

Ski deals for seniors

• Several resorts in Michigan offer deals to attract seniors

TRAVERSE CITY — Ski areas across Michigan want senior citizens to include skiing as one of their major recreational activities.

Ski areas and resorts recognize seniors as a burgeoning group with disposable income, and more leisure time.

"We want them to ski, not flee to warmer climates," said Steve Kershner, president of the Michigan Snowsport Industries Association and director of skiing for Shanty Creek.

Nearly all facilities welcome senior skiers — some as young as 50 — with outstanding discounts and exciting programs.

At Alpine Valley in White Lake, seniors 65 and up ski for just \$15, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., holidays excluded. Seniors 80-plus who belong to the Over the Hill Gang ski free with membership and I.D. cards.

Apple Mountain in Freeland offers \$5 off lift tickets to seniors 65-plus everyday.

At Big Powderhorn of Bessemer in the Upper Peninsula, seniors 65 and over pay \$17 per lift ticket, anytime.

Bittersweet of Otsego offers \$2 off any rate for seniors, 60-plus.

Blackjack Ski Resort of Bessemer lets seniors, 65-plus, pay child rates everyday.

At Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls and Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs, lift tickets are discounted for seniors 65-plus. Tickets for seniors are \$24, Monday-Thursday, \$25 on Friday, \$31 on Saturday, and \$29 on Sunday. The Boynes have a new 4½ hour lift ticket, 12-4:30 p.m., seven days a week, that ranges from \$11-25.

At Cadillac's, Caberfae Peaks Ski and Golf Resort, seniors 65-plus are offered the Silver Streak program, Tuesday through Thursday for \$14.00, lift, rental and lesson included.

Cannonsburg Ski Area in Cannonsburg offers the Silver Streakers program, seniors 50 and over get \$4 off midweek and weekend lift tickets.

Cross Country Ski Headquarters in Roscommon offers Silver Streak week.



Photo by Joan O'Neill

Seniors enjoy special perks at many resorts.

For 2003, it's Jan. 23-27, Monday through Friday. During these dates, seniors 55 and older get their cross-country ski and snowshoe pass on the house and a free chance to try some cross country skis and boots or snowshoes from the Headquarters' demo program.

At Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, offers a Lifetime Pass for \$80, for seniors 80 years young and up to enjoy unlimited skiing for seasons to come. Seniors, 60 and up ski free with midweek lodging and receive 50 percent off day lift tickets, cross country trail passes, rental equipment, Nastar racing and group lessons. Since skiing is a multi-generational experience, Crystal now allows up to four grandparents, 60 and older, to sleep and ski free when sharing accommodations with two full-paying adults.

At The Homestead in Glen Arbor, senior citizens 62-plus ski free.

Indianhead of Wakefield offers seniors 65 and over reduced rates at \$22 on Saturday or Sunday and \$19, Monday through Friday.

Mt. Brighton in Brighton, offers 50 percent discounts off their regular lift ticket prices to skiers 62 plus.

At Mt. Holly Ski Resort of Holly, seniors 65 and over, receive \$3.00 off regular ticket prices and 5 percent off season passes.

Norway Mountain of Norway in the Upper Peninsula offers seniors 65 and over half price lift tickets, everyday.

If you're 65-69 years of age, at Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs you pay a reduced rate for a lift ticket. All 70-plus seniors ski free.

Pine Knob Ski Resort of Clarkston, offers \$3 off lift tickets and five percent off season passes for seniors 65 and over.

At the Upper Peninsula's Pine Mountain Resort, in Iron Mountain, seniors 65 and over, can ski a full day for \$20, a half day for \$10 and receive 10 percent off lodging. Pine Mountain is selling season passes to seniors 65 and up for \$139.

Shanty Creek in Bellaire offers free skiing to anyone 55 plus during Silver Streak Week in January, and special lodging rates are also available.

During the entire season, those aged 55-69 can purchase lift tickets at teen prices and anyone 70 years or older skis free all the time.

Ski Brule in Iron River offers \$3 off full price lift tickets to seniors 60 and up and an Early Bird Senior Season Pass for \$100.

Skyline Ski in Grayling allows skiers 70-plus to ski free.

Snow Snake Mountain in Harrison allows anyone over 70 to ski free.

At Swiss Valley Ski Area in Jones, seniors 65 and up receive half price off lift tickets and ski rental, any time.

Timber Ridge in Gobles cuts lift ticket prices in half for anyone over 60.

On Wednesdays, Timber Ridge has Senior Spree with \$10 lift tickets for those 55 and up who arrive before noon.

At Treetops Resort in Gaylord, seniors 65 and up pay just \$2 for a lift ticket, excluding holidays.

"With all the discounts offered to senior citizens, there is really no excuse for staying indoors," Kershner says.