

2020-2021 Moose Mountain Snowshoe Challenge, open Dec 26 - Jan 9

[Register Here](#)

[Submit Results Here](#)

Park at 2809 Waldheim Drive (near the blue newspaper boxes in such a way that driveways and roadway remain accessible) **OR** at the cul-de-sac at the East end of Monte Verde (off Moose Mountain Rd from Spinach Creek by way of Murphy Dome Rd).

Please consider taking a mobile phone with you ZIPPED inside a pocket, possibly with a hand warmer to keep the battery from quitting so that you can contact someone if you get lost or run into trouble. The course will not be swept, so it is your responsibility to get back to your vehicle safely. Also, please make sure your car keys are inside a ZIPPED pocket.

You have **TWO course choices**, one is approximately 6K, the other (with even more breath-taking views) is about 9K.

6K “Short course” is marked in yellow-green flagging. Paper plates stapled to survey stakes add supplemental information at key locations. It is your responsibility to pay attention to trail markers at trail intersections!

Short (6K) course MMSSC map: <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/activity/674557330> and [annotated picture](#) with approximate miles shown in blue boxes.

IF you start from the **Monte Verde** cul-de-sac, after 0.25 miles on a nicely-groomed snow machine trail, you will take a hard left to join the course.

IF you start from **Waldheim**, follow the flagging and plate signs up the hill to the end of Waldheim and take a left on the snowmachine trail. Follow the flagging on the snowmachine trail until the snowshoe trail on the right. Take the right turn and follow the snowshoe trail. The trail will continue to be marked in both blue and yellow-green flagging. When the trail splits, look for paper plates on survey stakes to indicate the correct direction to turn. The first split is temporary, and either direction will work. At the second split in the trail take the right turn, which leads into a spruce forest in the Windy Creek valley. The third split occurs after leaving the spruce forest and crossing the Windy Creek gully (no water or ice). At the third split, turn left to follow the yellow markers to begin The Climb.

Both blue and yellow-green markers will accompany you for the next approximately half mile until you turn left at the top of The Climb. (In fact this is where you can decide which course you are actually going to complete since a right here will take you on the longer course!) --- describe first mile ---

After taking a left at the top of The Climb, you will wind through the woods for about 0.4 miles until you take a left to join a beautifully groomed multi-use trail. After 0.05 miles (indeed, just a

short jaunt), you turn left downhill onto a nice snowmachine trail. About 0.2 miles down this trail, you take yet another left! Continue your winding descent another 0.25 miles and take a final left! You will next merge with returning long course (you go straight-ish, the long course joins from your left). The sign here claims that you are within a kilometer of the finish. Distances are approximate. You will gradually climb until you come to the intersection with the snowmachine trail that connects Waldheim to Monte Verde. A right will take you to Monte Verde, while a left will take you to Waldheim. (Please pick the one that gets you back to your car, the snacks you packed, and the dry socks and boots you have ready to prevent your hard-working toes from frost-nip!) Congrats, you made it!

The 10K “Long course” is marked in **royal blue**. Paper plates stapled to survey stakes add supplemental information at key locations. It is your responsibility to pay attention to trail markers at trail intersections!

Long (9K) course MMSSC map: <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/activity/3389626591> and [annotated picture](#) with approximate kilometers markers in red boxes.

If you start from the Monte Verde cul-de-sac, after 0.25 miles on a nicely-groomed snow machine trail, you will take a hard left to join the course.

If you start from Waldheim follow the flagging up the hill to the end of Waldheim and take a left on the snowmachine trail. Follow the flagging on the snowmachine trail until the snowshoe trail on the right. Take the right turn and follow the snowshoe trail. It will continue to be marked in both blue and yellow-green flagging. When the trail splits, look for paper plates on survey stakes to indicate the correct direction to turn. The first split is temporary, and either direction will work. At the second split in the trail take the right turn, which leads into a spruce forest in the Windy Creek valley. The third split occurs after leaving the spruce forest and crossing the Windy Creek gully (no water or ice). At the third split turn left to follow the blue and yellow markers to begin The Climb.

Both blue and yellow-green markers will accompany you for the next approximately half mile until you reach the top of The Climb. (In fact this is where you can decide which course you are actually going to complete since a right here will take you on the longer course!)

To choose the long course, turn right at the top of The Climb and follow the trail marked solely by blue flagging (and possibly a few pink pin-flags). The course goes approximately North through mixed birch, aspen, and spruce forest. There is a trail intersection in the thick spruce forest - take a sharp right as marked by blue flagging. Shortly after the sharp right the trail enters an area burned in a 2011 forest fire. Continue to follow the trail through the burn as it heads North and then eventually turns East before descending back down into the Windy Creek valley. After the trail leaves the burned forest it will intersect a snowmachine trail - turn right and continue following the blue flagging. Another descent follows this turn. At the bottom of this descent there is a snow / ice bridge across a branch of Windy Creek. You may be able to hear

water running under the trail. Continue to follow the trail until it rejoins the outbound trail at the base of The Climb. Follow the outbound trail back to the start at the Mont Verde cul-de-sac or on Waldheim. (Please pick the one that gets you back to your car, the snacks you packed, and the dry socks and boots you have ready to prevent your hard-working toes from frost-nip!) Congrats, you made it!

Further course questions can be directed to Erika Burr and Dan Bishop (Message Erika Burr, Dan Bishop, or [Snowshoe Alaska](#) on Facebook). You can also email burrluke@gmail.com, but this address is not checked on school days.

Possible race mottos:

“When you’re sure that you can’t go on, you’re about half-way there!”
-John Burr, assistant trail setter/marker

“If you don’t fall at least once, you’re not trying hard enough!”
-paraphrased warning from Chad Carroll, former MMSSC organizer and snowshoe runner extraordinaire

Have one to add?! Let us know!