

UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

Big Water Yurt (Mill Creek Canyon)



Description: This 20 foot diameter yurt provides a primitive winter camping experience for 4-8 people. It contains bunk beds, a wood burning stove, and furniture.

Location: Mill Creek Canyon is located off 3800 South and Wasatch Boulevard east of Salt Lake City, Utah. A groomed ski trail begins 5 miles up the canyon where the winter gate at Maple Grove Picnic Area is closed. The yurt is located at the Upper Big Water Trailhead at the end of the ski trail, approximately 4.5 miles from the Maple Grove winter gate. There is no public motorized access beyond the Maple Grove winter gate. The trail is intermediate level with some steep sections. The ski trail is groomed depending upon weather and track conditions.



Operating Season & Rental Fee: The yurt is available for rental from December 1 through April 30 for **\$75 per night** (2 night maximum). A **\$75 key deposit** is required by credit card when you pick up the key. The deposit will be credited back to your card within 3 business days after the key is returned to either the drop box or the attendant at the Millcreek Booth, or to the Park Operations office.

No refunds or credits will be given. The reservation includes up to 4 exit passes to replace the vehicle fee as you exit the canyon.

Check out time is 12:00 noon. Please be courteous to the next visitors by checking out on time.

For Information: For general information on the yurt facility and operating policies, please contact the Forest Service at 801-466-6411 or the Salt Lake County Parks office at 385-468-7275.

The responsible party named on the County Parks-issued permit must: 1) be 18 years of age or older, 2) be a member of the party who will be staying at the yurt, 3) sign the Forest Service Special Use application and permit, and 4) pick up the key to the yurt and be prepared to pay the refundable \$75 key deposit with a credit card. The yurt key may be picked up at the Parks office the day prior to your trip or on Friday for weekend or Monday holiday trips. The key must be returned to either the drop box or the attendant at the Millcreek Booth, or to the Park Operations office.

COVID CONCERNS TO CONSIDER:

- To address the concerns of COVID 19, the Forest Service maintenance staff will supply guests with basic sanitization supplies.
- Guests are encouraged to sanitize surfaces before and after their stay.
- Consistent with State and County guidance, guests are encouraged to stay home if they experience any symptoms of COVID 19 or have come in contact with anyone having COVID 19.



Water: There is no potable drinking water in the canyon. Carry your own water or be prepared to treat water using filtration, boiling, or chemicals.

Parking: Please help preserve parking space and facilitate snowplowing at the Maple Grove gate by parking overnight vehicles at one of the other roadside parking lots. Additional parking is available at Terraces boardwalk located less than 1/4 mile from Maple Grove. Please encourage your group to carpool.

Facilities Provided:

- Wood stove with pre-cut wood
- Broom & snow shovel
- Fire extinguisher
- Ash Can
- Outdoor toilet with paper
- Wood stove tools
- Table & chairs
- Bench seat
- Floor rugs
- Large pot for water
- Please note there is no longer a lantern at the yurt

What To Bring:

- ❑ Yurt Permit & key
- ❑ Food & beverages
- ❑ Water for cooking and drinking
- ❑ Cooking stove
- ❑ Pots, pans, plates, cups, utensils
- ❑ Sleeping pad or inflatable mattress
- ❑ Warm clothing
- ❑ Sleeping bag & pillow
- ❑ Matches
- ❑ Lantern
- ❑ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ❑ Garbage bags
- ❑ Maps & Compass
- ❑ Avalanche beacon
- ❑ Avalanche shovel & probe pole
- ❑ First aid kit

Safety: Although the yurt is located along the groomed ski trail and close to the city, yurt visitors must be fully prepared for the trip with appropriate skiing ability, equipment, and supplies. Be aware that you will be skiing or snowshoeing 4.5 miles to the yurt (9 miles roundtrip) carrying a full load of supplies and equipment. The ski trail is signed and is groomed regularly; however, winter conditions may create limited visibility and snow levels may obscure the trail. Generally, the ski track is not set until after storm systems have passed. Please notify

someone of your trip to the yurt, where you plan to travel, and when you expect to return. Cell phone reception in the canyon and at the yurt is generally unavailable.

Avalanche Information: Avalanches are frequent in backcountry areas of the canyon and have occurred infrequently along the groomed ski trail. Be prepared with proper avalanche training and equipment. If you are planning to take backcountry excursions from the yurt, make sure you are well equipped with maps, compass, proper clothing, food, and avalanche equipment. All yurt visitors should “know before you go” by obtaining a current forecast from the **Utah Avalanche Center** at **888-999-4019** or <http://utahavalanchecenter.org/>

Dogs: A maximum of 2 dogs are allowed at the yurt during the months of January and March. No dogs are allowed at the yurt during December, February, and April. This policy is for the courtesy of yurt visitors who have allergies. The policy will be closely monitored this season due to poor compliance by dog owners.

Salt Lake County Animal Ordinance allows off-leash dogs in Mill Creek Canyon on odd-number days **on trails only**. Federal regulations require dogs to be on leash at all times in developed sites which includes trailheads, roads, parking lots, picnic areas, and residential cabin areas. Protect your privilege of bringing dogs to the yurt and canyon by disposing of your dog’s waste properly, keeping your dog from jumping on people or blocking the path of skiers, and not allowing your dog to chase wildlife.

