

## BRAUN & FRIENDS' WINTER HUT INFORMATION

### PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL GROUP MEMBERS

*(Braun Huts include: Barnard, Goodwin-Greene, Green Wilson, Lindley, Markley, Opa's Taylor and Tagert.)*

**Backcountry Preparedness** The Braun & Friends' huts are situated between 10,450 and 11,800 feet in elevation. A clear and calm morning at a trailhead can turn quickly (and without warning) into heavy snow and driving winds at higher elevations. Hypothermia, frostbite, and altitude sickness are common winter problems. Be sure that you know how to prevent, recognize, and treat these potentially life-threatening conditions. Bring enough extra clothing, emergency shelter and survival gear, food, and water to spend the night out if you do not make it to the hut (See also 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's [Winter Suggested Equipment List](#)).

**Traveling to the Huts** Skiing to the Braun & Friends' Huts is a challenge. Routes to the huts are NOT MARKED. Most routes travel through known avalanche prone terrain. Even though distances and elevation gain to the huts may be minimal, do not underestimate the challenge. Each group must be prepared to travel in the backcountry with proper leadership, first aid, self-rescue, avalanche awareness, and route finding abilities. Start early in the day and allow plenty of time to reach the hut. We advise planning on an hour per mile pace, and remember to accommodate the slowest member. A common group mistake is intentional separation.

**Emergencies & First Aid** Self-rescue is the responsibility of your group. Communication of any kind, even in an emergency, is not possible from most of the huts or along trails. If a member of your group is injured or becomes ill on the trail or at the hut, you cannot rely on outside help. Plan ahead and be prepared to execute a self-rescue. Your group should be equipped with first aid supplies and have experience in emergency medical procedures. The county sheriff should be contacted in the event of an emergency. Leave the following information with a responsible friend or relative:

- Your car's make and license plate number, trailhead(s) you will be parking at, and the appropriate County Sheriff's number. **Gunnison County Sheriff 970-641-1113:** Friends' and Opa's Taylor  
**Pitkin County Sheriff 970-920-5310:** Barnard, Goodwin Greene, Green Wilson, Lindley, Markley and Tagert
- Your exact travel plans including dates, huts, routes, and your plans in case of an emergency.

**Avalanche Awareness** Hut users must be equipped and prepared for travel in avalanche prone terrain, route selection, and snow stability evaluation. Each person should have and know how to use avalanche beacons, shovels, and probe poles. Before departing, your group should obtain current avalanche and weather forecast information from the [Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#).

**Avalanche Cancellation Policy** The Braun & Friends' Huts are located in areas of known avalanche terrain with recurring avalanche cycles. Groups have an additional opportunity to cancel their reservations at these huts due to high or extreme avalanche danger. Full hut credit for a future trip will be issued. Credit is not transferable between the Braun, Friends' or 10th Mountain huts. No refunds. Hut credit expires at the end of the following winter season, usually 5/31.

**Regular Cancellation Policy & Changes** Cancellations/changes must be made 30 days prior to the trip start date in order to receive an 80% hut credit for a future trip. Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to your trip start date will result in forfeiture of your payment. No refunds. Hut credit expires at the end of the following winter season, usually 5/31.

**Cellular Phones/Emergency Communication** As cell phone coverage is not normally available at the Braun or Friends' Huts, your group may want to consider a SPOT, inReach, PLB or satellite phone for more reliable emergency communication, and hand-held, two-way radios for inter-group communication. In an emergency, do not call 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain - contact the appropriate county sheriff.

**Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card** The CORSAR card supports the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund, a program that reimburses county sheriffs for costs incurred during search and rescue operations. Cards cost \$3/year and can be purchased at 10th Mountain and where hunting and fishing licenses are sold. All hut customers are encouraged to support this program. If you hold a current Colorado hunting, fishing or ATV license, you are included in the program and do not need a card.

**Group Leader** Since the person who made the reservation may not be experienced in the backcountry, we recommend that your group discuss how decisions will be made in the field and who will be the leader in the event that problems arise. Be honest when assessing each member's strengths, skills, and experience. If no one in your group can provide leadership, consider hiring a USFS permitted guide: [Aspen Alpine Guides](#), [Aspen Expeditions](#) or [Irwin Guides](#).

**Route Finding** You are responsible for finding the route to the hut, and ROUTES TO THE HUTS ARE NOT MARKED. You must be experienced in route finding in bad weather conditions and be skilled in reading topographic maps and navigating with a compass, altimeter, and GPS. Do not depend on there being a broken track to the hut, or assume that tracks originating at the trailhead will lead to the hut. The maps on the back of 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's brochure and on our website are intended for trip planning only, not for navigation. Detailed topographic maps can be purchased through 10th Mountain or local outdoor stores. Route descriptions can be found on the internet on various third party websites.

**Topographic Maps** Detailed contour maps (1:24,000 scale) showing trailhead and hut locations are available to purchase from 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain, either online or by phone, and are also available at many local outdoor stores. All groups should have at least one map, and large groups should have multiple maps.

**Hut Amenities/Etiquette** Hut capacities vary, and sleeping areas are generally divided among several bunk rooms. Overflow camping around the huts is not permitted. **Smoking is not permitted in the huts.** For a more specific list by hut, go to [General Hut Amenities](#) and scroll to our Hut Amenities Grid. Amenities vary by hut (see exceptions), but include:

- **Wood-burning heat stove, firewood and fire-starting materials provided** Firewood is expensive, and hard to get to the huts, so please conserve!
- **Propane burners for cooking, propane provided\*** Due to fire danger, the use of personal camp stoves inside the hut is strictly prohibited.
- **Wood-burning cook stove with oven, firewood and fire-starting materials provided** Exceptions: Friends', Barnard, and Green Wilson Huts have a wood-burning heat stove, but do not have a wood-burning cook stove (propane burners only). Opa's Taylor Hut has a propane oven.
- **Pots/pans/dishes/utensils**
- **Mattresses on sleeping platforms and pillows:** Bring your own sleeping bag, pillowcase, and if you prefer, a bed sheet to cover existing polyester or polyurethane mattress covers.
- **Photovoltaic (solar powered) lighting\***
- **Hut supplies: toilet paper, paper towels, soap, cleaning supplies, trash bags**
- **Other: Braun & Friends' Huts have slippers and/or Crocs**

\*Propane and photovoltaic systems are not fail-proof. Backup systems are in place in the form of wood burning cook stoves (at most huts) and flashlights or lanterns. Hut trips are not refunded because of mechanical failures.

**Water** Water for drinking, cooking and cleaning is provided at most of the huts by melting snow, or from local creeks. Huts are stocked with collection buckets and a large pot for melting snow. Please use the large snowmelt pot only for melting snow, not to cook in. It is the hut users' responsibility to filter this water, if they choose to do so.

**Dogs** Sorry! **DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED** at any of the huts because of serious health/hygiene issues, and because you will be melting snow for water. Leave your pet with a friend, or arrange a stay at [The Aspen Boarding Kennel](#). The Colorado Huts & Yurts Alliance website lists properties that do allow dogs.

**Parking** The overnight parking area for the Braun and Friends' Huts is located on the east side of Castle Creek Road. Please do not park in the Toklat parking lot, which is located on the west side of Castle Creek Road. Your car may be towed. Do not leave valuables in your car at the trailhead. Unfortunately, cars have been broken into and vandalized in the past. Please park head in, in the designated areas. At times the parking area may be roped off for plowing. Note: There are NO public toilet facilities at the Toklat Gallery; however, there is a public forest service toilet in the parking lot for the ghost town of Ashcroft, just south of the overnight parking area.

**Human Powered Recreation vs. Motorized Use** A hut trip should entail both the hard work of getting to a hut and the relaxing comfort that huts provide. We strongly urge your group to carry up what is needed without asking someone else to haul it up for you. Braun & Friends' Huts **strongly discourage the use of snowmobiles** for access to the huts. The hut system was created for non-motorized travel and snowmobile use detracts from this unique experience. USFS non-motorized envelopes surround each hut and snowmobiles are not permitted within these envelopes. **The Iron Mine Road at the Lindley Hut is CLOSED to snowmobiles.** For safety reasons, no person that is physically unable to ski or snowshoe out to a trailhead should attempt to access a hut using a snowmobile.

**Multi-Use Recreation** People on snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes and snowboards may all be encountered. Expect and respect all users. For questions about multi-use contact the appropriate ranger district:

- **Aspen/Sopris Ranger District 970-963-2266:** Barnard, Goodwin-Greene, Green Wilson, Lindley, Markley and Tagert
- **Gunnison Ranger District 970-641-0471:** Friends' and Opa's Taylor

### Arriving at the Hut

**Hut Trip Confirmation/Door Lock Confirmation** The trip confirmation with the hut's door lock combination is emailed to the person who reserved the hut, at the time the hut is reserved. Huts are locked with padlocks, so combinations are necessary for entry. To operate the lock, dial in the 4 digit number, push on the lock, and then pull it open. Please post the confirmation letter on the board upon arrival. All users must have a reservation or face eviction by those who do, or by our roving hut keepers (there are no resident hut keepers).

**Arrival time is 2pm, please depart by 11am.** Respect field staff and other hut groups, abide by these times.

**Fire, Ice, and Snow Precautions** When first arriving, familiarize yourselves with **emergency fire procedures and exits**. Fire could occur, and would likely be either a structure fire (inside the cabin) or a wildland fire (in the forest outside the cabin). In order to decrease the chance of a fire-related tragedy, you need to be aware of the hazards of both types of fires and what to do if either one occurs. If a structure fire is uncontrollable, get everybody out, with their boots, sleeping bags, and clothing if possible. Report any damage. Also **evaluate hazards due to falling snow and ice** that could occur and avoid exposing yourself to those inherent risks when collecting snow and moving around the cabin.

**Hut Instructions** Familiarize yourself and your group with all hut instructions posted at the huts, including:

- **Turning on the Lights** Activate photovoltaic lights by turning on the master switch on the hut's electric panel.
- **Lighting the Propane Stove** Turn on the photovoltaic system (see above). Activate the safety shut-off timer located near the propane stove (not all huts have a timer). When the timer runs out, it will automatically shut off the gas. Before lighting the stove to continue cooking, turn off the knobs, then reset the timer and finally re-light the stove.
- **Warming the Hut** If it is necessary to make a fire, keep it small to start. Be sure the flue is open and the stove is drawing well. Gradually make a hot fire, and then let it burn down before bedtime. The huts are well insulated and stay warm through the night. Split wood on the large stumps provided (not on decks). Make enough kindling for you and the next party. Cutting, hauling, and stacking firewood is expensive and labor intensive. Burn it judiciously. Place cold ashes in the metal ash drum.
- **Kitchen Information/Duties** Wash and rinse dishes carefully. Use hot, soapy water for washing and add 1/2 capful of bleach to rinse water. Snowmelt water is very soft, so don't use too much dish soap. All garbage, including uneaten food/packaging, must go home with you (trash bags are provided). Do not throw trash into the outhouse. Food/condiments attract mice and bears; never leave food outside or at the hut when you depart.

**Cleaning Up and Departing the Hut/Visit our [COVID 19 Information](#) page for additional cleaning responsibilities!**

- **Cleaning** Sweep the floors and stairs, wipe down the kitchen and dining areas, clean and put away the dishes.
- **Garbage** Carry out all garbage, including all leftover food (trash bags are provided).
- **Split/Restock Firewood** Split and restock kindling for the cook-stove and larger wood for the heat-stove.
- **Fill Snowmelt** Please don't leave the ladle in the water as it can freeze solid.
- **Shovel** Please shovel decks, stairs and outhouse walkways.
- **Propane** Turn propane stove knobs off.
- **Photovoltaic/Lights** Turn off all lights and turn off the photovoltaic system's main switch.
- **Closing/Locking** Close and lock all windows, outhouse doors, backdoors, and lock the front door behind you.
- **Report** Please report any concerns about hut supplies or the condition of the hut upon your return.

**Alfred A. Braun Hut System** PO Box 7937, Aspen, Colorado 81612, Phone 970-920-7859

**For Friends' Hut and general information, or to make a reservation, contact:**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association** 1280 Ute Avenue, Ste 21, Aspen, Colorado 81611  
Reservations 970-925-5775, Fax 970-925-5317, Email [huts@huts.org](mailto:huts@huts.org), Website [www.huts.org](http://www.huts.org)