

January 7, 2008

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Winter Trails Day

The Flathead National Forest, in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the North Shore Nordic Club, is sponsoring a free family snowshoe walk in celebration of Winter Trails Day on Saturday, January 12. The free event is one of several events scheduled in the Flathead Valley for the annual National Winter Trails Day. This national celebration is a great way to discover the fitness and social benefits of winter activities in Northwest Montana.

The free family snowshoe walk on the Flathead National Forest will be at the Blacktail Mountain cross-country ski trails near Lakeside, 10am-noon. Participants may bring snowshoes, or a limited number of children's and adult's shoes will be available by reservation. The event is family oriented and an opportunity to learn about snowshoeing. A scavenger hunt and identifying wildlife tracks and winter birds will be included in the fun. Please meet at the upper trailhead parking area. Reservations are not required. For more information or to reserve snowshoes, please contact 837-7500.

Other events for Saturday, January 12, include;

-Ranger-led snowshoe hikes at Glacier National Park at 10:30am and 1:30pm. Each hike will last approximately two hours and reservations are not required. Please meet at the Apgar Visitor Center. Call 888-7939 for more information. -Snowshoe outing with Ravenwood Natural Science Center from 9:30am – 2pm. Please meet at the Ferndale Fire Department Parking Lot (three miles east of Bigfork on Highway 209) by 9:30am. Some snowshoes are available. Please call 837-7279 for more information.

-Beginner cross-country skiing lesson with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks from 9am – noon. Meet at Lone Pine State Park and carpool to Herron Park for lesson. Participants must bring own equipment and there is a fee for the class. Participants limited to ten. Call 755-2706 for reservations.

For more information about Winter Trails Day visit <u>www.wintertrails.org</u>. For more information about local events in celebration of Winter Trails Day visit <u>www.flatheadcore.org</u>.

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