

THE FUTURE FOR SKI CLUB BUS TRIPS

What have we found out?

Surveys including the questions below were sent out to 268 members of the NMCCSC via Survey Monkey. The window to complete surveys was 4/22/20-5/18/20. There were a total of 89 surveys returned on Survey Monkey and 2 additional surveys returned by e-mail. Responses were bimodal with most returned a few days after the survey went out and another peak of responses after a group e-mail reminder in May. Some questions were skipped, so totals do not necessarily add up to the 91 surveys returned. Other questions elicited multiple responses, in which case, the number may exceed 91.

1. *Have you been on a bus trip? Yes/No*

The majority of respondents (62) had been on a bus trip, while 29 had not. People who had not been on a bus trip may have chosen to not complete the survey since I had many questions about this.

2. *Which bus trips have been your favorite?*

Some folks had only been on one bus trip, while others had been on multiple trips. Many people indicated more than one favorite. All responses were tabulated. Votes for each location mentioned:

Location	Votes
Crested Butte	36
Leadville	21
Frisco	9
Steamboat Springs	8
Pagosa Springs	8
Silverton	5
Ouray	5
Telluride	2
Durango	1
Salida/Lake City	1
Snow Mountain Ranch	1

Four respondents indicated that they liked all of the trips.

3. *Why?*

There were a variety of factors that made trips favorites. Many participants listed more than one reason. All were recorded.

Reason	Votes
A variety of places to ski	19
Snow conditions	15

Location of motel	8
Meeting other people	8
Nice trails	6
Like the town	6
Good places to eat	5
Groomed trails	4
Lots to do	4
Scenic	4
Nice to have a driver	4
Trips	3
Not too far	1
Shopping	1
Can cook in condo	1

Representative quotes:

- Only gone to Crested Butte- it was good skiing, fun to meet like minded people, town had many restaurants and bars all walking distance
- Leadville, Crested Butte, Wolf Creek because I had never been on ski trips, all people friendly and inclusive, attention paid to making varying excursions to fit most peoples needs
- Crested Butte -- almost always good snow; downhill plus groomed XC plus backcountry trails; beautiful little town; public transportation. Also Frisco for same reasons.
- I've only been on the trip to Crested Butte. It was fantastic! The leaders were very welcoming and informative. Made several friends and had a great time!
- Leadville. Beautiful small town, excellent skiing right from hotel, great hotel and restaurants
- Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs, Leadville great towns and great skiing with downhill skiing available

4. Which bus trips have been your least favorite?

Location	Votes
Pagosa Springs	7
Frisco	6
Steamboat Springs	4
Telluride	3
Leadville	2
Salida	2
Durango	1

Red River	1
Silverton	1
Crested Butte	1

5. *Why?*

There were a variety of factors that made trips chosen as least favorite. Many participants listed more than one reason. All were recorded.

Reason	Votes
Snow conditions	5
Long trip	4
Number of people	3
Short trip (easily accessed by car)	2
Been too many times	2
Waiting on or for the bus	2
Trail choices	2
Cost	1
Not interesting	1
Not enough food options	1
Too far from town	1
Snowmobile tracks	1
Too far from trails	1
Housing	1

Representative quotes:

- Telluride, Leadville. (Leadville - long walk into town to get dinner. Back in the day, the bus used to take us to restaurants in the evenings - but not so much in modern times)
- Pagosa. Don't need to take a bus trip, too close.
- Frisco, the housing; Steamboat - too long a drive and elevation too low for dependable good snow
- The one where there were many dropoffs and you had to ride in the bus for hours before skiing

6. *What are your reasons for going on a bus trip?*

There were a variety of reasons for going on a bus trip. Many participants listed more than one reason. All were recorded.

Reason	Votes
Camaraderie	46
Snow conditions/skiing	25
Having a driver	23

Exploring new places/trails	18
Convenience	5
Groups of varied levels	5
Group rates	4
Led trips	4
Vacation time with rest, snacks, chatting	4
Lodging with breakfast	1

Representative quotes:

- We are a couple with varying ski needs. He wants a long day, more difficult trails
- Great people to ski with in distant places.
- The opportunity to ski when there's not enough snow in New Mexico. Also, it's a great way to make friends.
- Social, relaxing, fun, silly, getting to know new people, I enjoy seeing new/not new people become bonded to the group
- A whole, long weekend with people I love; SKIING for several days in a row; meeting new cross-country skiers, a wonderful tribe, not having to drive in snowy conditions
- Someone else does the driving & planning, guides for skiing, and camaraderie

7. What are your reasons for not going on a bus trip?

There were a variety of reasons for going on a bus trip. Many participants listed more than one reason. All were recorded.

Reason	Votes
Scheduling conflicts	31
Cost	15
Too many people	11
Leadership	3
Childcare issues	3
Limits on where to ski	3
Riding on the bus for long hours	3
Early departures	2
Visiting places with no transportation	2
Packing issues	2
Snow conditions	2

Prefer car	2
Same places visited	2
Dates	1
Wish to stay local	1
Can't commit that far in advance	1
Trips being cancelled	1
Roommates	1
Sick	1
Physical limitations	1
Don't know people	1

Representative Quotes:

- Expense has gone up & when we keep going back to the same places every other year, it just gets old for me & I'm less inspired to pay for the bus trip.
- If it's not a good snow year; the cost (this year I did not sign up for a trip, even though I love Crested Butte, because the price seemed to be considerably higher than the last time).
- I know too few people.
- 9 hours on a bus trip (or even 7) is grueling.
- Bus cannot access all trailheads.
- Timing with work and family.

8. Should bus trips continue?

Yes—75, No-3

9. What would you prefer over a bus trip?

Ideas	Votes
Car trips	27
Day trips	8
Yurt/Hut	5
Bigger trips	4
Clinics	1
Meet up	1
Train	1

Representative Quotes:

- I'm a new member - I really hoped there would be some local group skiing- all I received was reports from people after they had skied- snore reports after the fact are not helpful

- It was interesting how Pagosa bus trip didn't fill up last year but there was still a smaller group (half the size?) that enjoyed going as a carpool trip which worked out well. Would like more of the carpool trips if that's possible, at least to closer locations like Pagosa, Chama & Red River.
- I would just note that I signed up for the Pagosa trip that didn't succeed to fill for a bus trip but got turned into a car trip instead. I had a great time and thought it was a success. Since Pagosa Springs is closer it didn't feel like it was as burdensome of a drive. So maybe that could be a way to plan a bus trip, with the expected option that if it didn't fill it would be a car trip instead.
- Trip to Vermont, Norway or British Columbia
- I probably prefer car trips over bus trips. More flexibility.

10. ***Are you willing to go on a bus trip that does not fall on a holiday weekend?***

Yes—78

No—9

Some also mentioned that trips during the week would be OK as well.

11. ***Additional comments.*** We need your input! Please tell us what we've missed or what you think we need to know! Also, if there are any places you would like to visit on a bus trip, please include here.

Places mentioned that people would like to visit on future bus trips include: Telluride, Breckenridge, Aspen, Yellowstone, Snow Mountain Ranch, Devil's Thumb Ranch, Grand Junction, Durango, Ouray, Leadville

Other thoughts:

- 40 passenger buses
- Cut back to one bus trip a year
- Concerns about Covid
- Appreciation for people planning and leading trips
- Appreciation for including everyone on the survey
- Cut back on snacks/waste on the bus

Representative quotes:

- I think bus trips are great for some people. I think that the club should focus more on the local ski scene. Develop dialog and partnerships with like minded groups such as snowshoers(they are here to stay) and Sandia Nordic(regularly maintained cross country ski trails) An unrelated subject- Nothing against the Garden Center, but community centers offer the same or better meeting facilities at no cost.

- I filled out an eval after the CB trip. To reiterate, costs could be cut by not so much communal junk food as bus snacks. Perhaps this current crisis has allowed folks to reexamine the environmental impacts of buying corporate factory farmed food from big box stores. (soda pop, candy, etc) Being new, I was shocked and dismayed. Otherwise , I loved the place, the company, concern for safety and great conditions. Thank you.
- I hope we can get enough people to sign up if we have just one bus trip per year and make an effort to arrange at least one car trip to 'nearby' towns such as Pagosa (as we did this year), Chama, Durango, Silverton
- Could there be an option that the cost of the trip might go up if the bus didn't fill (to a certain limit)? This would reduce the risk of having to get to a certain target of participants for the trip to proceed. It would make it easier to plan such as for taking off work (similar to the above idea to turn bus trips to car trips if not enough people sign up). I have only been in the club for the prior year and my wife and I really have enjoyed a chance to meet other skiers and the multi day trips are so great for this. Thanks for all the leaders and organizers for all they do!
- We've been lucky to have outstanding Bus Trip Chairs, it's a huge undertaking, and excellent trail leaders. Maybe split up the responsibilities more