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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cross Country Ski Season Has Arrived in Cook County, Minnesota

December 1, 2022 - Cook County, Minn. — Visit Cook County invites cross country skiers and winter enthusiasts are invited to head north for a peaceful and fun holiday ski vacation. We had over a foot of early-season snowfall to kick off the 2022-2023 cross country ski season, and are grooming trails as conditions allow. Check out [Trail Conditions in Cook County](#) for weekly reports on snow cover and trail status across the region.

“It’s going to be an incredible year for cross country skiing,” said Linda Jurek, Visit Cook County Executive Director. “Cross country skiing is a sport for everyone—seasoned skiers, those trying it for the first time, and people of all abilities in-between are welcome to explore the beautifully-groomed trail network in Cook County over the holiday season.”

December is the perfect time of year to get out on your skis and explore Cook County, Minnesota, one of the nation’s top cross country ski destinations. Skiers of all abilities will find trails to fit their experience level. With 400km of beautiful, wild trails to explore, you’ll be amazed at what you might find. From perfect paths of well-groomed corduroy to more rugged backcountry trails with thigh-burning climbs, there’s truly something for everyone.

Cross country skiing is an affordable and fun adventure for the whole family. Pick up a [Minnesota Ski Pass](#) or try one of the privately maintained trails on the Gunflint Trail. You’ll be gliding through the forest in no time, filled with wonder and awe at the natural beauty and your ability to experience it all.

Cook County is also home to the largest [Certified International Dark Sky Sanctuary](#), and it’s truly something to behold from our ski trails. You might see the aurora borealis/northern lights, the Milky Way galaxy and countless stars and celestial events. Bundle up, and venture out into the night to take in the most amazing starry night you’ve ever seen.

Check out these fun winter events while you’re in Cook County:

- December 8-10 - [Dark Sky Festival](#)
- December 11 - [Local Artists’ Market](#)
- January 2-6 - [Norpine Fat Bike Classic](#)
- January 6-7 - [Ski Party at Lutsen Mountains](#)
- January 7 - [Gunflint Mail Run Sled Dog Race](#)
- January 29-31 - [John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon](#)



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No gear? No problem! You can rent equipment from many local [resorts and outfitters](#) for under \$40/day. Some resorts even offer complimentary rentals with your stay.

Browse the [Cook County Trails and Maps Library](#) for detail on the wonderful trails spread throughout the entire Arrowhead region. For your convenience, georeferenced ski trail maps are available on the [Pincushion Ski Trail System](#) and the [Sugarbush Ski Trail System](#).

The team at Visit Cook County looks forward to welcoming you to our region for a holiday adventure full of cross-country skiing, outdoor adventures and more. Plan your getaway and find a complete list of area trails and maps at [VisitCookCounty.com/xc](#).

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About Visit Cook County

Visit Cook County encompasses the northeastern Minnesota communities of Lutsen, Tofte, Schroeder, Grand Marais, the Gunflint Trail and Grand Portage, commonly referred to as “the Arrowhead” and the “North Shore of Lake Superior.” Grand Marais, Minn., has earned several national accolades — most recently, it was named USA Today’s [Best Midwestern Small Town](#) and Outside Magazine’s [The 16 Best Places to Live in the U.S. 2016](#). Rekindle your sense of adventure by exploring the Superior National Forest or paddling through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Discover what makes the communities of Cook County, Minn. “Naturally Unforgettable.” Connect on social media using #donorthmn, Twitter [@CookCoVisitors](#), [Facebook](#), or Instagram [@donorthmn](#). Learn more at [VisitCookCounty.com](#).