



Kootenai Nordic Club  
Libby, Montana

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# Winter 2021-22

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES & COMMITMENT TO TRADITION

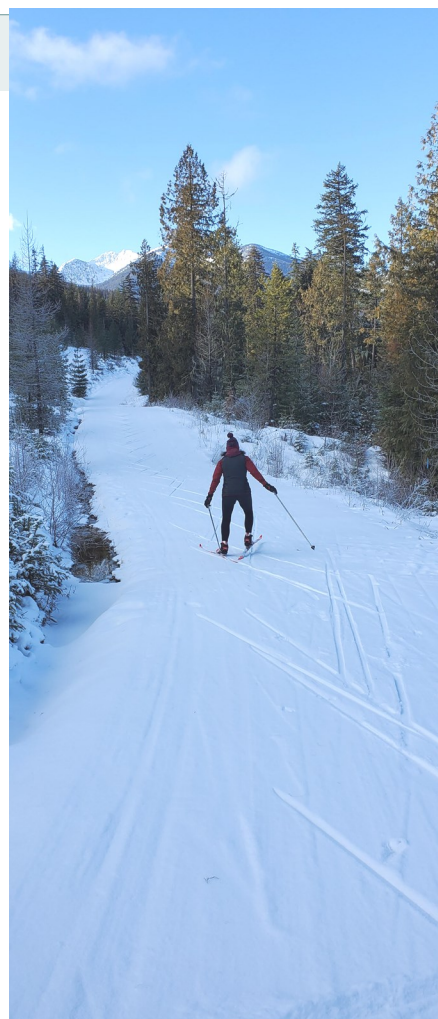
Changes. Between new buildings, new trails, new programs, new club leadership, a major windstorm and a worldwide pandemic, the Kootenai Nordic Club has seen a lot of changes in the last few years. However, the commitment to the heritage and legacy of local support that built the Ski Club into a great winter recreational opportunity for our communities and visitors continues.

## 2021 NEW YEAR'S EVE LUMINARY AND FUNDRAISER—FLOWER CREEK NORDIC TRAILS

Night skiing along Shorty's Loop under starry Northwest Montana skies has long been a tradition at the South Flower Trails—especially on New Year's Eve. With the recent windstorm, trail construction and thinning, the propane lanterns that provided the warm glow and a beacon in the dark during these events are no longer installed. For 2021—the youth ski team will be raising funds by “selling” luminaries for \$5 that will be lit and placed along the trail on NYE. Come join us for night skiing, hot chocolate and a potluck—bring your favorite dessert or finger food— at the Warming Hut. Make a donation through a participating kid or call Lynette Jewell for info at (208) 699-0275.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

New Year's Eve Fundraiser	Friday, Dec 31
Wolf Chase Nordic Race	Saturday, Jan 8
Kid's Carnival	Saturday, Jan 29
Biathlon Race	Saturday, Feb 12

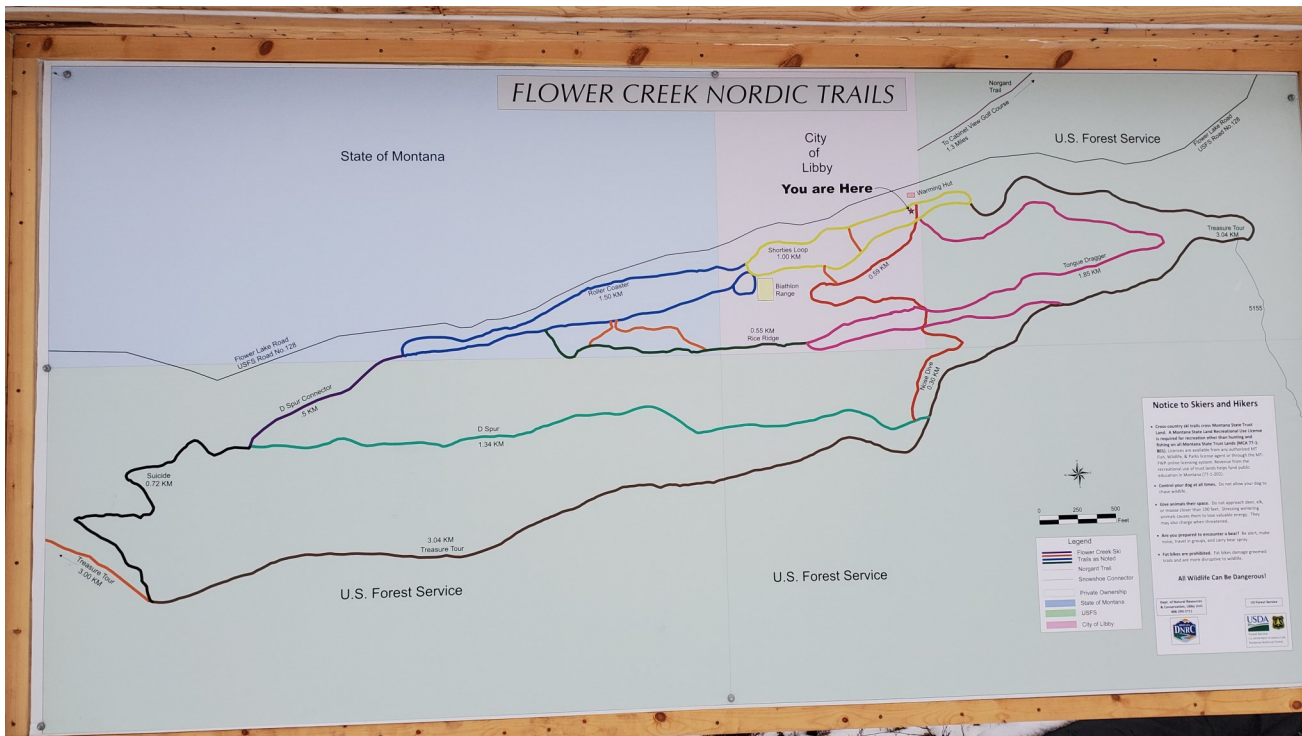


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### KOOTENAI NORDIC CLUB

- Ben Scott, President
- Jared Lampton, Vice-President
- Alan Gerstnecker, Secretary
- Lynnette Jewel, Treasurer



*New trail map sign at the Flower Creek Nordic Ski Area shows the expanded trail routes.*

## GROOMING

The Kootenai Nordic Club grooms the South Flower Creek trails and the Cabinet View Golf Course. Other area trails include Bear Creek, Flatiron and Cougar Ridge—the full grooming report can be accessed off the KNC website at:

<https://kootenainordic.com/grooming-report>

## EXPANSION OF SOUTH FLOWER TRAILS

Things do look a bit different than in years past at the South Flower Trails. Through thinning projects completed as part of a Firewise project by the City of Libby, the windstorm in February of 2020 and the expansion of the Nordic trail system, even long time users of the trails may want to study the map before setting out. Or, just point your skis on a groomed track, follow the signs along the way and, sooner or later, you will end up back at the recently expanded parking area. Maybe pack a snack?

Expansion of the trails—funded by donations and grants and completed through the work of volunteers—equates to about 3 km (1.9 miles) of expanded tracks for skiing enjoyment.





*Youth ski racers line up at the start of the 2020 Wolf Chase Ski Race at Flower Creek Nordic Ski Area.*

## PROVIDING NORDIC OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCAL YOUTH

Montana winters can mean a lot of time spent indoors; or it can mean getting outside and enjoying all that winter has to offer including the health and wellness benefits of fresh air and physical activity. At the heart of the Kootenai Nordic Club is the commitment to getting local kids out in the winter while at the same time developing a skill that they can use their entire lives. This is achieved through a three prong approach that builds skills that kids can use the rest of their lives.

The first option for local youth to learn Nordic skiing comes through a partnership with Libby Elementary. Through Kootenai Outdoor Adventure Program, 6-8th graders participate in a free after school program that provides ski equipment loans, transportation, lessons and the opportunity to ski through the winter. Get more information from Libby Elementary School.

Kids can get started even earlier through the Development Team. Practices and instruction are a few times a week after school at South Flower and includes kids 5 years old and up.

As kids get more experience, they can compete and perfect their skills on the racing team, coached by Ben Scott. Development and racing team fees include ski equipment rental. Contact KNC for more information.

### GETTING KIDS OUTSIDE

Cross Country skiing can be a great way to get kids—of all ages—outdoors in the darker, colder months of the year. Experienced winter recreation parents will tell you that 1) Snacks, 2) Warm Fingers, 3) Warm Toes and 4) More Snacks are the key ingredients to a successful x-c ski outing.

Most kids will figure out the basics of classic style Nordic skiing pretty quickly—a great place to start is the Cabinet View Golf Course. The terrain is pretty flat and you are never too far from the parking lot. With a little experience, kids can move on to Shorty's Loop at South Flower and, with some practice at control, they can conquer the infamous "Play Hill."

The key to getting a kid comfortable on skis and improving skills is getting a kid on skis and letting them play. Mixing up terrain—even if that means the slight rise in your backyard—can make for a leap in skills. Throw in the occasional snow ball fight (try it on skis!), snowman building session or hot chocolate break—and you will have a Nordic skier before you know it!



*Kids enjoy the warming hut before heading back out for more snow fun.*

## HOW TO HELP

There are lots of great ways to help the Kootenai Nordic Club and support Nordic ski opportunities in the local area.

Donations: drop a suggested \$5 donation in the box at the South Flower Ski Trails, mail in a donation or use the donation link off the KNC webpage. (addresses on page 6).

Watch the Facebook page, website and emails for requests for help with course clean-up, race events, rental days, etc.

Coaching, teaching or general kid wrangling skills? Contact the club to assist with youth activities.

Grooming skills—including in the cold tinkering /repair skills? Contact the club and you could be a trail grooming hero.

## MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the Kootenai Nordic Ski Club and let your donation support x-c skiing in our area. Suggested annual donations:

Family..... \$95

Individual..... \$45

Under 10/Over 70..FREE

Sign up through the KNC website:

at [kootenainordic.com](http://kootenainordic.com)

## THANK A VOLUNTEER—OR, BE A VOLUNTEER

If it is a beautiful Sunday morning with crisp cold air, blue skies and perfectly groomed skate track framed in with knife edge sharp parallel tracks—you have a Nordic Ski Club volunteer to thank. Every element of the Kootenai Nordic Ski program is completed through the work of volunteers—from trail clearing, grooming (frequently in the dark), ski rentals, building construction and maintenance, youth program coaching and ski lessons to grant writing and community outreach—it is all through volunteers from the local community with a desire to support access to winter recreational opportunities.



*Volunteers at Clean-up Day, September 2021*

## A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The local Nordic trails available to winter recreationalists are made available through the efforts and support of both volunteers from the Kootenai Nordic Club and local agencies including the USDA Forest Service-Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, the City of Libby and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

## NO SNOW? NO PROBLEM.

Don't forget that you can enjoy the trails maintained by the Kootenai Nordic Club and other volunteers all year long. Every spring, the Kootenai National Forest's firefighting Helicopter Rappel Crew uses the trails to complete mandatory physical training. Members of the 2021 Helicopter Rappel Crew are pictured here after finishing an 85 lb packout in under 90-minutes on 3-miles of the Bear Creek Trails.

But you don't have to do that—the trails are great for jogging, biking, hiking, wildlife viewing and even a nice, leisurely stroll through the woods—no extra weight required.



*The Kootenai Rappel Crew uses the ski trails for spring time fitness training. How do you use your trails?*



*Libby Logger Cross Country team uses the South Flower trails in September of 2020.*



## NEW GROOMER SHED—FLOWER CREEK TRAILS



### ABOUT US

The Kootenai Nordic Club is a volunteer 509 a2 organization. The club manages 13 miles of ski trails in the Flower Creek drainage (about 2 miles from Libby). Flower Creek Trails serves as our anchor site, where we centralize most of our club activities and facilities. Members of the KNC also groom 4.5 miles on the Cabinet View Golf course .

### CONTACT US

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