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Brian Bossuyt

Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

bbossuyt@poconos.org

PoconoMountains.com/ [@PoconoTourismPR](https://twitter.com/PoconoTourismPR)

570.421.5791

Pocono Mountains' Ski Areas Expand Offerings

More snowmaking and more activities welcome 2016-2017 ski season.

POCONO MOUNTAINS, Pa., December 13, 2016 – Temperatures have dropped again and snowmaking has resumed in the [Pocono Mountains](http://PoconoMountains.com/). For the most up-to-date information on opening dates and snow conditions, visit the PoconoMountains.com [Snow Conditions](#) page.

“Now that Mother Nature has cast a cold spell upon us, I think guests to the Pocono Mountains are looking forward to another great winter season,” said Carl Wilgus, President and CEO of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau (PMVB). “From snowmaking and snowsports programs to lodging and dining options, the region’s ski areas have more to offer than ever before.”

All six Pocono Mountains ski areas have something new for the 2016-2017 ski season.

Big Boulder, open daily, joins the snow blast movement with its own wizardry. SMI snowmaking fan guns boost the ride and slide experience on parks and trails. For the tubing crowd, the way to the top includes a 600' magic carpet to ease the way up before the thrill of the ride down. Winter buffs will also glide into newly refurbished lodges and have an enhanced choice of rental equipment. For more information, visit <http://www.jfbb.com/>.

Innovation is alive and well at **Blue Mountain, planning to open on December 14th**. They purchased a lumber mill to recycle fallen trees to be used in their Bike Park and for creating new Terrain Park features and materials. Terrain Based Learning features have been expanded to assist in teaching skiing and snowboarding to kids and adults. A New “Winter Adventure Camp” will offer a 4-week program for intermediate and advanced skiers and snowboarders ages 8-14; this program is designed to develop all mountain skills in a fun and experiential environment. The program is offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings beginning January 7,

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2017. The Pioneer Program for ages 6-10 is back by popular demand; this 4-week program is offered on Sundays for beginners. A new Mobile Friendly POS system will offer guests easier ways to purchase tickets online this winter, too. For more information, visit <https://www.skibluemt.com/>.

Camelback Resort, planning to open on December 15th, continues its expansion with Galactic Snowtubing — “it’s out of this world”, *which plans to open on December 17th*! Camelback Resort is home to the largest snowtubing park in the U.S., with 42 lightning fast snowtubing lanes and two magic carpet rides taking riders and their tubes back to the top. Camelback will be launching the Galactic Snowtubing experience, offering after-dark thrills with laser lit lanes and an amazing LED light show. Guests can warm up in the new Base Camp Lodge located at the snowtubing park while enjoying signature items like waffles and delectable treats, no matter the time of day. Camelback opened Camelback Lodge, a multi-million dollar "ski-in-ski-out" hotel that has been crafted around the largest indoor waterpark, Aquatopia, in the northeast. On the slopes, learning programs maintain the mountain's reputation as a leader in converting beginners to lifetime ski and ride enthusiasts. For more information, visit <http://www.camelbackresort.com/>.

Where the snow comes first, **JACK FROST Mountain, planning to open on December 15th**, it's back to ramping up the snow with an expanded arsenal of hi-tech SMI fan guns to keep the powder inventory growing. Also, look for an expanded stock of new high-performance gear in the rental shop. Guests can enjoy an expanded restaurant that features burgers and flatbreads—and other great food items that are perfect for that laid-back lunch between runs or while relaxing after the lifts close with a nibble, a toddy and some acoustic music to keep the action alive. For more information, visit <http://www.jfbb.com/>.

At family and beginner-friendly **Shawnee Mountain planning to open on December 14th**, numerous improvements have been made over the summer to enhance its ski and snowboard facilities. Over 3000 feet of new snowmaking pipe has been installed, along with portable, high tech, big throw energy efficient fan guns as part of a multi-year, multi-million-dollar snowmaking upgrade project, for the 2016-2017 ski season. Adding to an already impressive ski equipment rental facility, for this winter Shawnee Mountain has 100 pairs of new Elan skis, 150 pairs of new Dalbello ski boots, 50 new Flow snowboards and 100 pairs of new Flow snowboard boots. As one of the largest rental shops in

the USA, they're able to outfit over 4000 skiers and snowboarders each day. New ALGE wireless electronic timing equipment has been added for their popular NASTAR recreational ski racing program and for their youth development racing school. Both programs are offered Saturdays and Sundays in January and February. For more information, visit <http://www.shawneemt.com/>.

Ski Big Bear at Masthope Mountain, planning to open on December 17th, is beginning an expansion of their teaching terrain including the addition of another surface lift to assist beginners in the quest to become lifelong skiers. Also, watch our Facebook page and website for information on this year's celebration of the World's Largest Lesson on Friday, January 6th. Continuing the front on learn to ski they will be offering a special price for a Learn to Ski/Snowboard package on Friday, January 6th of \$25. This special rate offers a beginner lesson, lift ticket and rental package valid anytime between 9am and 9pm. Bring your friends for this special offer and enjoy music, discounts on food and of course lots of fun! Want to be part of an attempt to set the record for the World's Largest Lesson? Be sure to request a 1pm lesson and join with others at ski areas all over the country as we try to make history!

In addition to six major ski areas, the Pocono Mountains offers endless ways to enjoy the winter months including snow tubing, ice skating, snow shoeing, dog sledding, tobogganing runs, sleigh rides and cross-country skiing. For Pocono Mountains ski area and winter information including conditions, rates, directions, ski and stay packages and more, visit PoconoSki.com.

About the Pocono Mountains

With 2,400 square miles encompassing Pennsylvania's Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties, the Pocono Mountains region is home to rolling mountain terrain, breathtakingly beautiful waterfalls, thriving woodlands and 170 miles of winding rivers. Winters offer guests the opportunity to ski, snowboard, snow tube and even snowshoe their way through snowy wonderlands encompassing over 150 ski trails, while summers also cater to the active traveler allowing exploration of 261 miles of hiking and biking trails, over 30 golf courses, whitewater rafting, boating, fishing and open access to nine state and two national parks.

Any time of year is a good time to visit the Pocono Mountains, located within driving distance of most major East Coast cities. This region teeming with history offers year-round cultural tours and art exhibitions, abundant antiquing and brand-name shopping and a full calendar of festivals showcasing the heritage, music and food of the Pocono Mountains.

Even the most discerning traveler will find comfortable accommodations in the Pocono Mountains, which offers an eclectic mix of resorts, distinctive properties and quaint, country inns and bed and breakfasts.

*Pocono Mountains visitor information is available online at PoconoMountains.com or by phone at **800-POCONOS** (800-762-6667). Follow @PoconoTourism on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Snapchat](#) to stay current with up-to-date information. Established in 1934, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is a private, non-profit, membership organization. The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is the official destination marketing organization for the four counties of Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne in northeastern Pennsylvania.*

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