



# Newsletter

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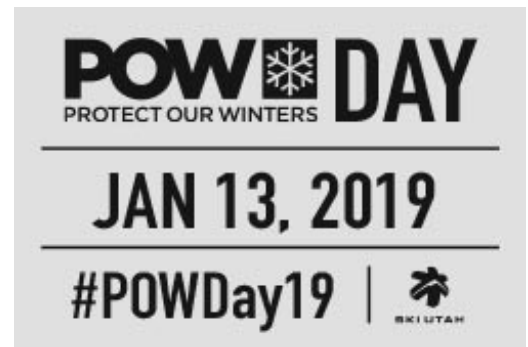


## POW Day

[Ski Utah](#) and [Protect our Winters](#) in partnership with [Utah Transit Authority \(UTA\)](#), [Alta Ski Area](#), [Powder Mountain](#), [Snowbird](#), [Solitude Mountain Resort](#) and [Sundance Mountain Resort](#) will collectively be encouraging skiers and riders to carpool, rideshare or ride UTA to help lower the CO2 emissions, reduce traffic congestion and increase awareness around environmental accountability as part of the fourth annual POW Day on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

Ski Utah has partnered with Protect our Winters since 2015 to raise local and national awareness around environmental responsibility and preserving healthy winters for generations to come. POW Day was established in 2016. January 13 is statistically the snowiest day in Utah based on 50 years of snow data.

Join us and encourage others to take action and ride the UTA Ski Bus or carpool to the mountains Sunday, January 13. Skiers can post #POWDay2019 to share your journey on January 13 to be entered to win a variety of prizes. Alta will be offering priority parking for carpools with three or more people. To learn more: [skiutah.com/media-room/pow-day](http://skiutah.com/media-room/pow-day)



## Come on Up to Cottonwood Canyons Foundation—By Taylor Mazzacavallo

Here at the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation we are hitting the ground running with the start of our winter education programs on January 5th. During the winter our dedicated volunteers can be seen throughout big and little cottonwood canyons, as well as, up at Alta Ski Area. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation partners with Alta to provide two types of naturalist tours, Tour With a Ranger and Snowshoe With a Naturalist.

For those who would like to learn a bit more about the area they are skiing in, joining our Rangers for a tour is a great opportunity! Tours meet at the top of Sunnyside chair lift at 1:30PM on Saturdays and Sundays through March. Rangers will be covering different topics each month, which includes canyon history, watershed, and geology. This program is free to the public visiting the ski area that day, with a valid ski pass.

Those that would rather enjoy the snow a little longer, we offer public snowshoe tours, where our winter naturalist will guide groups on a fun snowshoe tour. Participants will learn all the reason the Wasatch is so special, including watershed, wildlife, and about the forest that makes this place truly unique. These tours run once a month on Saturdays and conclude with our final tour being on Alta earth day. These tours are limited to 20 people, and can be registered for online through this link. These tours are \$10 per participant.

We hope to see many of you out there, looking to deepen your knowledge of the places we love to enjoy and call home!





Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead



Photos by Bryant Olsen

### Nature Nugget: Clark's Nutcracker

You may hear this year-round Alta resident before you see them, but they aren't hard to spot either. The Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga Columbiana*) is a fairly large bird with a great squawk of a call and a taste for Limber pines. Though not unique to Alta, they are unique to high elevations across the Rocky and Cascade ranges. Named after William Clark this bird was one of three new bird species brought back from his great expedition with Meriwether Lewis in 1806.

These mountain birds are truly rugged nesting as early as January or February, possibly so the young will be independent by late summer when it's time to start caching seeds. Come cone season, they hide thousands of seeds each year. Laboratory studies have shown these birds have tremendous memory and can remember where to find most of the seeds they hide up to 9 months later. They are also one of the few members of the corvid family where the males take turns incubating the eggs.

These nutcrackers have developed some special adaptations to assist with their primarily seed diet. They have a special pouch under their tongue to carry seeds long distances. They also test seeds by soundness by moving it up and down in their large strong bill while quickly opening and closing its bill, in a motion known as "bill clicking." Over time the Limber and Whitebark pines have also adapted to this bird by changing seeds, cones, and even the trees' overall shape in comparison with other pine species whose seeds are dispersed by the wind. (All facts from [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org))

### January & February Sustainability Events

- **Saturday, January 19—Naturalist Snowshoe Tour:** Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is taking registrations for an Alta adventure, monthly tours available. [alta.com/the-mountain/events](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events)
- **Thursday, January 24—National Geographic Explorer Mike Libeck:** ACE Come join National Geographic Explorer/Nat Geo Adventurer of the Year Mike Libeck for his annual presentation and fund raiser. [altaarts.org](http://altaarts.org)
- **Saturday, February 9—TreeUtah Snowshoe Tour:** Join TreeUtah and Wasatch Mountain State Park to learn how to identify trees without their leaves. [Treeutah.org](http://Treeutah.org)
- **Monday, February 11—Birding on Skis:** It's fun, it's different, and it's seeing birds in a whole new light. Join Tracy Aviary, the AEC and Friends of Alta for this monthly event. [alta.com/the-mountain/events](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events)
- **Thursday, February 14—Wild & Scenic Film Festival:** The Wild & Scenic Film Festival inspires people to heal the earth. Wild & Scenic is a call to action. [Altaarts.org](http://Altaarts.org)
- **Saturday, February 16th—Naturalist Snowshoe Tour:** Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is taking registrations for an Alta adventure, monthly tours available. [alta.com/the-mountain/events](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events)
- **Saturday, February 16th—Build a Bird Feeder:** During this 3-hour workshop, you will build a wooden bird feeder designed to help attract a wide variety of birds to your yard. Registration limited! [Altaarts.org](http://Altaarts.org)

