

Learn to Ski, Ride with 'The Big Deal'

Make this the year you finally discover the freedom of schussing down the slopes by taking ski or snowboard lessons at Snow Summit and Bear Mountain. As an added enticement they'll even give you "The Big Deal."

It's the best beginner deal ever and replaces long-running GuaranSki and GuaranRide programs. First day on the slopes The Big Deal includes a beginner lift ticket and four hours of instruction, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Beginners also receive an all-mountain lift ticket for their second visit plus a two hour Beyond Beginner lesson. All for just \$89, \$99 peak periods. It's like the second day is free!

"It's the best beginner deal we have ever offered," Chris Riddle of Big Bear Mountain Resorts said. "The industry has long known if you can get beginners to come a second day chances are much better they'll take up skiing and snowboarding for life. So in essence we're giving it to them at no charge. If you want to learn to ski or ride this is the way to do it."

Snowboarding and the shaped-fat ski revolution have changed the way people learn to enjoy winter. Shaped skis practically turn themselves and today's wider boards make for a more

stable platform. Both Big Bear resorts incorporate the latest gear and techniques into their teaching programs to ensure success and make getting started easier than ever. Each has learning programs for all ability levels plus hundreds of certified instructors.

The Big Bear resorts are known as Southern California's premier "Learn



to Ride" headquarters with the largest beginner areas, most diverse classes, best terrain parks. Both have ideal beginner terrain serviced by easy-to-ride Magic Carpet uphill lifts, then transition first-timers quickly to gentle runs higher on the mountain to get the full winter experience.

Off season improvements at both resorts will make renting equipment and taking lessons easier than ever. Snow Summit has added more points of sale windows in its rental shop so guests spend less time in line and

more time on the slopes. Bear also remodeled its learning center and combined snowboard and ski rentals in one location, so friends and families who are together in spirit but not choice of which way to play still rent their gear in the same building.

Snow Summit's Bear Bottom beginner area has served as the perfect introduction to the slopes for countless skiers and snowboarders. Magic Carpets mean less time on chairs and more time getting the fundamentals down. Once you have your legs under you, take Summit Run is the longest low intermediate run in the region, a gentle descent filled with big lake views.

Bear Mountain meanwhile sports the largest beginner area in Southern California. The Little Bear Camp and Inspiration are served by Magic Carpets, while the Access Express accesses long low level runs like Easy Street and Learning Curve.

For children ages four to seven there's Little Bear Camp, which includes a four hour lesson, snacks



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and all day lift ticket. Plus there's fun indoor activities like games, videos and arts and crafts. Half and full day sessions, starting at \$79 and \$109 respectively, are available, and while the kids learn from expert instructors in a fun, kid-friendly environment, parents are free enjoy their own time on the mountain.

"Go With a Pro" fast-moving clinics continue to be popular for advanced skiers and riders. Hit the mountain with a top instructor to work on techniques like steeps and moguls. Clinics are just \$29 and are offered daily at 1:45 p.m. at the adult ski and snowboard lineup areas at both resorts. Call (909) 866-5766. ■

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