FREE PRINTABLE RESOURCE

SNOWSHOE TRIP CARD

Fill in the left column and leave it at home. Ranger and land-agency instructions always come first.

LEAVE THIS PLAN BEHIND

- ☐ **Trailhead and route, marked on a map**
- ☐ **Departure time: _____**
- ☐ **Back by: _____**
  If overdue: call the County Sheriff or Ranger District

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ **Avalanche forecast checked**
  Steep slopes on or above the route? Pick another trail
- ☐ **Turnaround time set: _____**
  Winter days are short; plan shorter than summer
- ☐ **Partner going with you**
  Never alone in deep snow

GEAR CHECK

- ☐ **Snowshoes, poles, waterproof boots**
- ☐ **Shell, hat, gloves, sunglasses or goggles**
  No cotton layers
- ☐ **Extra food and water**
  More than a summer hike
- ☐ **Map, compass, headlamp, whistle**
  Batteries fade in the cold

AVALANCHE TERRAIN

- ☐ **Snow on slopes over about 30 degrees can slide**
  No training? Yosemite: not on or beneath slopes over 20
- ☐ **Flat ground is safe only if nothing steep is above it**
- ☐ **Warning signs: recent slides, cracking, collapsing**
  Avoid similar slopes

HIDDEN HAZARDS

- ☐ **Tree wells: stay wide of tree bases**
- ☐ **Snow bridges: avoid drainage bottoms**
  Listen for water; probe with a pole
- ☐ **Cornices: stay well back from edges**

COLD TROUBLE

- ☐ **Vent layers before you sweat**
  Wet clothes lose most of their warmth
- ☐ **Watch for slow moves, slurred speech, odd behavior**
  Believe the symptoms, not the person
- ☐ **Can't stay warm and dry? Turn back**

ON THE TRAIL

- ☐ **Stay out of the ski tracks**
  Yield to snowmobiles on shared routes

Want the reasoning and the sources behind each line? Read the full guide on the TacticalBox blog.
tacticalbox.com/blogs/tacticalbox-blog

Sources: NPS Mount Rainier beginner's guide to snowshoeing and winter safety; NPS Rocky Mountain, Crater Lake and Yosemite winter pages; Avalanche.org slope angle entries; Ochoco National Forest winter safety; Pennsylvania DCNR. Not a substitute for avalanche training. Call 911 in an emergency.