

## My Ski trip site visit

### Environmental issues:

This is a huge issue as we will be spending most of our time in the outdoor environment. The weather can be very changeable up on the mountain and changes in temperature can cause problems like hypothermia if the weather gets too cold. It could also affect visibility so that you may get lost on the mountain. Getting lost and the cold weather could make problem of hypothermia worse. This can last for days and bad visibility usually means snow and wind making it colder still. High winds can make it even colder still with wind chill factor usually a lot lower than normal air temperature. Checking the weather forecast on the mountain website or national weather reports is a good way to address this. And if the weather looks like it is going to be bad then you do not have to ski. Also keeping to trails on the mountain so that if the weather does change you have a clear track of the mountain and there will be staff to help you off. Simple things like not littering will show respect to the land. Since there aren't many bins on the mountain take your rubbish with you and throw it away in the bins whether in the cafe on the mountain or wait till you get back down to throw it away. Also when living in the lodge the water we have is running on tank water so we must make sure we aren't wasting any. Simple things like having short showers will maintain our water level and also help the environment. Remember Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

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### Equipment factors:

Making sure you all have the right equipment is essential for this trip as we will be conditions which can change quickly. I will be giving you a gear check list which will include several thermals and polyprops as they are definitely be needed when in the snow. Having water proof ski pants and jacket is essential, if you don't have your own or can't borrow you are able to hire them on the mountain. Everyone will also have to wear helmets when on the mountain as it is a basic item that will keep you safe. You are able to hire helmets, ski jacket and pants, ski/snowboards and ski/snowboard boots at the mountain but you will need to provide warm gloves and socks also a beanie and scarf, goggles or sunglasses will also be handy. You will get professionally checked and fitted into your skis or snowboards if you hire them at the mountain this will keep you safe as your feet are perfectly in place. For skiers we will be using poles which will be handy for getting off the chairlifts and for helping you move around the flat part of the mountain. Equipment for in the lodge is just casual gear that will keep you warm and relaxed.

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### School policies:

Even though in the School Policy Rules it says that you can't take your phone away on EOTC trips I am allowing you to take your cell phone - it will be used to keep in contact with teachers or others on the mountain if you're in an emergency or for some reason need to get hold of a teacher for help. There are strict rules with taking your cell phone, there are to be no texts sent to parents or friends if something goes wrong. I can reassure you that if there is a serious problem the teachers will have it under control and they will notify the school and parents if they need to instead of you students. Also before leaving you must sign the student contract which says students may not consume alcohol or drugs. If this contract is broken you will instantly get sent home and the school, your parents and principle will be informed.

**Socio-cultural factors local iwi:**

Mt Ruapehu's local Iwi is Ngati Rangī. Mt Ruapehu Iwi's land is very sacred and Maori culture is still very important at this time. Iwi Ngati Rangī was one of the first Iwi's to hand over their land to the Pakeha so with this we must respect the land we tread on to show respect to the Iwi and to the ancient people who founded the land.

**Ethical factors:**

An ethical question that is raised with this trip is whether it is right to be taking girls out of school for 3 days for a PE camp. I think this is ok as in previous years girls have been away for 5 days instead of 3. So now we will leave on the Monday after school then return Thursday afternoon ready for school the following day on Friday. This is a great idea as the girls will have a chance to go to school at the start of the week to talk to their teachers and ask what will be taught during the week and what work they can do whilst they are away. Also being back on Friday allows the girls to talk to their teachers again about work they have missed or about the work they did whilst they were one camp. There will also be time in the afternoon and night after skiing to do work that is needed to be done. I also think the girls will experience great life skills whilst away as not only will they be skiing but they will be socializing with others they may not normally socialize with, they will be doing chores daily which they also may have not done before and I also think it is a great way to enhance their leadership skills as they will need to come to grips with an environment they are not used to being in.

**Philosophical factors (such as those factors that make outdoor education an option for students):**

Obviously a skiing trip will be quite expensive as there are several things that need to be paid for, so when planning this trip I will have to keep that in mind. If the trip is too much for majority of the class I would have to re-plan to try to accommodate all the students

**Consultation with stakeholders (landowners. iwi):**

Before heading away and planning I must talk with the President of the ski club asking permission to let us all stay at the lodge. Conveniently the booking officer is also the president which makes it easier for me to plan. Since the land we will be staying on has been shared with Pakeha from the local Iwi there was no need for me to specifically speak to the Iwi.