

Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for January 4:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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stateparks.utah.gov

- Helmets, Safety are Focus of Utah Snowmobile Safety Week
- Cisco Disco, Monster Plunge at Bear Lake State Park
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

HELMETS, SAFETY ARE FOCUS OF UTAH SNOWMOBILE SAFETY WEEK

Salt Lake City - Utah State Parks and Recreation is stressing helmets, safety and education as part of Utah Snowmobile Safety Week, January 16 through 22 and throughout the snowmobile season. Two snowmobilers have lost their lives this season, and snowmobile program managers want to prevent additional fatalities and injuries.

“We want everyone to be prepared before heading into the backcountry by knowing laws and rules, riding safely, respecting avalanche dangers, and wearing safety gear,” said Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Education Specialist Ann Evans.

Utah law requires youth eight to 15 to complete the Utah State Parks Know Before You Go! online snowmobile education course before operating on public lands, roads or trails. Anyone 16 or older must have a valid Utah driver’s license or a safety certificate to operate a snowmobile on public land. It is illegal for any child under age eight to operate an OHV on public land. The snowmobile course is available at stateparks.utah.gov/ohv.

All youth under age 18 are required by law to wear a properly-fitted and fastened helmet. Utah State Parks strongly recommends that all riders wear helmets.

Evans offers these following safety tips:

- Never ride alone. Always ride with a companion and let others know your plan.
- Check weather reports and avalanche advisories at utahavalanchecenter.org. Be prepared by wearing an avalanche beacon, and carrying a shovel and probe.
- Dress for changing weather conditions. Wear layered clothing to adjust for changing conditions.

- Know basic maintenance procedures. Carry spark plugs, drive belts, a tool kit, and a survival kit that contains a map, compass, flashlight, extra food, extra clothing, sunglasses, first aid kit, pocket knife, waterproof matches, and candles or fire starters.

For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/ohv. Stay on the trail!

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CISCO DISCO, MONSTER PLUNGE AT BEAR LAKE STATE PARK

Garden City – Do the Cisco Disco at Cisco Beach on the east side of Bear Lake Saturday, January 22 from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Dip a net into the water and catch your share of these small whitefish that make their annual run through Bear Lake.

After the Cisco Disco, drive to Garden City on the west side of Bear Lake for a variety of events. At 10 a.m., register to take an icy swim during the Bear Lake Monster Plunge at Bear Lake State Park Marina. Plunging begins at noon and benefits Primary Children’s Medical Center. Enjoy all day ice skating at the city office building (bring your own skates). Warm cocoa and snacks will be served. For additional information, visit www.bearlakechamber.com, www.bearlake.org or call 800-448-BEAR (2327).

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UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

January 20 Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum - Vernal Lecture: Join us at 7 p.m. for a free lecture by Paleontologist Benjamin Burger on paleoclimate and biodiversity of the Eocene. 435-789-3799

January 21 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway Full Moon Snowshoe Hike: Join Friends of Wasatch Mountain at 7 p.m. for the annual snowshoe hike under the light of the full moon. Hikes for families with children, beginners, intermediate and advanced snowshoers are available. Cost is \$5. Snowshoe rentals are also available for \$5 per pair or free for Friends members. Registration is required. 435-654-1791

January 21 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins Winter Circle: Join us at 7:30 p.m. for a 1.5-mile, round-trip hike and the opportunity to explore the Winter Circle, a bright pattern of stars adorning our cold January skies! Event is free and open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. 435-628-2255

January 22 Jordanelle State Park - Heber Moonlight Snowshoe Hike: Join us at the Hailstone Event Center at 8 p.m. to learn about the moon and afterwards, take a moonlight snowshoe hike. 435-649-9540

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