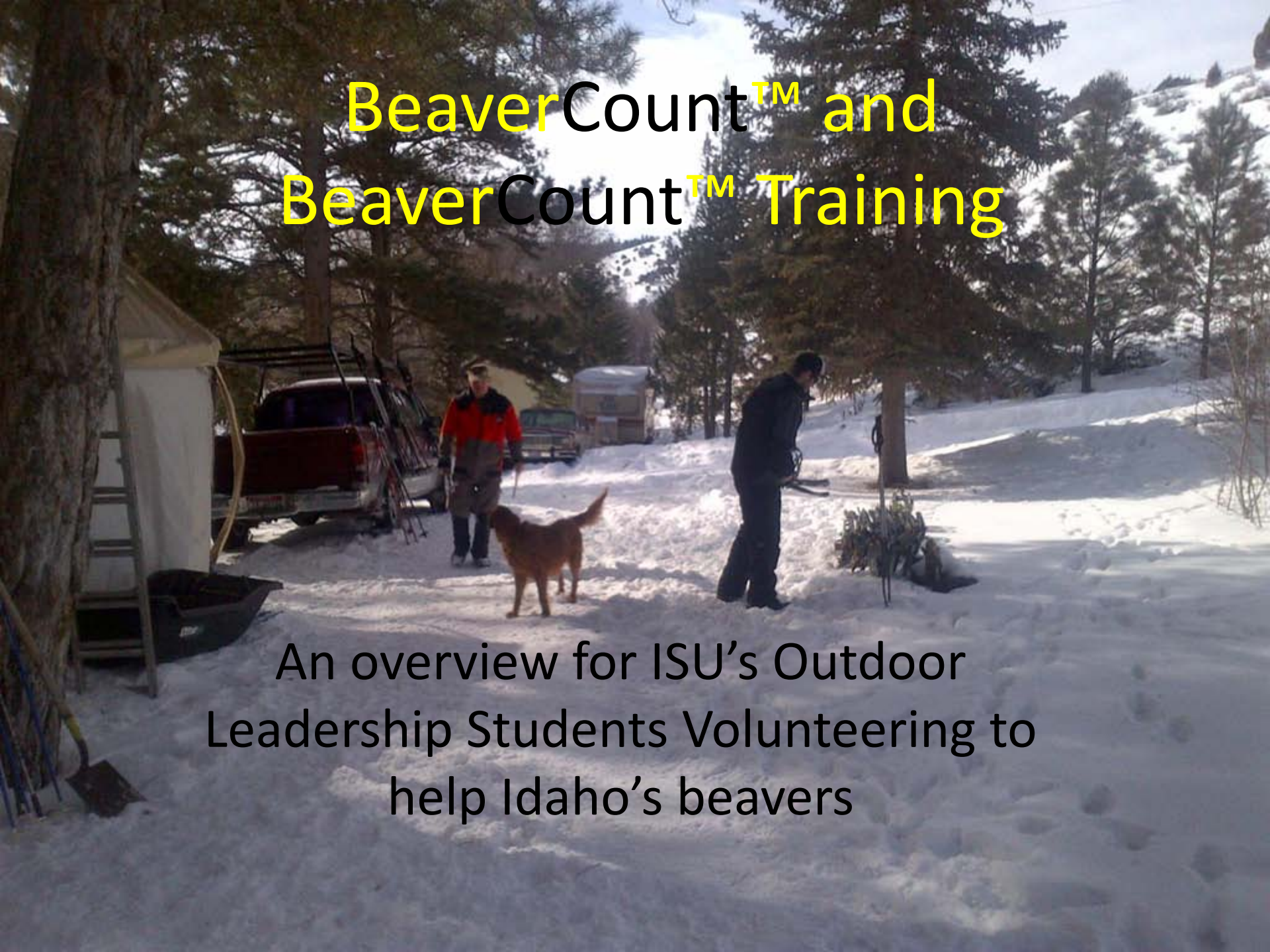



# BeaverCount™ and BeaverCount™ Training

An overview for ISU's Outdoor  
Leadership Students Volunteering to  
help Idaho's beavers





A snowy outdoor scene with people, a dog, and a truck. In the foreground, a large brown dog stands on the snow. To its left, a person in a red and black jacket stands near a red truck. To the right, another person in dark clothing is working with a tool. The background features tall evergreen trees and a snow-covered hillside under a clear sky. A white tent is visible on the far left.

Early set up helps ensure a smooth event



## About Watershed Guardians:

*Helping the Portneuf Watershed One Beaver at a Time.*

- Formed to address declining beaver populations, Watershed Guardians (WG) engages the community about beavers, their vulnerability and their role in maintaining healthy watersheds.
- BeaverCount is WG's flagship event. 2017 will be our 6<sup>th</sup> year.
- We train volunteers to census beaver activity in the watershed. This information is used to improve management of beaver.
- Beaver-created wetlands and ponds are critical to our water supply, water quality, wildlife abundance, flood & drought mitigation.
- We want volunteers to have a safe, fun, winter event that helps us achieve our conservation goals.
- ISU's Outdoor Leadership program has participated in each BeaverCount.



# Details-Timing

- BeaverCount is always held near Ground Hog's day.
- The event consists of two week-ends: A training weekend and the Event Weekend.
- We also include a back-up weekend if weather/conditions prohibit going forward.
- In 2017, the training is held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to 2PM, MOL.
- The Count is Scheduled on February 4<sup>th</sup>, with a backup date of February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



# Details-Timing (cont'd.)

- We do a staggered start:
  - Red zones: 9AM to 4PM
  - Blue zones 10AM to 3PM
  - Green Zones 11AM to 2PM
- Jackson Creek and Dempsey Zones are both considered Red.



# Details-Location

- We currently count three basins:
  - Mink Creek (USFS-Caribou-Targhee Nat'l Forest)
  - Jackson Creek (Private Property)
  - Dempsey Creek (Private Property)
- Each Creek is split into zones
- There are approximately 20 zones in Mink Creek
- Each zone is indicated by a Roman Numeral. Do you know what number is equivalent to XIV?
- Training and BC 2017 Basecamp at the Mink Creek Pavilion a.k.a. the Mink Creek Group site.





# Students May Choose Roles...

- Help set up and monitor traffic situations
- Conduct an equipment seminar/roll-play;
- Winter survival seminar/roll-play;
- Food nutrition seminar/roll-play
- Help register volunteers (must do so at each event...best with a partner);
- Procure, fit, and return rented snow gear;
- Count a zone (must have a partner).



# Students Must....

- Attend the training...
- Be prepared for a winter event;
- Register for all events;
- Provide some additional function beyond attending training;
- Understand the basics of WG's organization and mission;
- Act responsibly with volunteers;
- Notify Director Mike Settell immediately if unsafe conditions exists or if you feel uncomfortable doing anything that is asked.





O.L. Students help with equipment setup and dispensing.





# Snowshoes & Poles

Watershed  
Guardians

....Provides the equipment and training necessary to participate.



Everyone who participates must register

February 19, 2012

BeaverCount 2012 Registration

Name	Zone	Emergency Phone	Cell	Registration	Boat/Trailer	Other
Mark Hubbard	Zone 10	317-630	Red	✓		
Red Worley	Zone 6	261-237-2488	Red	✓		
Chirasha Sato	Zone 2	284-234-7127	Green	✓		
Gas Kewick	Zone 6	208-492-2214	Blue	✓		
Hal Herby	Zone 4	310-578	Blue	✓		
Amy Klein	Zone 6	284-982	Green	✓		
Greilene Vuchetich	Zone 4	361-7515	Blue	✓		
Aaron Stevens	Zone 1	237-002	Red	✓		
Tom Barnes	Zone 7	705-5685	Red	✓		
Paul Rader	Zone 9	207-271-7077	Red	✓		
Tim Norton	Zone 5	207-251-6875	Green	✓		
Fred Davis	Zone 3	251-2794	Green	✓		
John Lashford	Zone 15			✓		
Ally Lewis	Zone 10			✓		





Parking can be relatively  
easy...



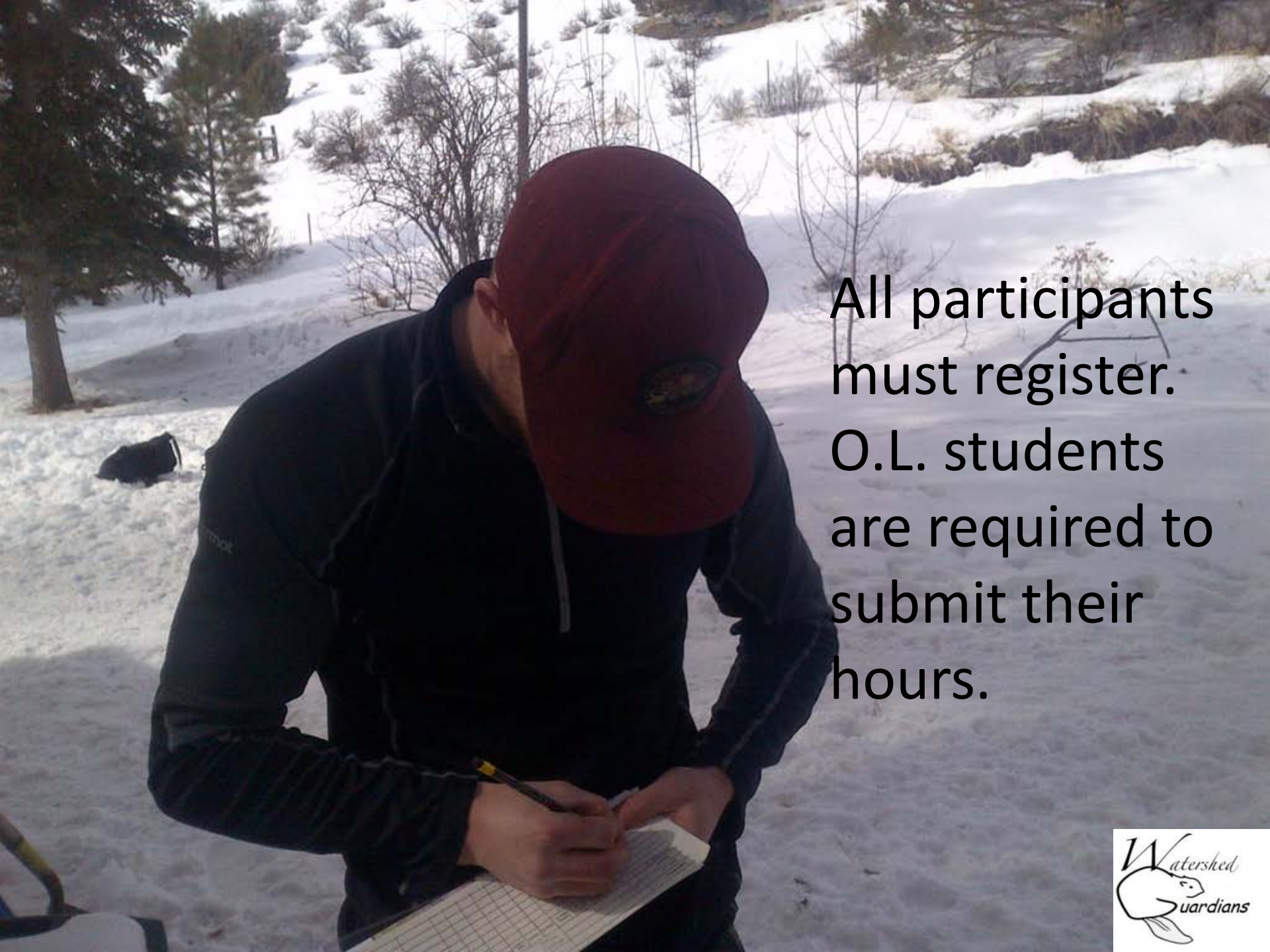


...or a friggin' mess!



Creating visible signage is just one preparation aspect of BeaverCount.

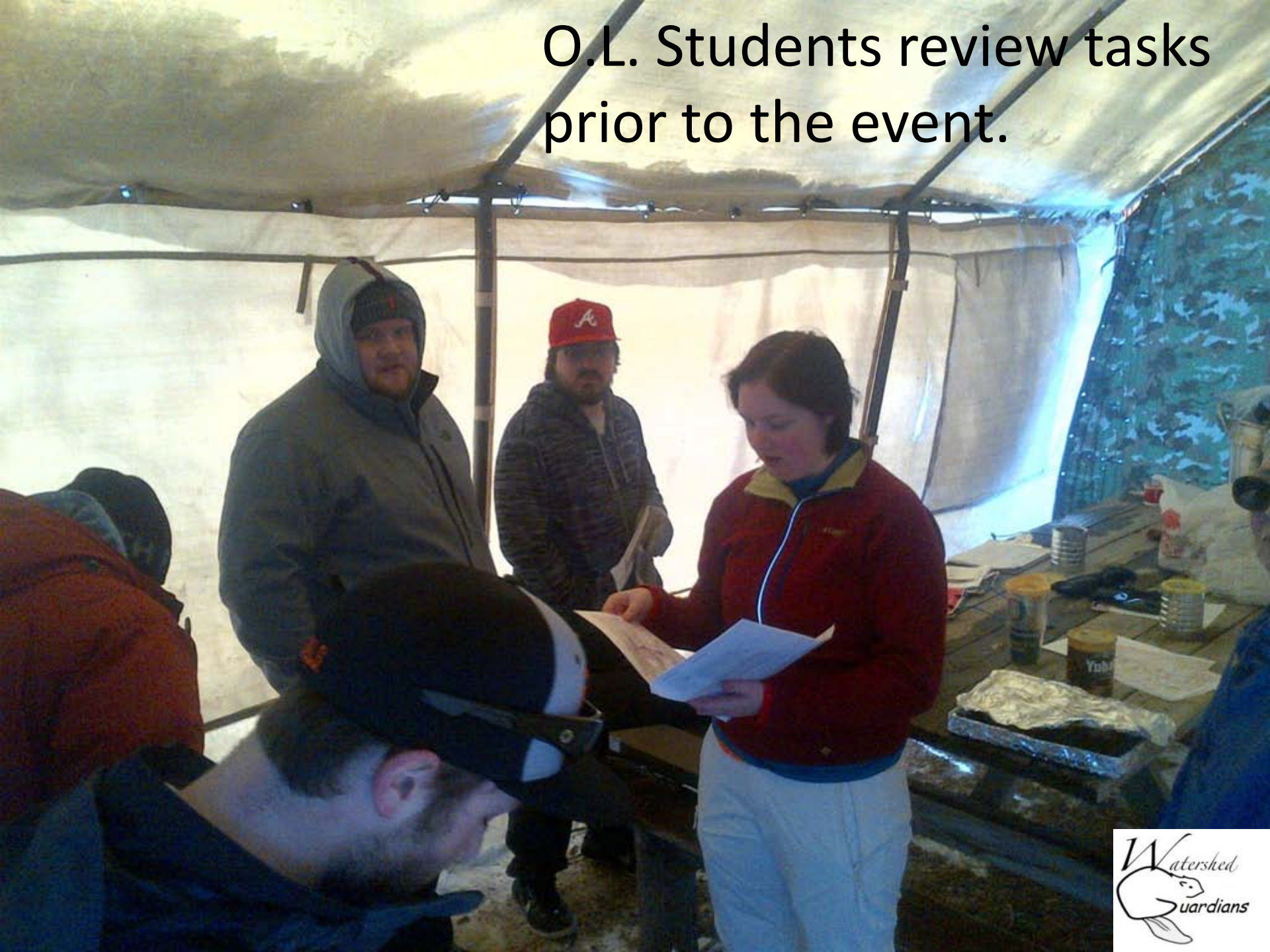


A person wearing a red baseball cap and a dark jacket is standing in a snowy, wooded area. They are leaning forward, focused on writing in a notebook held in their hands. The background shows snow-covered ground, evergreen trees, and bare deciduous trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

All participants  
must register.  
O.L. students  
are required to  
submit their  
hours.




O.L. Students review tasks prior to the event.







Winter  
conditions are  
beautiful, but  
can be  
treacherous.



Getting to and from the event may be the most hazardous part of the event!



While we do train volunteers to explore their winter environment, many have no previous winter outdoor skills. What do you think are the 3 most important skills or considerations?





Much of the off-trail counting will encounter certain hazards such as those presented by the black Hawthorne. What hazards does this plant pose?



Returning  
volunteers will  
have high thirst  
demands.

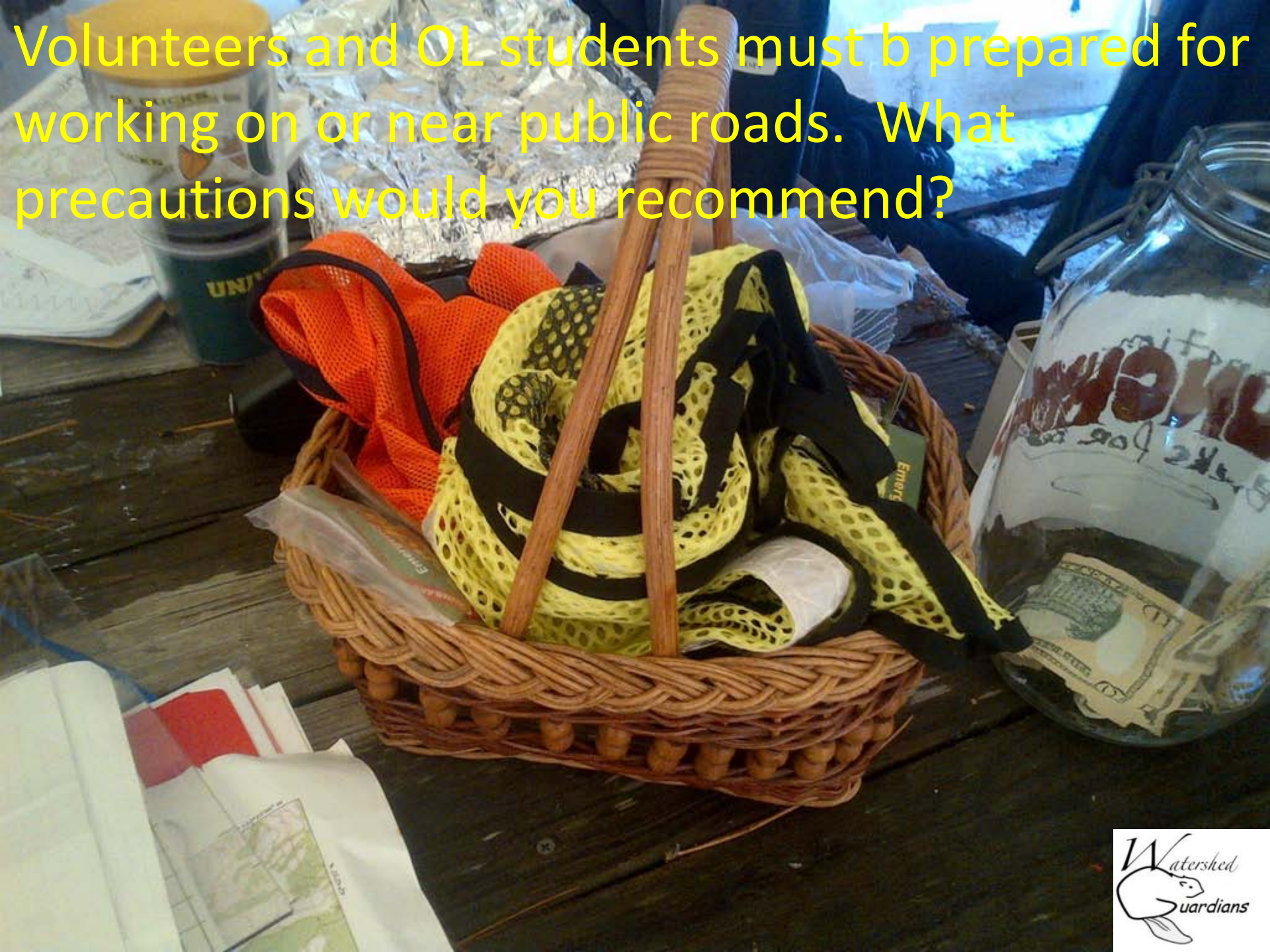


O.L. Students are needed to help with registration and tracking volunteers.



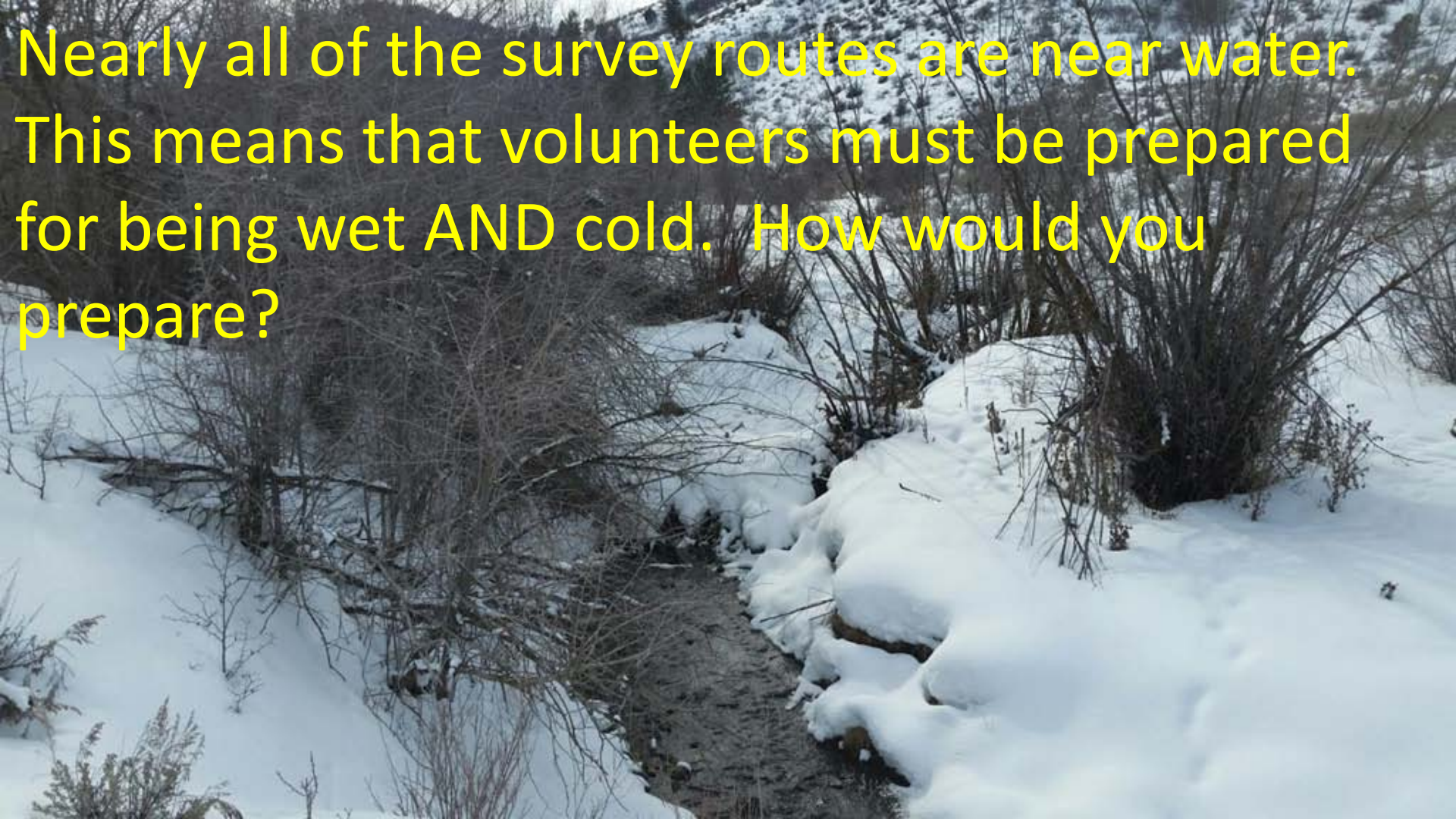


Volunteers and OL students must be prepared for working on or near public roads. What precautions would you recommend?





Nearly all of the survey routes are near water. This means that volunteers must be prepared for being wet AND cold. How would you prepare?





Volunteers  
will learn  
how to  
recognize  
recent  
beaver  
activity



Volunteers are  
required to travel  
in teams!





Volunteers are  
required to  
dress  
appropriately  
for the  
conditions!








Volunteers look for signs of beaver activity that can only be found in the winter. (Can you see it in this photo?)



A snowy outdoor training site. In the center, three people are standing and talking. To their right is a red pickup truck with a rack on the back. Further right is a large, tan-colored tent. The ground is covered in snow, and there are several evergreen trees in the background. A black line with red markers is visible in the foreground.

O.L. Students arrive early to assist with training and registration

We will provide a warming hut for volunteers at departure and return.







Watershed Guardians provides the snowshoes. O.L. students help with fitting and equipment checkout. (BTW, yes, it is fun!)







This is our 6<sup>th</sup> year. Our zones are marked with Roman Numerals and volunteers should be familiar with them.







Volunteers can be temperamental...





O.L. Students talk about varied topics:







The best ones usually include some type of prop, or “hands on” demonstration.

Other O.L. opportunities may include:

- ✓ Proper winter attire,
- ✓ Vehicle Safety,
- ✓ Minimal preparedness gear
- ✓ Health and conditioning,
- ✓ Snowshoeing or skiing techniques.
- ✓ Primitive navigation

...or help volunteers complete a “Self Assessment” training exercise.





This is a “shake down” hike intended to demonstrate the conditions volunteers are likely to experience.



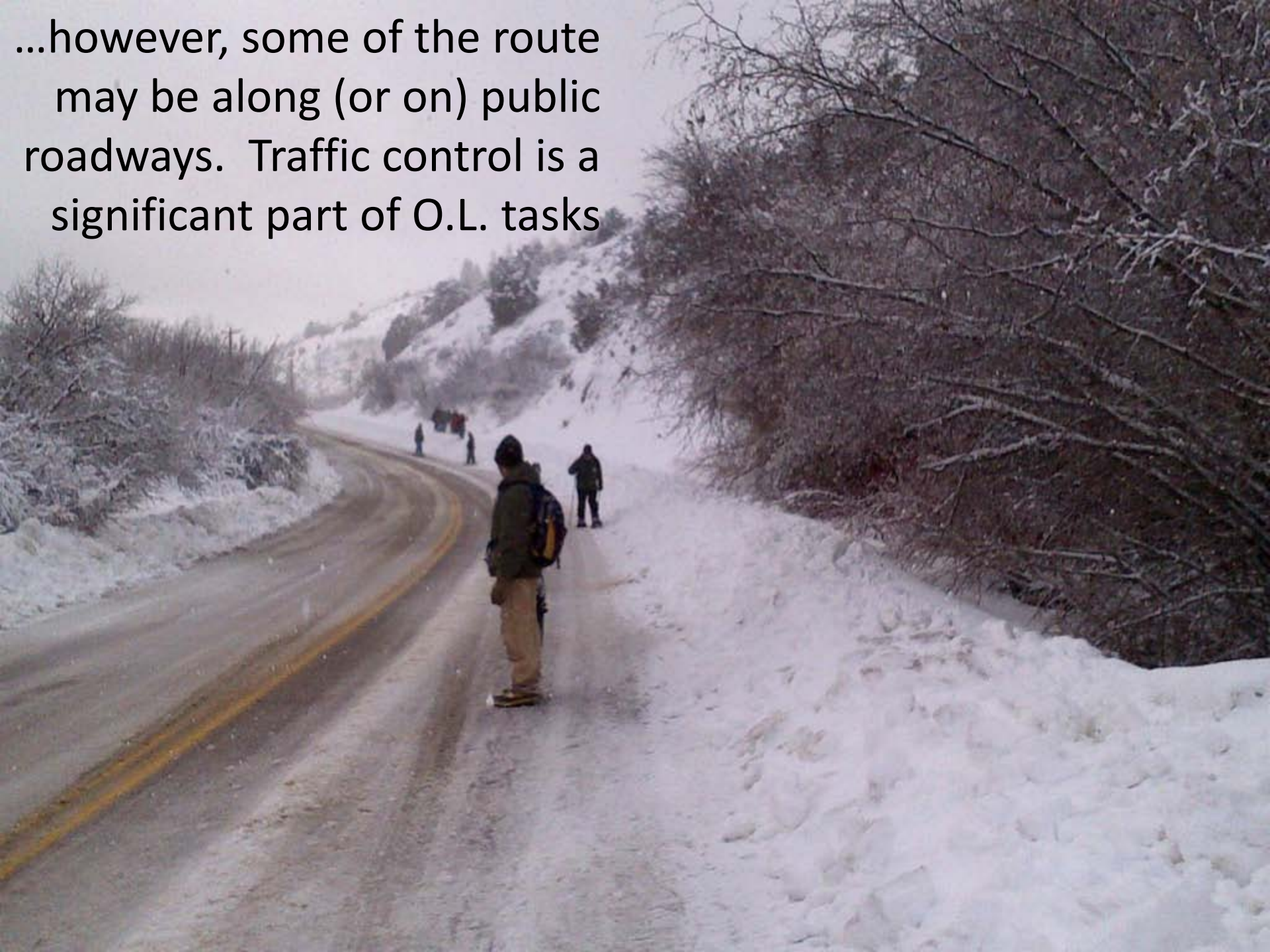
O.L. students are given wide berth to choose a relevant topic.



Much of the census route is on marked or groomed trails.



...however, some of the route  
may be along (or on) public  
roadways. Traffic control is a  
significant part of O.L. tasks







Pets are welcome, but they are the owner's responsibility and must comply with the no-harassment policy.






I just returned from  
BeaverCount







“..and I  
need a  
drink!”

Volunteer may  
need immediate  
rest, warmth and  
hydration!



...or just  
companionship!





With the help of ISU's Outdoor Leadership Students and Program, here's to a 6<sup>th</sup> safe and fun BeaverCount.





# Additional Info

- Additional information can be found on facebook at [www.facebook.com/watershedguardians](http://www.facebook.com/watershedguardians) and [www.watershedguardians.org](http://www.watershedguardians.org)

Or by e-mailing me, Mike Settell,  
[mike@watershedguardians.org](mailto:mike@watershedguardians.org)

Or by calling me at 208-220-3336 or by  
FAX-ing me at 208-498-2389