

Now Boarding:
Snowboarding sparks interest in students

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In the season where you have to put your coat, hat, and gloves on just to set foot outdoors, there are plenty of ways to still have fun, and snow boarding is just one of them.

Snowboarding is highly popular among many H-F students, and they were eager to share their experiences and traditions. Many students and their families go out every year over winter break, and make snowboarding an annual holiday tradition.

Colorado is the most widely known place to go snowboarding and skiing, and there are various resorts to choose from, including Snowmass Steamboat, Winter Park, and Copper Mountain.

Junior Becca Dobrez finds a lot of fun in Beaver Creek, located in Edwards Colorado. There are many different places to shop and dine, and visitors can enjoy a huge ice skating rink in the center of the town. Also, to wrap up the year, the snowboarding and skiing instructors annually perform a light show on the mountain on New Years Eve.

Snowboarding is similar to skiing, except the boarder is nearly free-falling, with nothing to hang on to. It takes plenty of getting used to, and a dare devil attitude. "I had a lot of fun skiing and now some friends and I want to try snowboarding," said Senior Kevin Lawlor.

Snowboarding can give a great thrill, and one can experience a feeling as if they were flying. "The best part is getting a really good run. You just keep going and it is really thrilling," said Dobrez.

There are various ways to take up snowboarding, it is very simple to get involved. "There are different schools and classes with private instructors you can take, to learn how to get better at snowboarding," said Dobrez.

There are many enjoyable aspects to snowboarding and a main one is merely the view from the mountain. "My favorite part about snow boarding is just being on top of the mountain," said Sophomore Jay Yonover.

Along with the upsides to snowboarding, there are also, of course, the downsides. "The first two or three days are the worst, you are practically on the ground the whole time," said Dobrez. It takes a large amount of wipe outs before one is able to remain on the board for a decent amount of time.

"My favorite part about snow boarding is just not falling," said Sophomore Josh Ford. One must be alert of everyone and everything around them before they start to go down the mountain, collisions are highly potential. "The biggest wipe out I ever had was when I was going down the mountain and I ran right over this guy's skis," said Yonover.

It is the holiday season and there are plenty of ways to keep oneself entertained. Even though the snow on the ground can make it extremely cold outside, very likely to be pelted with a snowball, and nearly impossible to drive safely, there are plenty of ways to make uses of it.



Ski Midwest Mountains

During this frigid Chicago winter, some students tend to linger around the house a little more than usual instead of heading outdoors and facing the freeze. While warm fires and hot cocoa sound more than delightful, there are plenty of Illinois hot spots to enjoy when it comes to skiing and snowboarding. So hit the slopes and still stay close to home.

Four Lakes: Lisle, Illinois
Most convenient ski area to metro Chicago. Although the vertical is a relatively short 100 feet, it is ideal for learning skiing or snowboarding skills.
How far: 50 minutes from Flossmoor
What: Terrain Park, seven towropes, beginner area, lessons available.
Information: 1-630-322-9922

Raging Buffalo Snowboard Park: Algonquin, Illinois
Officially the world's first snowboard exclusive terrain park.
How far: One hour, 25 minutes from Flossmoor
What: Unique terrain changes multiple times throughout the season. Includes: beginner hill, jumps, rails, half pipes, table tops, kickers, a staircase and more. Lessons available.
Information: 1-847-836-RAGE

Villa Olivia Country Club: Bartlett, Illinois
The ideal facility for the new skier just getting their first taste of the sport or the advanced skier perfecting their ability.
How far: One hour and 10 minutes from Flossmoor
What: 12 downhill runs, cross-country skiing, snow tubing, 180 vertical drop, quarter mile long run, Lessons available.
Information: 1-630-289-1000 Ext. 740

Ski Snowstar: Taylor Ridge, Illinois
How far: Two hours and 55 minutes from Flossmoor
What: Variety of 14 trails for all levels, terrain park with rails, table tops, quarter pipe, and more. Lessons available.
Information: 1-309-798-2666

Chestnut Mountain: Galena, Illinois
Ski Magazine ranked Chestnut Mountain among the top 10 ski resorts in the Midwest.
How far: Three hours, 35 minutes from Flossmoor
What: 17 downhill runs, nine lifts, "Most diverse snowboarding terrain in the Midwest"
Information: 1-800-798-0098

Pond hockey gives relaxed alternative to serious sport

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During all the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, there is one place where some die-hard hockey players find much needed tranquility. Most members of the H-F Varsity Hockey team meet every single day during winter break down at Izaak Walton Forest Preserve to check out the ice for a game of pond hockey.

"Pond hockey is fun because it is just a bunch of friends going out, playing a fun game of hockey and messing around. It doesn't really matter how many people play, you just

even out the teams and have a good time," said Junior Matt Sickman. The relaxed atmosphere of the open pond gives the team a break from their heavy competition during the season.

"It is always fun to play hockey, but especially on the open pond. It's different because there are no boards so the puck roams free, there are no nets, and there are basically no rules," said Junior Kyle Hoefler. Even though the boys do not stick to their Illinois High School Association rule books, they manage to have a great time while still getting in a little extra practice on their off time.

"When we play out there, it's not

competitive because it really doesn't matter. So it's a great place to try different moves and see what works. It's just a good way to play some hockey and have fun, while working on the old game," said Junior Corey Crull.

The boys' daily routine seems to resemble a certain 1992 hockey blockbuster hit, minus the incredible Coach Bombay and Charlie Callaway. Even so, the boys link themselves to a different hockey film. "The guys from the hockey team always have a little saying that we do called 'skating the channel'. It's from the movie *Mystery Alaska*, but we made it up as our own. In the movie, they skate the

river for conditioning, but we don't have a river, so we skate the channel at Izaak," said Sickman. "Skating the channel" is just one of their many habits and traditions down at the pond.

When it is all said and done, "pond hockey is better than playing at the rink because we get to do whatever we want. We just play games and skate around until it gets too dark and we can't see anymore," said Junior John Messaglia.

Dawn until dusk, through snow, sleet, and whipping winds they play; game after game, no rules, no time outs, just friends, open ice, and the game of hockey.