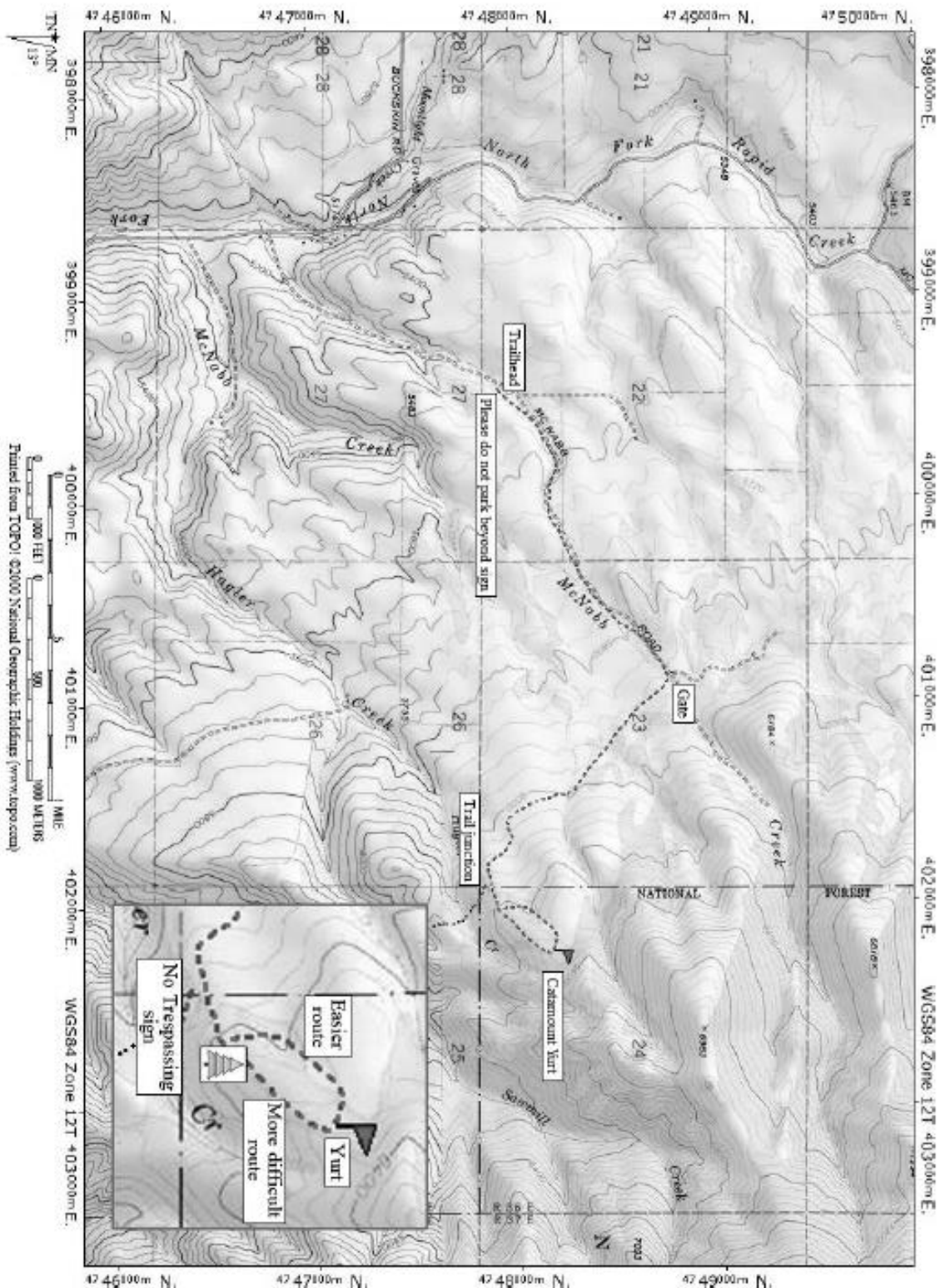
GPS Location: [All information is in WGS84 datum](#)

	UTM Coordinates	Lat/Lon hddd°mm.mmm'
Trailhead	12 T 0399431 4747959	N 42°52.656' W 112°13.884'
Gate	12 T 0400878 4748766	N 42°53.100' W 112°12.829'
Ridge Junction	12 T 0401870 4747901	N 42°52.648' W 112°12.082'
Yurt	12 T 0402160 4748093	N 42°52.750' W 112°11.881'

Special Notes:

- The access to the yurt is possible because of the generosity of private landowners. Please be sure to pick up all litter and otherwise treat the land with respect. Because the snow around the yurt is melted for drinking water, dogs are not allowed and the use of the toilet by human beings is highly encouraged.
- Please understand that it is the responsibility of the yurt user to locate the yurt. Yurt rental fees will not be refunded if the yurt is not located.
- You will find propane stoves and lanterns in the yurts. Renters must provide their own propane cylinders. Please take used cylinders out with you.
- Pack it in – Pack it out. Bring your used propane cylinders to the Outdoor Adventure Center and we will recycle them.
- Please use the wood for burning inside the yurt only. Building fires outside the yurt is inconsiderate of the effort put into the yurt system as well as to the yurt users behind you. You will be assessed an extra nightly yurt fee for burning wood outside of the yurt.

Warning: *Winter travel and the use of yurts are dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group. For more information or to report any problems contact the ISU Outdoor Adventure Center (208) 282-3912.*



Portneuf Range Yurt System Manual

Introduction

This booklet has been prepared to provide you with important information concerning the Portneuf Range Yurt System. It is essential that you and all members of your party read through this information before embarking on a tour to any of the yurts.

After reading this material, make a careful and honest evaluation of yourself—and your party's—abilities. If you have any doubts of your abilities to undertake a yurt tour, we recommend that you go on a day tour before your reserved date or go on an organized trip through the ISU Outdoor Adventure Center.

You must understand that backcountry travel by ski, snowshoe or foot is dangerous. Idaho State University cannot provide any assurances of your safety. Travel to and from the yurts and use of the yurts is done at your own risk.

Important “Need to Know” Information

- **The stoves and lanterns have been changed from white gas to propane. Renters must provide their own propane cylinders.**
- **All yurts are locked. The combination is available in the main text of the confirmation email or by calling the Rental Center at (208) 282-2945.**
- **Please use the wood for burning inside the yurt only. Building fires outside the yurt is inconsiderate of the effort put into the yurt system as well as to the yurt users behind you. You will be assessed an extra nightly yurt fee for burning wood outside of the yurt.**
- **Pack it in – Pack it out. Please take used cylinders out with you. Bring your used propane cylinders to the Outdoor Adventure Center and we will recycle them.**

Reservation and Cancellation Policies

Yurt Reservations require a complete payment of fees that are non-refundable. A credit for a future date during that season will be given with a **2 week cancellation notice**. The fees will be applied to a yurt rental of equal or lesser value. If a renter chooses a rental of greater value, additional fees will be collected before the rental is secured. **Those who cancel within the two weeks before their reservation will forfeit their fees.** A reservation transfer will be allowed only once and must be used that season. **Please understand that it is the responsibility of the yurt user to locate the yurt. Yurt rental fees will not be refunded if the yurt is not located.**

Before You Start

Carefully read this material and evaluate yourself and your party. If you feel confident that you have the skills and knowledge to safely undertake a yurt tour, follow these steps:

- Make reservations for yurt use at the ISU Outdoor Adventure Rental Office located downstairs in the Student Union Building (phone (208) 282-2945). The rental center can provide copies of the reservation policy and current yurt fees. Full payment of fees is required to reserve a yurt. **Please understand that it is the responsibility of the yurt user to locate the yurt. Yurt rental fees will not be refunded if the yurt is not located.**
- Yurts are reserved from 2:30 PM the day of the reservation to 2:30 PM the next day. The yurts are locked and you will need to get the combination to the lock one week before your trip.
- Check equipment lists (suggested lists are included within) prior to departing. Make sure everyone in your party is prepared, including the eventuality of having to spend the night out.
- Before leaving, always leave word with a friend or relative about where you are going, your route to the yurt, and when you plan to return. If, for some reason, they are concerned about your return, the following are numbers for reporting any problems concerning the huts:

(208) 282-3912	ISU Outdoor Adventure Center
(716) 479-5594	Ask for Taylor Cole
(208) 251-2691	Ask for Justin Dayley
(208) 705-5875	Ask for Bob Ellis

- Check the weather forecast. Yurt tours are not recommended during winter storm warnings.
- Before departing, make sure you have the combination to the lock and that your vehicle has plenty of antifreeze and the battery is in good condition. Chains and a shovel are recommended.

Please No Dogs or Snowmobiles

Because the snow surrounding the yurts is melted for drinking water, dogs are not allowed. The yurt system was developed for ski tourers and snowshoers, and we asked that users not attempt to drive snowmobiles directly to the yurts. **The local landowner has specifically asked that no snowmachines are used to access the Skyline Yurt.**

Suggested Routes to Yurts

Routes to the yurts are described in separate handouts which are available when you make your reservation. We recommend that you first learn the locations of the yurts by going on organized tours or by taking a day trip prior to your reserved time. Even then, it may be difficult to locate a yurt on your own. There have been cases where an individual has been to a yurt on several occasions, yet has not been able to locate it on a later date. Poor visibility because of fog and falling snow can make it nearly impossible to find the yurts. It is for this reason that we strongly advise against undertaking yurt tours in poor weather or poor visibility.

Routes to the yurts are not marked because of the extreme difficulty of marking backcountry winter trails. Some parts of the tours go through large, open areas where no features exist on which to attach markers. In other areas, where the routes go through trees, markers are quickly engulfed under a thick layer of rime caused by a combination of blowing snow and misty clouds. Heavy rime is a common occurrence at the high elevation yurts.

The yurts themselves are located on ground level, and snow packs could easily exceed 6 feet. That means the yurts, when dug out, are hidden behind piles of snow which make it hard to see them from any distance. The yurts are also located in trees which help provide necessary wind protection but also increase the difficulty in locating them.

This all adds up to some important prerequisites of yurt use:

- Go on organized tours first to familiarize yourself with surrounding landmarks and learn about route finding tricks which will help you locate a yurt on your own. If you have any doubt of your route finding skills, continue to go on organized tours.
- Before attempting any yurt tour on your own (particularly Jackson Creek yurt), you should be experienced in the use of a map and compass and carry both with you on the tour. GPS coordinates are given for each yurt on the specific yurt information sheet. Knowledge of how to use a GPS unit is needed. There are different datum systems used by GPS system and the Portneuf Range maps coordinates are in the WSG84 datum. Trail maps of the Westside Ranger District of Caribou Targhee National Forest can be downloaded at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ctnf/about-forest/districts/. Once you access the site, choose the Westside option.
- Use good sense and err on the safe side. Keep your party together. Turn back if the weather closes in or visibility becomes difficult. The yurt will always be there for you to visit another day.
- Always be prepared. Carry the equipment and clothing (see suggested equipment list) necessary to spend the night out if for some reason you don't find the yurt.

When to start

Travel to yurts involves a significant rise in elevation from where you leave your vehicle. The elevation rise combined with the distance into the yurts and possible slow snow conditions (deep snow, breakable crust, heavy wet snow, etc.) can make your trip an all-day affair.

It is highly recommended that you are on the trail no later than 9:00 or 10:00 AM. Daylight is short in the winter, and you'll need to allow plenty of time. Once you arrive at the yurt, you'll also need time to dig out the yurt, wood pile and toilet.

On the Trail

While skiing or snowshoeing to the yurts, don't allow your party to become separated. This is extremely important in bad weather or poor visibility. Travel at a pace which is comfortable for the slowest member of the party. If one member becomes exhausted, your entire party is weakened as a result. A slow but steady pace is a time tested and safer way of traveling in the winter.

Condition of Yurt upon Arrival

It is possible that yurts can be damaged due to extreme weather conditions common in Idaho's mountains. High winds, heavy snow storms, falling branches from trees, accumulation of snow on the yurt's walls can cause rips and tears and/or partial or total collapse. It is also possible that the yurt can be vandalized or items such as the stove stolen. These possibilities point out the need to be well prepared. In particular, be prepared to spend the night out if it becomes necessary. Please report any problems to the ISU Outdoor Adventure Center (208) 282-3912.

Items in the Yurt

In each of the yurts, you should find a wood stove, **propane** cooking stove and lantern, pots, shovel and axe. You'll also find wooden bunk beds. The beds are made from plywood and you'll want to bring a sleeping pad for comfort and warmth. Please note that the wing nuts which hold the bunks together may need periodic tightening. Near the yurt will be a wood pile and toilet, both of which you will probably have to dig out. **Items which are not in the yurt include: Propane cylinders for stove and lantern, food, fire starting materials, sleeping pads, and extra mantles for the lantern.**

Digging out Yurts

It is important to keep the yurts dug out on a regular basis. If snow is allowed to build up two things happen: (1) weight on the sides of the yurt push inward and bend the lattice side wall; and (2) snow build up on top of the yurt will eventually cause it to collapse.

We ask that everyone who uses the yurts pitch in and help by keeping them dug out.

To remove snow, start by shoveling it away from the sides. Be extremely careful when using the shovel. The metal shovel can easily tear the canvas covering of the yurt. We have found that each yurt will have one side toward the prevailing winds which will have the largest accumulation of snow. It is particularly important to remove the snow from this side. Continued side pressure and natural creep within the snow pack can exert enough pressure to deform and fracture the side walls.

Once snow has been removed from the sides, someone inside the yurt can push the canvas ceiling up and down. The snow should slide off. Whatever you do, please do not use a shovel to move snow off the roof. Torn canvas has almost always resulted from improper shoveling. ***Please keep the shovel inside the yurt.***

How Much Propane Fuel and which type to Bring

- You will be using propane cylinders for both the stove and lantern. Coleman states on their website that propane stoves run about one hour on single propane cylinder with both burners on high and lanterns will run for 7 hours on high and 13 hours on low.
- Coleman recommends using a Coleman, 16.4 OZ disposable propane bottle. Bring your used cylinders to the Outdoor Adventure Center and we will recycle them.

Follow These Procedures When You Arrive

- Check to make sure the top of stove pipe chimney is clear and snow has not drifted over the top.
- Start a fire in the wood stove by the following procedure:

- Open damper. The damper is open when oval handle is in a vertical position.
- Open air intake on front of stove fully by turning handle counterclockwise.
- Open stove. Insert paper, **fire starter** and pieces of kindling and light. Note: Because of residue moisture in the yurt, we have found that starting a fire in the stove takes some effort. The fire starter will burn for several minutes, helping dry out the kindling before it flames. Start out with very thin pieces of kindling and gradually increase size.
- Leave air intake full open until fire is going, then turn it down to a comfortable level. **Don't leave stove unattended when air intake is full open.** The stove can get dangerously hot. When leaving the yurt even for a short period of time, close the air intake completely.
- When the fire is burning well, turn down the air intake to a comfortable level. Temperature of the stove can also be regulated by adjusting damper. Keep wood and other flammable items from touching the stove surfaces.
- Always use extreme caution. The yurt, lattice frame work and other material in the yurt are flammable and can burn to the ground in minutes if the wood stove or Coleman stove and lantern are not properly used.
- Shovel snow away from the sides of the yurt. It's particularly important to relieve pressure on the windward side of the yurt where most of the snow has built up. Don't use the shovel on the roof; remove snow from the roof by pushing the canvas up and down from the inside.
- Break a path to the wood pile and outdoor toilet. Shovel away snow from wood pile and dig out toilet.
- For sanitary reasons always use the toilet for urinating or defecating. The snow surrounding the yurt must be kept clean since it is used for drinking water. It is for this reason that dogs are not allowed.

Follow These Procedures When You Leave

- Thoroughly clean out the yurt. Sweep out dirt, wood chips, and snow with broom.
- Pack it in, Pack it out. Carry out everything you carried in including garbage, food and used propane cylinders. Anything left in the yurts has to be carried out by volunteers in the spring. Bring your used propane cylinders to the Outdoor Adventure Center and we will recycle them.
- Close air intake on stove before leaving yurt, even for short trips.
- Move any flammables (paper, kindling) away from wood stove. Leave firewood and kindling inside yurt so the next visitors will have dry wood to start a fire.
- Make sure the toilet seat is closed. Place axe, shovel and broom inside yurt.
- Lock and securely fasten yurt door so snow doesn't drift inside.

Safety

Everything you do on a backcountry tour should be done carefully. Conducting yourself safely while using the yurts is equally important. Use common sense and care when using the wood stove, Coleman stove and lantern, starting the fire, chopping wood, etc. There is no ski patrol in the backcountry. You and your party must come prepared. Backcountry travel in the winter involves a great personal responsibility upon all members of the party to do everything they can to stay alert, constantly evaluate and minimize potential hazards.

Further Information

A good reference book with information on backcountry skiing and overnight winter camping skills applicable to our area is *Ski Camping* by Ron Watters of the ISU Outdoor Adventure Center. It is available at local bookstores.

The ISU Outdoor Adventure Center, located on the first floor of the Student Union Building, maintains an extensive collection of outdoor recreation reference materials with books and magazines on winter backcountry travel. The public is invited to use the resources.

Suggested Equipment List for Yurt Tours

The following equipment list is included to serve as a guide to help you prepare for a yurt tour. More items are listed than you may take or some may have been omitted, but we hope this list will give you an idea of some of the equipment possibilities. Remember, come prepared to spend the night out if for some reason you don't make it to the yurt.

Dressing in layers is the best choice for outdoor activities. As you get warm you can take off layers, and as you cool down during breaks, you can put them back on. The term *synthetics* on the clothing lists, below, refers to materials such as pile, lycra or polypropylene. Feel free to photo copy this list and pass on to all members of the party.

Clothing—Inner Layer

- Long Underwear Top and Bottoms (wool or synthetics)
- Inner Socks (wool or synthetics)
- Liner Gloves

Clothing—Insulating Layer

- Pile Jacket or Down Jacket
- Wool, Synthetic or Pile Top
- Wool, Synthetic or Pile Pants
- Wool or Synthetic Socks
- Wool or Synthetic Hat
- Mittens

Clothing—Protective Layer

- Shell Parka with Hood
- Shell Pants
- Insulated Gloves
- Gaiters

Feet

- Ski Boots
 - Extra Socks
 - Down or Fiberfill Booties
- (Not necessary but comfortable in the yurt)

Sleeping

- Sleeping Bag (Winter Rated)
- Sleeping Pad
- Waterproof Ground Cloth & Nylon Cord (Bivy Sac)

Kitchen

- Coleman Disposable Propane Cylinders 16.4 oz
- Matches (Waterproof Container)
- Fire starter
- Water Bottle
- Food for the trip
- Cup & Plate
- Silverware
- Soap and sponge for dishes
- Camp Chair (Crazy Creek)

Navigation

- Topographic Map(s) of the area
- Compass and or GPS

Other Items

- Pack
- Skis & Ski Poles (snowshoes)
- Headlight or flashlight
- Spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Watch
- Personal Items (toiletries)
- Cord and clothes pin to hang clothes to dry
- Toilet paper
- Candle
- Notebook, pencil, reading material
- Shovel

Repair Kit

- Sewing needle and thread (or dental floss)
- Duct tape
- Epoxy
- Multi tool (Leatherman)
- Extra screws to fit ski binding
- Binding repair needs
- Bailing wire for general repairs
- Extra basket for ski poles
- Lantern mantles

Items for everyone- place in your pocket in the event that you become separated from your pack

- Matches (in waterproof container)
- Knife
- Fire starter

Skins / Avalanche Safety

- Climbing skins
- Avalanche transceivers
- Avalanche probes
- Avalanche shovel

Portneuf Range Yurt System Risk Information for Renters of Yurt

As the renter of the yurt, I understand that I have certain responsibilities:

- I agree to inform the group using the yurt of the inherent risks of winter travel and yurt use. The Portneuf Range Yurt System Manual can assist in understanding those risks.
- I understand that traveling to the yurt includes inherent risks. The risks of yurt travel include, but are not limited to: being caught and disoriented in whiteouts or snowstorms, becoming lost and not finding the yurt, falling and colliding with trees, rocks or other objects while skiing or snow shoeing, becoming exhausted while traveling, finding the yurt damaged, being caught in an avalanche, and developing frost bite or hypothermia.
- To minimize the risks, I agree to encourage all members of the party to prepare carefully for the yurt trip. I understand the importance of having some of the members of the yurt party well acquainted with the location of the yurt prior to our trip. Even then, I realize that it is possible that the party may not find the yurt, and I will ask everyone to be prepared, if necessary, to spend the night out.
- I understand that use of the yurts includes inherent risks. Other risks associated with yurt use are injuries from use of the bunk beds, propane stove and lantern, splitting mal, axe or other equipment in the yurt.
- I understand that the yurt or its contents could be damaged, and I understand that it may be necessary to collect additional fire wood for the wood stove.
- I understand that the yurts are locked and I need to obtain the combination to the lock. If I have not received the combination in an email, it can be obtained by calling the Rental Center at 282-2945.
- **I understand that yurt rental requires a complete payment of fees that are nonrefundable.** A credit for a future date during that season will be given with a **2 week cancellation notice**. The fees will be applied to a yurt rental of equal or lesser value. If a renter chooses a rental of greater value, additional fees will be collected before the rental is secured. **Those who cancel within the two weeks before their reservation will forfeit their fees.** A reservation and credit transfer will be allowed only once and credit must be used that season.
- I also understand that it is the responsibility of the yurt user to locate the yurt. Yurt rental fees will not be refunded if the yurt is not located.
- I understand that if our group burns wood outside the yurt, an appropriate damage fee will be assessed.

By reserving this yurt I have made a careful decision that I am willing to accept the policies, inform my group of dangers and assume all risks.