

Ski Iowa

Midwest hills are alive with snow and skiers

By Jeff Morgan
The Press-Citizen

Downhill skiing in Iowa might not reach the same grade as in Colorado, Utah or Wyoming, but the Midwest has its share of fun and exciting slopes.

Here's a look at some slopes in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, all within a day's drive.

Iowa

Dayton Dell Ski Area, near Dayton on Highway 175, five miles from the Des Moines River Bridge and three-fourths of a mile north. Slopes range up to 2,460 feet long. The steepest slope is 750 feet long and 242 feet high. Call (515) 547-2410.

Fun Valley, near Montezuma, eight miles south of Interstate 80 and 2½ miles west of the Modern Floor Covering building on Highway 63. Features wide open skiing, with areas for beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers. Call (515) 623-3456.

Horseshoe Bend, two miles south and three miles west of Milford. One 650-foot ski run, a rope tow and a ski lift. Sledding areas include a 1,000-foot hill with a tow. Call (712) 332-2103.

Mount Crescent Ski Area, seven miles north of Council Bluffs on Highway 183, has nine slopes open 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., a chair-lift system and a restaurant/lodge area. It also is open for night skiing from midnight to 6 a.m. Saturdays. For more information, call (712) 545-3850.

Nor-Ski Runs, near Decorah, 1½ miles north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 52 and Iowa Highway 9. It offers beginners slopes at about 400 feet, intermediates hills up to 1,200 feet and an expert slope at 950 feet. Open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Call (319) 382-4158.

Riverside Hills Ski Area, south of Estherville on Highway 4. Two T-bars and one rope tow haul skiers up a 1,200 foot novice hill, two intermediate hills up to 1,400 feet and a 750-foot advanced run. Call (712) 362-5376.

Silver Creek Ski Area, three miles east and a half mile north of Humboldt on Highway 3. Eleven slopes, 900 feet each, stretch across Des Moines River bottomland. There are four beginner runs up to 850 feet long, five intermediate hills, the longest of which is 1,200 feet, and two advanced runs about 700 feet each. The ski area also boasts a new lounge and two T-bar lifts. Call (515) 332-3329.

Sundown, 9000 Asbury Road, 3¼ miles west of Dubuque. Features 17 runs up to ½ mile long, three rope tows, three chairlifts, advanced, advanced intermediate, intermediate and beginner runs. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call (319) 556-6676 for information or to make reservations, and (319) 556-0100 for snow report.

Illinois

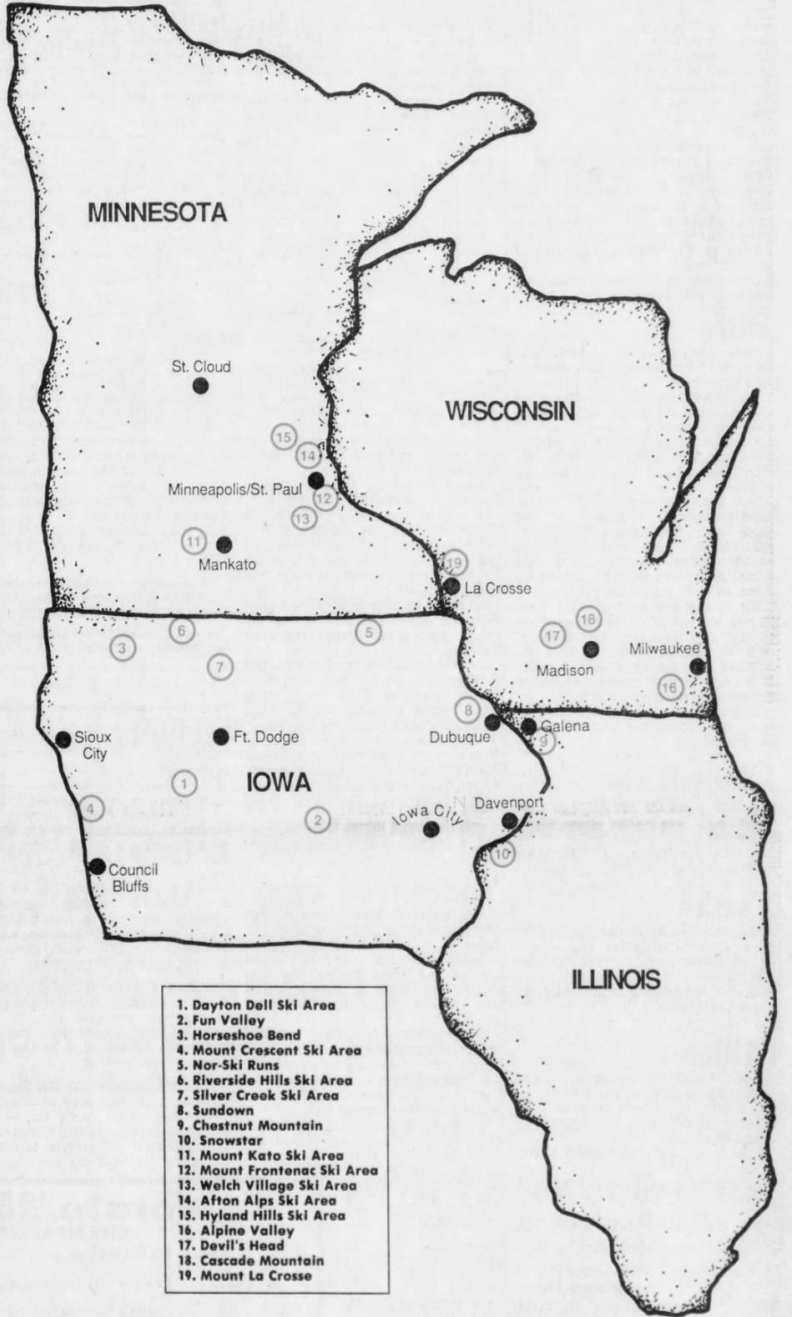
Chestnut Mountain, Galena. A \$1 million summer expansion project has brought the number of slopes at Chestnut up to 16. Nestled amid hills and timber overlooking the Mississippi River, Chestnut offers long, sloping hills for beginners and chills and thrills for experts. Outside Illinois, call 1-800-435-2914.

Snowstar, Andalusia, about 15 miles southwest of the Quad Cities, offers nine ski runs, two chair lifts, two rope tows, lighting for night skiing and snow-making equipment. Call (319) 792-2666.

Minnesota

Mount Kato Ski Area, south of Mankato on Highway 66, has 17 ski runs and eight chair lifts. Call (507) 625-3363.

Mount Frontenac Ski Area, south of Red Wing, has nine runs, chair lifts



1. Dayton Dell Ski Area
2. Fun Valley
3. Horseshoe Bend
4. Mount Crescent Ski Area
5. Nor-Ski Runs
6. Riverside Hills Ski Area
7. Silver Creek Ski Area
8. Sundown
9. Chestnut Mountain
10. Snowstar
11. Mount Kato Ski Area
12. Mount Frontenac Ski Area
13. Welch Village Ski Area
14. Afton Alps Ski Area
15. Hyland Hills Ski Area
16. Alpine Valley
17. Devil's Head
18. Cascade Mountain
19. Mount La Crosse

and rope tows. Call (612) 388-5826.

Welch Village Ski Area, near Welch has 30 runs, chair lifts and rope tows. Call (800) 421-0699 outside Minnesota.

Afton Alps Ski Area in Hastings has 36 runs, 18 chair lifts and two rope tows. For more information call (800) 382-1328.

Hyland Hills Ski Area, near Bloomington, has 14 runs, chair lifts, rope

tows and a chalet and lounge. Call (612) 833-4604.

Wisconsin

Alpine Valley, near East Troy, has 11 slopes, three chair lifts and four tow ropes.

Devil's Head, near Merrimac, has 13 runs, chair lifts and tow ropes. Call (800) 338-4579.

Cascade Mountain, 30 miles north of Madison off Interstate 90. The mountain's 12 runs range up to nearly a mile in length. There are 12 trails, T-bars, rope tows and chairlifts. Call (312) 355-6555.

Mount La Crosse, south of La Crosse on Highway 35. It has chair lifts, rope tows and 14 runs up to a mile long. Call (608) 788-0044.