



Alpental Backcountry Policy and Release of Liability

- A. The area north of the rope marking the north boundary of the developed portion of the Alpental Ski Area (also known as the "Forever Rope") and accessible from Alpental's lifts is known as the "Backcountry."
- B. The Backcountry is *outside* of the developed portion of the ski area. This means that hazards and dangers, including without limitation, large cliffs, obstacles, changing snow conditions and avalanche-prone slopes, are unmarked and uncontrolled. This also means that this area is *not patrolled* by the Alpental Ski Patrol, and there is *no* avalanche control. *There are no designated trails or runs in the Backcountry.*
- C. In consideration for the use of Alpental's ski lifts and other facilities, and as a condition to access the Backcountry from Alpental, the following regulations apply:
1. Access to the Backcountry shall only be allowed through designated gates in the Forever Rope. Under no circumstances may a rope line at Alpental be crossed.
 2. Prior to entering the Backcountry for the first time, a skier/rider must have registered with the Alpental Ski Patrol. After being accompanied by an Alpental Ski Pro Patroller through the Backcountry, a registered skier/rider may be issued a Backcountry Registration Card.
 3. Access to the Backcountry is permitted only when a designated gate in the Forever Rope is OPEN and the sign at the gate reads:

Backcountry Registration Card Holders Only (Unless Accompanied by Alpental Pro Patrol)

This designation indicates that the Alpental Ski Pro Patrol has determined that skiing/riding in the Backcountry at this time present hazards only to the individual skier/rider and those within his/her immediate group. As described above, these hazards include (without limitation): The risk of falling from large unmarked cliffs, the risk of colliding with unmarked obstacles, and the risk of burial or injury by avalanche, all of which may result in injury, death, or property damage.
 4. Access to the Backcountry is *Absolutely Prohibited* except as indicated above.
 5. Alpental assumes *no responsibility* for performing rescues in the Backcountry. If a rescue in the Backcountry is necessary and Alpental undertakes that rescue, the *skier/rider agrees to pay all costs associated with* such a rescue.
- D. Skiing/Riding in the Backcountry is an activity entirely different from skiing in a developed ski area and includes significant risks and hazards above and beyond those encountered in developed ski areas. These additional risks and hazards include (without limitation) those described above. Backcountry skiing/riding is winter mountaineering. In particular, the Alpental Ski Patrol *strongly recommends* that backcountry skiers/riders observe the following precautions:
1. Every skier/rider should be prepared to deal with avalanche hazard, which exists to *some degree at all times*. Such preparation includes route finding knowledge, the knowledge of how to use an avalanche transceiver and the carrying of an avalanche transceiver and a shovel at all times. An avalanche safety course is strongly recommended.
 2. At least one person in a group skiing/riding in the Backcountry should be familiar with the route. Large cliffs are numerous and there are only a limited number of ways down.
 3. Persons should enter the Backcountry only in groups of three or more. The Backcountry is *not patrolled by Alpental Ski Patrol*. If one group should be injured, a party size of three or more would permit one person to stay with the injured person while the other could leave to make arrangements for rescue (please note that *Alpental assumes no responsibility for such a rescue, and if a rescue is undertaken in the Backcountry, the person rescued may be charged for the cost of the rescue*).

ISSUING PATROLLER _____

BACKCOUNTRY CARD NUMBER _____

Release of Liability, Acknowledgement of Risks and Hazards and Agreement Not to Sue

I have read the foregoing and understand and acknowledge the danger of skiing/riding in the Backcountry. I understand that such danger includes the hazard of death or injury resulting from avalanches, unmarked obstacles, and unmarked cliffs. I understand that skiing in the Backcountry requires the skill of an expert skier, and I affirm that I have such skill. I understand that while skiing in the Backcountry I will not be under the supervision or protection of Alpental in any way, even if accompanied by an Alpental employee or affiliate. I understand that avalanche danger is present in the Backcountry *at all times*, even when access from Alpental is permitted. I agree to observe all conditions and regulations set forth above. In consideration for use of the Alpental lifts and other facilities, and for access to the Backcountry from Alpental, I hereby promise not to bring a claim against or sue, and agree to *release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify* Alpental, Ski Lifts, Inc. DBA The Summit at Snoqualmie, the United States Forest Service, and all parent companies, directors, officers, affiliates, employees, agents, successors and assigns from all liability of any kind or nature which may arise in connection with skiing/riding in the Backcountry, accepting and assuming for myself all of the risks, hazards and dangers attendant with my entry into, and my use of, the Backcountry. The terms of this release shall serve as a release and assumption of all risks for my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and for all members of my family, including any minor, whether or not in my company. I agree that I may lose both my Backcountry Registration Card and my lift privileges and any other privileges associated with the use of lifts or facilities at Alpental, if I fail to observe any of the conditions set forth above. I understand that while Alpental is not responsible for rescuing me, if I require assistance while skiing in the Backcountry, I may be charged any and all costs associated with such assistance if a rescue is undertaken, and I agree to pay such costs.

NAME (please print): _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND BACKCOUNTRY POLICY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Participant Under 18 Years of Age: As parent/guardian of the minor named above, I acknowledge and agree that I have read the foregoing, and I agree to INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS Releasees for any claim or suit arising out of said minors' participation in the activity or said minors' presence on Releasees' premises. I also agree to be responsible for rescue and medical expenses incurred by the minor(s).

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (please print): _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Confirmed:

By telephone In person

Patroller: _____ Date: _____