



WSU Outdoor Program, Bloomington Canyon Yurt Standard operating Procedures

These Standard Operating Procedures have been prepared to provide you with important background and safety information concerning the WSU Outdoor Program, Bloomington Canyon Yurt. It is essential that you and all members of your group read through this information before embarking on a tour to the yurt. As you read through this handout, please make a careful and honest evaluation of your group's abilities.

Bloomington Canyon Yurt Location:

Bloomington Canyon, Bear Lake County, Idaho

GPS Coordinates: (42° 10'23" N, 111° 33'20" W)

(42degrees 10min 23sec North, 111degrees 33min 20sec West)

Life Flight Coordinates in tenth of minutes:

Coordinates: (42° 10.383 N, 111° 33.333 W)

(42deg 10.383tenths of minutes N, 111° 33.333tenths of minutes W)

About the Yurt

Yurt Contents

In the yurt you will find a wood stove, a cooking stove, eight 3" sleeping pads, solar lighting, eating and cooking utensils. Cooking utensils include a griddle, pots for boiling water, pans, large serving bowls, and a small coffee percolator. The instructions for use of the stoves are posted on the inside of the yurt. You will also find two bunk beds with 3" pads, two double beds, and two cots. Groups must provide their own sleeping bags.

There are a number of convenience items for your use at the yurt including, paper products, trash bags, and lighters... these are a service and should not be an expectation, plan accordingly.

RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Reservations require full payment of fees. There are **no refunds** given once a reservation is made. There are no refunds for nonuse, weather, or special circumstances. There is **no transfer** of days allowed. The Outdoor Program asks renters to please contact the OP if nonuse will occur so a host may be informed. The yurt is a finite resource with a limited number of user days. Your desire to refund, or transfer days displaces other renters who otherwise would have liked to reserve. It is also an excessive administrative cost for your lack of planning.

YURT HOST

A Yurt Host may stop by at any point during your stay at the Bloomington Canyon Yurt. They are there to ensure policies and procedures are being followed and to ensure everything is in working order for you.

GROUP SIZE LIMIT

The WSU OP must limit group sizes to a maximum of 12 people at the Bloomington Canyon Yurt.

- The yurt has limited resources. Overly large groups deplete firewood and fill the pit toilet too quickly.

Groups who violate size limits will be fined a minimum of \$100 per person for each night of violation.



DAMAGE FEES

You will be charged for equipment that is dirty, damaged, or missing up to and including the cost to replace such equipment. You must also dig out the yurt and dispose of human waste properly.

Contract Violations (Fees)
Group leaders are subject to any of the following fines if they do not follow policies and procedures
Cleaning fine: \$100 minimum if yurt is not properly cleaned, dug out, human waste disposed of properly.
Over group limit fine: \$100 per person over the limit, per night
Dog fine: \$40 per dog, per night
Damages: Renters will be charged for equipment that is dirty, damaged, or missing up to and including the cost to replace such equipment.
Hazardous waste: Renters will be charged for the costs of clean up for any oil spills, and the spreading of any other hazardous waste or any other pollutants.
Weather Station: A minimum fee of \$100 will be charged to groups who tamper with or enter the weather station area without authorization. Delicate snow data is being collected.

On the Trail

BEFORE YOU EMBARK ON A YURT TRIP

Cell Phone Service: Bloomington Canyon does not have reliable cell phone service, plan accordingly. Do not to rely on cell phone service as a means of emergency communication.

If you feel confident that you have the skills and knowledge to safely undertake a yurt trip, follow these guidelines:

- Have everyone read and sign the “Assumption of Risk” form. After everyone has signed it, make sure it is in the possession of an OP employee before your departure.
- Make sure everyone in your group is properly equipped for the trip.
- Before departing, always leave word with a friend or relative about where you are going and when you plan to return. If they are concerned about your return, the following numbers can be used to report any problems or emergencies concerning your group or the yurt.

Contact	Phone Number	Availability
WSU Outdoor Program	801- 626-6373	Monday – Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM
Daniel Turner	801-388-8469 Cell	Days/Evenings and Weekends
Hayley Prine	816-809-8656 Cell	Days/Evenings and Weekends
Amy Knight	208-226-4940 Cell	Days/Evenings and Weekends

Bloomington Canyon Yurt:

Location: Bloomington Canyon, Bear Lake County, Idaho

GPS Coordinates: (42° 10'23" N, 11° 33'20" W)

(42deg 10sec 23min North, 11deg 33sec 20min West)



Nearest Hospital: Bear Lake Memorial Hospital 164 S, 5 th St Montpelier, Idaho 83254 208-847-1630	Bear Lake County Sheriff's office / Search and Rescue: (208) 945-2121 (911) 50N Main St Paris Idaho, 83261
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Safety

USING THE YURT IS INHERENTLY RISKY

Backcountry activity involves hazards. Hypothermia, inclement weather, snow, and freezing temperatures can threaten even the most experienced outdoor leader. Activities ranging from simple day tours to skiing to a mountain peak can become life threatening due to the forces of nature or errors in judgment. Please be aware there are inherent risks involved with traveling to and from as well as staying at the yurt.

CELL PHONE SERVICE

Bloomington Canyon does not have reliable cell phone service. Plan accordingly. Do not rely on cell phone service as a means of emergency communication.

AVALANCHES

For the current avalanche and mountain weather information, call the **Utah Avalanche Forecast Center in Logan at 1-888-999-4019 or check the website:** <http://utahavalanchecenter.org/advisory/Logan>. There are areas in route to, and surrounding, the yurt that have avalanched in the past. Please be prepared for avalanches.

BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST

It is possible for the yurt to be damaged due to extreme weather conditions. High winds, heavy snowstorms, falling branches, and accumulation of snow on the yurt could cause the yurt to rip or collapse. It is also possible that items such as the wood stove, solar panel, cooking utensils etc. (examples of items that were removed without permission in the past) can be missing, or damaged because of vandals.

For these reasons it is important that your group be well prepared. Be prepared to spend the night outside if necessary. We do our best to ensure that you do not encounter any of these problems. Nevertheless, please report any problems you experience to the OP.

THE ROUTE TO THE YURT

The route is not fully marked. You are responsible to get to the yurt under your own navigation. Many times a Yurt Host may travel with you, but they are not required to do so, nor are they allowed to act as guides. Please be prepared with a map, compass, and/or a GPS.

Bloomington canyon is a multi-use recreation destination. Bloomington canyon can see low to heavy snowmobile traffic during the winter months, please travel to the side of the groomed trail and be cautious. Please listen carefully for Snowmobiles and step off to the side of the trail, you will hear the snowmobiles long before they will be able to see you!

MAPS

The WSU OP has maps for the yurt areas that show a basic route and provide GPS coordinates. You may find maps to download on the website: www.weber.edu/outdoor



THE YURT IS HARD TO FIND

The yurt can be hard to find for a number of reasons including poor visibility from fog and falling snow. Snow pack around the yurt can exceed 10 feet. When dug out the yurt can be camouflaged behind piles of snow. The yurt is also located in trees that provide necessary wind protection but increase the difficulty of finding it.

We recommend that you first learn the location of the yurt by going on organized trips or by taking a day trip to familiarize yourself with surrounding landmarks and to learn route-finding techniques that will help you locate the yurt on your own. There have been cases when individuals have been to the yurt several times and have not been able to locate the yurt on a later date.

WHEN TO START

We recommend that you be on the trail no later than 9:00 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, woodpile, and toilet.

DO NOT SEPARATE

While skiing, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling to the yurt, do not allow your group to become separated. This is extremely important in bad weather or poor visibility.

Stay together, and stay safe. Travel at a pace that is comfortable for the slowest member of the group. If one party member becomes exhausted, your entire group is weakened as a result. A slow but steady pace is a time-tested and safe way of traveling in the winter.

At the Yurt

Although each yurt has a slightly different setup, there are some common procedures that will help make your stay safe and comfortable.

DIGGING OUT THE YURT

Renters are required to dig out the yurt: It is important to keep the yurt dug out on a frequent and regular basis. If snow is allowed to pile up the weight on the sides of the yurt push inward and bend the lattice side walls. Snow on the top of the yurt will eventually cause it to collapse. We ask that upon arrival groups immediately remove snow from around the perimeter of the yurt throwing snow out away from the yurt. (Be extremely careful when using the shovel so as not to damage the yurt tarp).

When sides are clear down to the bottom of the yurt then use the broom with the 10ft extension handle to carefully clear the snow from the yurt roof. Be sure not to puncture the roof material, or damage the clear bubble. When roof is clear please throw additional snow from the perimeter of the yurt to insure it is clear. Be sure to place the broom back inside the yurt.

WEATHER STATION

Renter are to stay out of the marked weather station area. Delicate snow and weather data is being collected for use by Weber State University, The Utah Avalanche Center, and the US Forest Service. Any tampering with, or tracks through this area will result in fines.

YURT BATHROOM

There is NO FLUSHING TOILET OR RUNNING WATER AT THE YURT. At Bloomington Canyon Yurt we use a shallow pit toilet for solid human waste. To ensure that this toilet functions properly, (less smell, more space) **do not urinate, put toilet paper, or feminine products in the pit toilet. Urinate in**



the designated area (North-East of the wood shed), burn used toilet paper in the wood stove, and pack out feminine products. For your convenience paper bags are provided to deposit used toilet paper, bag is then to be burned in the yurt fire place upon group departure.

THINGS THAT DON'T BELONG IN OR AT THE YURT

- **DOGS**

Dogs are not allowed in the yurt. Persons allowing dogs to enter the yurt will be subject to a minimum \$40 fine per dog, per night.

- **NO OUTSIDE CAMPFIRE**

The Outdoor Program prohibits fires outside of the yurt stove. We can only cut firewood to heat the yurt. Outside fires endanger the yurt, and leave other groups in the cold when the wood runs out.

WOOD STOVE

The wood stove is used to heat the yurt and melt snow for drinking water. **The stove works best with the door shut (Improved draft). Smoke will fill the yurt if the stove door is not shut.** It is not a fireplace and you will not get more heat out of the stove with the door open.

Do not crank the stove until it glows red as that will damage the stove. The inside of the yurt is supposed to be sweater weather, not a sauna. Split logs outside the yurt, chopping wood inside yurt damages the floor.

When Lighting Stove

- 1) Close yurt door to improve smoke draft
- 2) Open stove vents all the way
- 3) Do not use any combustible fuel to light fire, as it will damage the stove and stove pipe
- 4) Light small fire and close the stove door. The stove is designed to function best with the door closed and vents open
- 5) Do not over heat stove, as it will cause damage to the stove yurt and pose a risk to group
- 6) Maintain a small to medium sized fire to keep yurt at a comfortable temperature

WOOD STOVE ASH

When cleaning out the Wood stove ash use metal shovel blade and metal ash pans. Empty cold ash into metal trash can in wood shed. DO not spread ash outside. This pollutes drinking water snow.

COOK STOVE

The propane cook stove is for cooking, **not for melting snow**. When the stove is not in use, turn the gas off at the tank to prevent gas leakage.

BUNK BEDS/ SLEEPING PADS

Bunk beds are **NOT** to be moved to accommodate participants, 3 inch sleeping pads are at the yurt for your sleeping comfort, please take care of them. Pads are to be properly stored on beds upon departure.

KITCHEN

The Bloomington Canyon Yurt will have a limited assortment of cooking pots, pans, griddles, and serving /cooking utensils. Please plan to bring your own cups, plates, bowls and silverware, paperware, and utensils or reusable options.

- ☐ Wash all dishes with the 3-bin method:



- Bin 1 = Hot Soapy Water, Bin 2 = Hot Rinse Water, Bin 3 = Cold Rinse water with a capful of Bleach
- Strain grey water in the designated area (North East of Yurt). Store clean dishes in dry box with the lid closed. Wipe down counters and table tops with bleach water

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MANDATORY CLEANING

- Create bleach and water solution (solutions will freeze if premade)
 - ☐ Fill the spray bottle with one cap of bleach
 - ☐ Fill spray bottle to water line
- Use bleach and water solution to spray and wipe down all:
 - ☐ Top and bottom of sleeping mats
 - ☐ Kitchen counter surfaces
 - ☐ Door handles
 - ☐ Food storage buckets and lids
 - ☐ Snow melting pots
 - ☐ Shovel and ax handles
- Empty spray bottle in grey water designated area (North East of Yurt)

SOLAR LIGHTING

The Yurt is equipped with solar lighting. There are four lamp in the yurt that require renters to turn them on using the switches on each individual lamp. Please be sure to turn the lights off when not in use. The battery pack and converter is in a locked ammo can in the yurt. Renters are welcome to use the 110v plugin, and the USB plugin. Use requires participants to turn on the power switch located on the

converter. Switch can be accessed through the window cut in the ammo can. Please be sure to turn the switch back off when not in use to conserve energy. The solar system requires 5 hours of sun light to fully charge the battery pack. A full charge will provide ample power for 8 hours of use.

Yurt Windows

Please take care to open yurt windows properly.

- 1) Unzip sides of windows (Cold temps make zippers brittle)
- 2) Unclip strap buckles (Cold temps make buckles brittle)
- 3) Carefully roll window covering up until upper inside clips are exposed, clip top buckles (Cold temps make buckles brittle)
- 4) Be sure to close window coverings before departure, wind snow and freezing temps will damage the window coverings if left up.

Checkout Procedures

*A detailed checkout list is located on the inside of the yurt door. Please complete these tasks before leaving the yurt. **Failure to comply with the cleaning check list upon departure will result in a \$400 cleaning fee as staff will be required to do it for your group.***

- All groups should self-screen members to ensure no individual has known infections or sickness. We recommend every group member take the [self-check test on the CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/self-check/). Any individual



(s) with known symptoms or infection should not use the yurt facilities. If symptoms develop while at the yurt, the individual should leave the trip and notify WSU OP immediately. **Failure to do so could result in a \$400 cleaning fee.**

- Groups are responsible for washing hands frequently using soap and water. Soap and hand sanitizer are provided at the yurt.
- Groups are required to follow the Yurt Departure Checklist as well as the Cleaning Checklist duties; which include (but are not limited to):

GENERAL CLEANING

- ☐ Thoroughly clean out the yurt
 - ☐ Sweep out dirt, wood chips, and snow with a broom
 - ☐ Any small bits of garbage must be carried out
 - ☐ Clean and rinse food buckets
 - ☐ Insure fire in fire place is no longer burning
 - ☐ Pack out all garbage and food, including non-perishables and uneaten food scraps
 - ☐ Clean and dry the water jacket on the side of the stove. If stove is hot please do not leave jacket attached
 - ☐ Empty all water containers dry them, and place upside down
 - ☐ Move any flammables (paper, kindling) away from the wood stove
 - ☐ Replenish the yurt with split fire wood and kindling. Leave wood box full
 - ☐ Make sure the toilet seat is closed and the toilet door is closed and secure
 - ☐ Burn all used toilet paper in the wood stove before departure
 - ☐ Close and secure the door to the wood shed
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- ☐ Place anything that belongs in the yurt, like the axe and maul, inside the yurt.
 - ☐ Carefully close yurt window coverings
 - ☐ Securely fasten and lock the yurt door using the padlock on the dead bolt, do not lock door handle
 - ☐ Call 801-626-6373 and leave a message if the yurt needs any supplies or repairs
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- Create bleach and water solution (solutions will freeze if premade)
 - ☐ Fill spray bottle with one cap of bleach
 - ☐ Fill spray bottle to water line
 - Use bleach and water solution to spray and wipe down all:
 - ☐ Top and bottom of sleeping mats
 - ☐ Kitchen counter surfaces
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Happy Yurting!!!