

Walking in a winter wonderland

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Don't be left out in the cold this winter. Oregon offers many seasonal activities, many close to home.

The first thing that comes to mind in winter is snow. Luckily, Oregon City is located near Oregon's snow-covered mountains. Mt. Hood Meadows, Timberline and Skibowl are just a few locations where you can ski or snowboard. The main difference between these lodges are the slopes. Each lodge has its own portion of the mountain with trails ranging from beginner to difficult. Look at lift tickets and rental prices while planning your trip. Skiing and snowboarding can get expensive; fortunately, Meadows offers discounts by ordering online.

If you're not looking to break the bank this season or are not sure about skiing or snowboarding, Skibowl offers cosmic tubing, which combines laser lights, black lights, reflective snow tubes and a rocking sound system. Not only is tubing cheaper than skiing or snowboarding, but Skibowl offers a student discount for current high school and college students.

Another thing that comes to mind when thinking of winter is ice. The Lloyd Center ice skating rink doesn't offer a student discount, but prices are a cheaper alternative to mountain activities.

For those who are not necessarily active, watching the Portland Winterhawks is a good option. In addition to regularly scheduled games, on Friday, Dec. 11, Les Schwab will be on site to collect new, unwrapped toys for their toy drive. After the game, ladies 18 and older are invited to the ice for a chance to win a free ham in the annual Fred Meyer Ham Shoot. For those who prefer basketball, the Portland Trail Blazers will host the New York Knicks on Dec. 12 and the New Orleans Pelicans on Dec. 14. The Blazers are also playing the Cleveland Cavaliers on Dec. 26 and the Denver Nuggets on Dec. 30 at home.

Options that are even closer to home include events held here at Clackamas Community College. Women's basketball will play league games against Southwestern Oregon at home on Jan. 2 and at Linn-Benton on Jan. 6. The men are also playing league games, as well as hosting an alumni game. The wrestling team's duels are all away, so in order to watch those, a road trip may be involved.

