

Eight slopes in Iowa developed for skiing, tubing, snowboarding

SKI

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for adults, \$18 for juniors, \$15 for children. Evenings: \$19 for adults, \$15 for juniors, \$12 for children.

Number of runs: 10, beginner to advanced. Longest is 2,000 feet; vertical drop is 300 feet.

Lifts: Double chairlift, poma lift, T-bar and handle lift.

Lessons: Prices range from \$12 for group lessons to \$25 for private instruction.

Equipment: Weekend rental is \$15 for adults, \$14 for juniors, \$13 for children. Weekday rental is \$14 for adults, \$13 for juniors, \$12 for children.

Other activities: Snowboards welcome and available for rent at \$4 a day. Snowboarders can use all runs, but there's one area specifically for them.

Etc.: The midnight ski, from 10 p.m. Saturday until 4 a.m. Sunday, is a popular event. Cost is \$22 for adults, \$18 for juniors, \$15 for children.

Nor-Ski

Location: Highway 52, north of

Dubuque. (319) 382-2321 or (319) 382-4158.

Hours: 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 1 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends (depends on snow cover).

Cost: Prices last year were \$7 for adults; \$6 for high school age and younger. New rates after Dec. 15.

Number of runs: Three, a beginning, an intermediate and an advanced.

Lifts: Three rope tows, one T-bar tow.

Lessons: \$3 per person for group lessons, \$6 private (last season).

Equipment: \$7 for adults, \$6 for high school age and younger (last season).

Other activities: Snowboarding.

Etc.: No snow-making; skiing depends upon snowfall.

Riverside Hills

Location: Highway 4, southwest of Estherville. (712) 362-5376 or (800) 286-5376.

Hours: 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays; noon to 9 p.m. Sundays. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily during Christmas vacation.

Cost: Weekend and holiday rate is \$12 for age 13 and over, \$12 for 12 and under. Evening rate (after 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays) is \$8 for 13 and over, \$6 for 12 and under.

Number of runs: Six, mostly beginning and intermediate. Longest is 1,900 feet; vertical drop is 190 feet.

Lifts: Two T-bars, one rope tow.

Lessons: \$1 for a mini-lesson with lift ticket; private lessons are \$8 an hour.

Equipment: Rental is \$12 all day, \$10 for evenings.

Other activities: Snowboarding rental is \$4 an hour, \$12 all day.

Etc.: A big snow in the area helped Riverside Hills open in early November, but warm weather didn't keep the place open long.

Seven Oaks Recreation

Location: Four miles west of Boone on Highway 30. (515) 432-9457.

Hours: noon to 9:30 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekends.

Cost: Weekend rate is \$16 for age 10 and older, \$6 for children. Weekday rate is \$10 for 10 and older, \$6 for children.

Number of runs: 10, mostly advanced and intermediate. Longest is 1,800 feet; vertical drop is 275 feet.

Lifts: One triple chairlift, one high-speed rope tow, one beginner rope tow.

Lessons: Free beginner lessons with lift ticket; \$15 for private lessons. Groups of three or more, \$5 apiece.

Equipment: Rental is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children weekends and weekdays.

Other activities: Mogul skiing and snowboarding. Snowboards rent for \$3 an hour, \$15 per day.

Etc.: Formerly Ski Valley, Seven Oaks is in its first season under new ownership. . . . Season passes are \$200 for adults, \$140 for children and \$450 for a family of four. Passes are also good at Fun Valley in Montezuma, and Powder Ridge and Buckhill in Minnesota.

Sleepy Hollow Sports Park

Location: 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines. (515) 262-4100.

Hours: noon to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; noon to 10 p.m. Fridays; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays; closed Mondays. The ski hill shuts down from 5 to 6 p.m. for grooming.

Cost: Weekend and holiday day session, \$14; weekend and holiday evening session, \$10; 4-hour mini session (good until 5 p.m.) \$12. Weekday day session, \$12, weekday evenings \$10. Group rates available.

Number of runs: Nine, mostly intermediate.

Lifts: Quad chairlift, rope tow.

Lessons: 1-hour group lesson, \$6; 1-hour semi-private lesson, \$9; 1-hour private lesson, \$15. Call 262-4100.

Equipment: Weekend day rental, \$8; mini-session rental, \$5; weekend evening rental, \$5. Weekday rental, \$8; weekday evening rental, \$5. Age 9 and under, no rental fee.

Other activities: Snowboarders are welcome; a separate snowboard park has its own tow rope and jumps. Six tubing runs are about 1,000 feet long. **Etc.:** Late-night skiing or tubing events are available with reservations; banquet and party facilities are available. Call (515) 263-9707.

Sundown Ski Area

Location: West of Dubuque. (319)

556-6676.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Cost: All-day weekday tickets are \$24 for adults, \$20 for youth and seniors (ages 5-11, 65-69); all-day weekend tickets are \$30 for adults, \$26 for youth and seniors. Cheaper rates for shorter stays. Age 70 and over or 6 and under ski free.

Number of runs: 22, mostly intermediate. Longest run is 4,000 feet; vertical drop is 475 feet, the highest in Iowa.

Lifts: Five chairlifts.

Lessons: Group lessons are \$13 each; individual lessons are \$28.

Equipment: Regular skis rent for \$20 a day for adults, \$16 for youth and seniors; shaped skis, \$28.

Other activities: Snowboarding; all-day rental is \$33.

Etc.: Expanded terrain park, with jumps designed for snowboarders, although skiers welcome.

Silver Creek Ski Resort

Location: Three miles east of Humboldt. (712) 545-3850.

Hours: 4 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; other days by reservation.

Cost: \$15 for adults, \$12 for age 12 and under.

Number of runs: 13; the longest is about 1,500 feet; vertical drop is 150 feet.

Lifts: Two T-bars, three rope tows.

Lessons: Private lessons are \$20 an hour.

Equipment: Ski rentals are \$10 per person; snowboard rentals are \$5 an hour.

Other activities: Tubing and snowboarding with lifts. Snowboarders can use all hills and also have a separate park.

Etc.: The owners are targeting a Dec. 15 opening. . . . A full-service restaurant and lounge is open and available for private parties.

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