



Greetings Wintergreen Guests!

Welcome aboard! We're looking forward to sharing a Wintergreen experience with you. Enclosed please find the information you need to prepare for this extraordinary experience. If you lose these or need more copies, these pages can be viewed or printed from the "Register" page of our website.

Here's how to prepare for your Wintergreen experience:

\_\_\_1. REVIEW the **green slip** to confirm your trip date, trip type and balance due. Please call or email us regarding errors. Bring this slip with you since it indicates where/when you should arrive & has map on back.

\_\_\_2. RETURN the **white form** (Travel, Payment & Release Form) in the stamped/addressed envelope. We need the info you provide on this form to prepare for your trip. All guests must sign the liability release form on the back of white form. If you're paying your balance by check, please mail your check with this form. Feel free to date the check 8 weeks before your trip – we won't deposit it until then. NOTE: If you paid your deposit by credit card, then (unless you instruct us otherwise) we'll debit your balance due on the same card 8 weeks before your trip. After that date, trip fees are non-refundable. If you're concerned that pending issues may require you to cancel your trip, we recommend the **Travelex Insurance** on the enclosed flyer. It will reimburse your trip expenses if illness or emergency disrupts your plans.

\_\_\_3. MAKE YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. About half our guests choose to fly here and half drive. Ely is served by all-weather highway systems with a drive time of 4 hours from Minneapolis. No Wintergreen guests have ever had their arrival delayed by road closures or blizzards. Our regional airports in Hibbing and Duluth are served by Delta & United Airlines. If you choose to fly, be sure to call Gary at **Ely Shuttle 218-349-1383** and alert him to your arrival and departure times so he can arrange for your ground shuttle between the airport and Wintergreen. If these shuttles include other guests, he may be able to pro-rate the fare among the passengers. Other shuttle options include **Ely Yellow Cab 218-365-6006**, **Ely Safe Ride 218-235-7109**, Allied Taxi Duluth **218-722-3311** or Hibbing Taxi **218-263-5065**.

Whether arriving by car or cab, if you're renting gear be sure to stop & get your gear at our Wintergreen Northern Wear store in Ely (middle of town) before continuing to the lodge. Please call our store (**218-365-6602**) to alert us to your arrival time. Allow for a 15-20 minute stop to get outfitted. (The taxi will wait for you.)

\_\_\_4. GATHER YOUR CLOTHING: The attached **yellow sheet** outlines the clothing we recommend for your trip. The **white form** (Purchase and Rental Gear Form) includes items that you can rent (key items like anoraks, snow pants & boots) as well as the accessory items that can't be rented (thermal wear, socks, mitts & hats) but that you can purchase at Wintergreen. (NOTE: Adults sizes are on the front of form, kids sizes on back). Submit this form in the enclosed envelope or scan & email it to [info@WintergreenNorthernWear.com](mailto:info@WintergreenNorthernWear.com). When you check in for your trip, your guides can help you decide if you need all the gear you've rented or purchased. Items not needed can be returned for refund.

\_\_\_5. ENHANCE YOUR ENJOYMENT of your trip by getting fit and getting informed. Two or three 30-minute exercise sessions per week that build stamina, such as walking, jogging, or aerobics, can enhance the fun you'll have at Wintergreen. And learn about dogsledding through the award-winning book "**Born to Pull.**" It includes many Wintergreen stories & can be ordered through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or purchased at Wintergreen store or lodge. You may also enjoy our 2 books on our Arctic expeditions: "**North to the Pole**" & "**Bering Bridge.**"

Shortly before your trip, you'll receive a "**Final Update**" from us by email or post with details on your trip itinerary, your guides, and the names of other guests in your group.

We look forward to sharing a Wintergreen experience with you!

**Paul & Susan Schurke & the Wintergreen Team**

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*"Give me winter, give me dogs and you can keep the rest."* Knud Rasmussen, Greenlandic explorer

Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge  
1101 Ring Rock Road  
Ely, Minnesota 55731

[www.dogsledding.com](http://www.dogsledding.com)  
[info@dogsledding.com](mailto:info@dogsledding.com)

Lodge/Home 218-365-6022  
Toll-free 877-753-3386  
Fax 218-365-3088

**EXTENDING YOUR STAY:** Many of our guests extend their visit to the Ely area a day or two before or after their dogsled trip. Wintergreen Lodge is fully booked most every night. But the following lodges offer special discounts for our guests. Just ask for their "Wintergreen rate."

These include 3 out-of-town options near Wintergreen and our adjoining ski & snowshoe trails:

- Timber Trail Lodge (log cabins, motel, snack bar) 800-777-7348, [TimberTrail.com](http://TimberTrail.com)
- Blue Heron Bed & Breakfast 218-365-4720, [BlueHeronBnB.com](http://BlueHeronBnB.com)
- Silver Rapids Lodge (restaurant, cabins, motel) 800-950-9425, [SilverRapidsLodge.com](http://SilverRapidsLodge.com)

And 3 in-town options:

- Grand Ely Lodge (pool, restaurant, Jacuzzi rooms, trails) 800-365-5070, [GrandElyLodge.com](http://GrandElyLodge.com)
- Stay Inn Ely (right downtown, new, very nice & personalized) 888-360-6010, [StayInnEly.com](http://StayInnEly.com)
- Adventure Inn (newly refurbished & with solar heat) 218-365-3140, [AdventureInn-Ely.com](http://AdventureInn-Ely.com)

For complete info, contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 800-777-7281, [Ely.org](http://Ely.org)

**ELY'S WOLF & BEAR CENTERS:** Winter hours for both Ely's Wolf Center ([Wolf.org](http://Wolf.org)) and Bear Center ([Bear.org](http://Bear.org)) are Fri/Sat 10-5. Our trip itineraries often include a Saturday evening event at the Wolf Center. For guests whose trips do not include a Saturday night, we may be able to arrange special visits to either center.

**EMERGENCIES:** Your comfort and safety are our primary concern. Our staff members are trained in wilderness safety and first aid procedures. Although no life-threatening accidents have ever occurred on our trips, our standard trail gear includes emergency medical & communication equipment. A clinic, hospital, pharmacy and ambulance service are located in Ely.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** Alcoholic beverages and cold weather activities are a dangerous combination. We strictly prohibit their use on the trail but you are welcome to bring your own wine or beer for use in moderation at the lodges. Possession of illegal drugs is, of course, absolutely prohibited. Smoking is strictly prohibited inside the lodges.

**REFUNDS:** Trip fees are refundable (minus the \$100 deposit) if your request is received in writing 8 weeks prior to your trip. After that date, fees cannot be refunded but will be applied towards another trip, minus a trip change fee. If weather-related factors (i.e., highway or airport closure, lack of snow, etc.) result in a cancelled trip, all fees paid will apply to another trip of your choice this year or next.

**FITNESS AND CONDITIONING** The most important thing you can do to enhance your enjoyment of a Wintergreen trip (especially our dogsled & ski camping trips) is physical conditioning. The more fit you are, the more fun you'll have. You don't need to be an athlete--strength is not a crucial factor. What counts is stamina and endurance, that is, good cardiovascular fitness. This can be achieved at any age. Please note that persons in poor condition might find a Wintergreen trip to be too challenging unless they undertook (with their doctor's advice) a daily fitness building program at least 3 months prior to their trip. Persons in fair condition would enjoy a lodge-to-lodge trip but might find a dogsled & ski camping trip difficult unless they undertook a regular fitness building program. That should involve at least a 30-minute session 5-7 times each week of rigorous activity such as brisk walking, jogging, jump-roping, swimming or skiing. If you have concerns about whether you are sufficiently fit for this trip, please call us to discuss them. We heartily encourage our guests to take advantage of the anticipation of their Wintergreen trip as an incentive to get in shape for life!

**TALK TO US:** Have questions about any of this? Not sure about your clothing? Want some more fitness conditioning tips? Just give us a call: **877-753-3386** or email us at [info@dogsledding.com](mailto:info@dogsledding.com)

**We're looking forward to sharing a great winter experience with you! The Wintergreen Team**

Enjoy the anticipation of your Wintergreen experience by following our *fun lovin', tail wagin' world* on facebook!