



# 2014 WINTER GUIDE FYI

Lexington Newcomers Club

---

# Happy New Year!



Did you know that January is [National Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month](#)? That means lots of discounts and special offers across the coasts for those who want to learn to ski (downhill and cross country) or snowboard. Here on the east coast, [Ski New Hampshire](#) offers a week of [free Learn to Ski programs](#) (this year it's January 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>) for beginners and [other discounts](#) (such as the [special passbook for 4th and 5th graders](#)). Similarly, [Ski Vermont](#) offers similar month-long and season-long [deals](#) and a free [program for 5th graders](#). For a more local (in-state) experiences there are many choices, some are nearby (Nashoba Valley or Blue Hills) and some are further (Wachusett, Jiminy Peak, Butternut, Bousquet, etc.), check [Mass Vacation's Ski Local](#) website <http://www.massvacation.com/skilocal/>

The same deals apply to cross country skiing as well as snowshoeing, with the one closest to us at the Weston Ski Track (<http://www.skiboston.com>) offering [free lessons on January 11](#) with purchase of a trail pass.

Want to take the kids snow tubing? The closest option is [Nashoba Valley](#); but there are other options, such as [Amesbury Sports Park](#), whose long, steep hills make long, fast runs and big thrills; or [Wachusett](#), which features Big Air Bag tubing/jumping (at the end of your run, you land in a huge air filled bag/mattress).

Skating is another option for a fun wintertime family activity. There are many fun **outdoor** public rinks to choose from, options include:

- [Frog Pond on Boston Common](#)

Boston Common's Frog Pond is located within the country's oldest public park. Need a break from showing off your skating skills? Head over to the heated umbrella, where you can grab a hot chocolate and Belgian waffle, take a seat, and watch the skaters glide by.  
Hours: Mon: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Tues - Thurs: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sun: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Price: Adults: \$5; Children under 13: Free  
Rentals: Adults: \$9; Children: \$5  
Season ends: TBD  
Boston Common, Within boundaries of Charles St., Beacon St., Park St., and Tremont St. 617-635-2120. [www.bostonfrogpond.com](http://www.bostonfrogpond.com)

- [Community Skating at Kendall Square](#)

Located in the heart of Kendall Square and surrounded by a courtyard, this rink offers skate rentals, [lessons](#), and a snack bar with hot drinks and snacks. [Private rink rentals](#) and [group outings](#) are also available. Skaters beware: The rink's unique shape takes a little getting used to.

Hours: Mon: Noon - 5 p.m.; Tues - Thurs: Noon - 8 p.m.; Fri: Noon - 9 p.m.; Sat: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Cost: Adults: \$5; Students and seniors: \$3; Children under 14: \$1

Rentals: \$8, Children under 14: \$5

Season ends: Mid-March

300 Athenaeum St., Cambridge. 617-492-0941. [www.skatekendall.com](http://www.skatekendall.com)

- [Boston Harbor Hotel Rink](#)

Sharpen up your ice skates and head downtown for outdoor skating with great harbor and city views. For the first time ever, the Boston Harbor Hotel Rink has opened a 2,960-square-foot ice skating rink under Rowes Wharf rotunda. The rink will hold up to 20 skaters at a time. The Boston Harbor Hotel's Rotunda Rink is part of the Winter on the Wharf initiative, which also features seasonal food and drinks, and special events.

Hours: Mon - Fri: 3 - 8 p.m.; Sat - Sun: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Price: Adults: \$10; Children: \$5; Children under 5: free.

Rentals available

Season ends: February 28

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston. 617-439-7000. [www.winteronthewharf.com](http://www.winteronthewharf.com)

- [Charles Hotel Rink](#)

This 2,900-square foot rink is open to both hotel guests and the public. Are you a frequent skater? Take advantage of season passes. Or do you need to brush up on your skills? The rink offers skating lessons. Skate rentals and refreshments, including hot chocolate and hot apple cider, are available right at the rink. You can also book a private event, including birthday or holiday parties or corporate functions.

Hours: Mon - Fri: 4 - 7 p.m.; Sat - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Cost: Adults: \$5; Children under 12: \$3; Family (2 adults and 2 children): \$10

Rentals: Adults: \$5; Children under 12: \$3; Family (2 adults and 2 children): \$10

Season ends: TBA

One Bennett St., Cambridge. 617-234-8008. [charleshotel.com](http://charleshotel.com)

- [Winter Skate at Patriot Place](#)

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, this 60 x 140 foot refrigerated rink is ideal for recreational skating. Skate rentals, snacks and beverages, and bathrooms are available. Take a break from your shopping at Patriot Place and hit the ice.

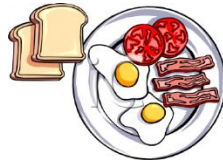
Hours: Mon - Thurs: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri: 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.; Sat: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sun: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Cost: Adults: \$8; Seniors and children under 12: \$6 Rentals: \$4

Season ends: TBD

Patriot Place. 2 Patriot Place, Foxborough. 508-203-2100. [www.patriot-place.com/winterskate](http://www.patriot-place.com/winterskate)

Because these are outdoor rinks, hours are dependent on the weather, so call ahead to check if the rink is open.



If you are in town Saturday, January 25th or Sunday, January 26, 2013, consider a delicious Brunch at some of Boston's best chefs while helping others during [The Greater Boston Food Bank's Super Hunger Brunch](#) fundraiser event to help end hunger in Eastern Massachusetts. This year, this popular annual event will be held on Saturday, January 25th and Sunday, January 26, 2013. Tickets range from \$25 to \$50. Participating restaurants include critically acclaimed options such as [L'Espalier](#), [Blue Ginger](#), [Craigie on Main](#), [The Fireplace](#), [Grill 23 & Bar](#), [Rialto](#), and closer to home 80 Thoreau in Concord.



The cold weather is also the perfect time for indoor activities, date nights, or for planning the perfect place for next month's Valentine's Day dinner. Want something a little out of the ordinary? Why not see a movie with a nice in-seat dining experience at [Cinema De Lux in Chestnut Hill](#) or [Cinema De Lux at the Legacy Place in Dedham](#). When you get tickets to the movie you want to see at the [Lux Level](#), (21+ only for shows after 6 pm) seats are reserved for you. On the Lux Level, each seat is equipped with a server call button so you can call your server when you are ready to order food or another martini. The dinner and drinks menu is full of options and can be seen on the website. The Chestnut Hill location also has a Lux-Lite option, which does not feature the server call button and costs less, but will still take your order and serve your dinner in-seat prior to the movie.

Want more dinner and a movie options? Kendall Square in Cambridge features many independent and sometimes international selection of movies at the [Kendall Square Cinema](#). The theater is next door to [Cambridge Brewing Company](#) and also to [the Blue Room](#). Alternatively, a short drive takes you to [Cuchi-Cuchi](#), an Old World style, romantic restaurant with an International tapas-style menu.

A sister cinema to Kendall and an easy drive from Lexington with plenty of parking is [Embassy Cinema](#), just off Moody Street in Waltham with many nearby restaurant options such as [Solea](#) (Tapas); [Ponzu](#) (Japanese), or my personal favorite: [Erawan of Siam \(Thai\)](#).

In Arlington, there's [The Capitol Theatre](#) or [The Regent Theater's Dinner and a Show program](#), the theater's collaboration with [Flora](#) and [Tango](#) Restaurants. The Regent Theater has held the annual [Rebecca Parris Trio jazz concert](#) every Valentine's Day for the past 25 year.

For a listing of Theater and Performance Arts events, check [Arts Boston](#) (<http://www.artsboston.org>) or, for affordable/discounted tickets, check [BosTix](#) (<http://www.bostix.org/>).



Have kids in school? Looking for February or April Vacation camps? Believe it or not, this is also the time to start thinking of summer camps.

February and April camp information are already published, whereas summer catalogs are usually published sometime in early February. Some camps will also hold open houses starting in mid-February. Popular camps fill up very quickly so here I'll highlight some of them below.

#### **Local February and April vacation camp options include:**

- The [Real School of Music's Vacation and Summer Programs](#) on Middlesex Turnpike in Burlington.
- [Lexington Parks and Recreation](#) – look inside the Fall/Winter or the Winter supplemental brochures
- [Minuteman "Staycation" Vacation program](#)
- Kids into Minecraft or Programming (LEGO, Scratch)? Then Einstein's Workshop's [February camp](#) or [April camp](#) is the way to go. They also offer classes in 3D printing or Laser Cutting for children of all ages (i.e adults)
- Into Fencing, NERF, or Science-fiction/Fantasy instead? Check out [Guard Up](#), with rave reviews from past participants. They also have family classes and do fun birthday parties for kids.

#### **In-town summer camps with both academic and athletic options:**

*(Catalogs for summer usually get published sometime in early February and popular classes will often fill up by March)*

- [Explorations, run by Lexington Community Education](#)
- [Lexington Parks and Recreation](#) – wait for the spring/summer catalog
- [Minuteman Summer Camps](#)

#### **Traditional Day Camps:**

- [Summers Edge Day Camp](#) (they also offer the [SWING & SWIM®](#) tennis and swim program for girls and boys 6 to 14 years old) at the Minuteman High School campus.

- [Meadow Breeze Day Camp](#) at the Lexington Christian Academy campus. They will be holding an open house on February 25, 2014.
- [Hayden Recreation](#) (no summer information on their site available as of this publication)
- Local YMCAs in neighboring towns ([Waltham](#) and [Woburn](#))
- Further away but a lot of fun (most have bus pickup from Lexington):
  - [Nashoba Day Camp](#) - my children have been going to this camp a couple of years in a row and really love it there, ask me if you want to hear more details)
  - [Camp Sewataro](#) - another favorite of my children
  - [Marcus Lewis Day Camp](#), now in Westford-with options for traditional or specialty camps that includes: watersports, cooking, camp for children on the autistic spectrum, etc.
  - [Concord Academy](#) - combination Day Camp with academic and athletic options.
  - [Summer at the Fenn School](#)

### Special Interest:

- Do your kids have an interest in engineering or computers? Interested in robotics? Here are some very local options:
  - [Einstein Workshop](#) - owned and run by Lexington parent Henry Houh, who has also organized Lexington Robotics for a number of years.
  - [Empow Learning](#) (formerly iCamp)
  - [Kapparate](#)
  - Minuteman Summer Program also offers programming classes through their [Robo Tech Center programs](#).
- Are your kids into music and wants to learn to be a rock star or be in a rock band? Be in a Musical? Check out the [Real School of Music's Vacation and Summer Programs](#) on Middlesex Turnpike in Burlington.
- Into Fencing, NERF, or Science-fiction/Fantasy instead? Check out [Guard Up](#), with rave reviews from past participants. They also have family classes and do fun birthday parties for kids.
- Do you have a budding ballerina or dancer? The [Lexington School of Ballet's Summer Classes](#) has a few options including intensive programs for those who are passionate.
- Love nature and the outdoors? Check out the camps run by Mass Audubon or the Trustees of Reservation. One of the more popular camps nearby is the [Drumlin Farms Summer Day Camp](#), and if your kids want to spend days on the beach, [Summer Quest at the Crane Estate](#) is fun and held at an incredibly beautiful setting. Crane Beach is just a short walk from the camp (do check out the slideshow/photo gallery).
- In Acton center, your children can learn Chinese. [Fun Chinese](#) camp offers a "foreign language immersion" concept to teach Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through array of creative ways.
- ABC Spanish in Motion offers [Spanish summer camps](#) for children up to 8 years old in Cambridge or Charlestown.
- If your kids want to learn to paddle/kayak, Charles River Canoe & Kayak Boston's summer program is a great option <http://www.paddleboston.com/kids/summerprograms.php>

The Bedford Family Association also has a list of other resources: <http://bedfordkids.com/camps/>



Some links /resources from the article above:

<http://www.massvacation.com/>

<http://www.massvacation.com/skilocal/>

<http://www.skivermont.com/events-and-deals>

<http://www.skinh.com/>

<http://www.skinashoba.com/>

<http://www.wachusett.com>

<http://www.amesburysportspark.net/>

<http://www.skiboston.com/skitrack/events/wintertrails.php>

<http://www.skatekendall.com/>

<http://www.showcasecinemas.com/theatre/dedham/ma/showcase-cinema-de-lux-legacy-place>

<http://www.showcasecinemas.com/dining/lux-level>

<http://www.landmarktheatres.com/market/Boston/KendallSquareCinema.htm>

<http://www.cambrew.com/>

<http://www.theblueroom.net/>

<http://www.cuchicuchi.cc/>

<http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Boston/EmbassyCinema.htm>

<http://www.solearestaurant.com/>

[http://www.erawanofsiam.com/erawan\\_of\\_siam/Home.html](http://www.erawanofsiam.com/erawan_of_siam/Home.html)

<http://feitheatres.com/capitol-theatre/>

[http://www.regenttheatre.com/visitor\\_information/dinner\\_and\\_show\\_program](http://www.regenttheatre.com/visitor_information/dinner_and_show_program)

<http://florarestaurant.com/>

<http://tangoarlington.com/>

Lexingtons Summer Classes <http://www.lexingtoncommunityed.org/summer.php>

Lexington Parks and Recreation <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/recreationdepartment.cfm>

Minuteman High School Summer <http://minutemance.org/summer-school/summer-catalog>

Summers Edge Day Camp <http://www.summersedgedaycamp.com/programs/>

Summers Edge SWING and SWIM® Tennis School

<http://www.summersedgedaycamp.com/programs/swing-swim-lexington/>

Meadow Breeze Day Camp <http://www.lca.edu/page.cfm?p=457>

Woburn YMCA <http://www.ymcaboston.org/woburn/woburn-youth-development/camp/day-camp>

Waltham YMCA <http://www.ymcaboston.org/waltham/waltham-youth-development/day-camp>

Fenn School <http://www.fenn.org/SummerFenn>

Marcus Lewis Day Camp <http://www.marcuslewisdaycamp.com/>

Concord Academy <http://www.concordacademy.org/camp/index.aspx>

Camp Sewataro <http://www.sewataro.com/>

Nashoba Day Camp <http://campnashobaday.com/>

Drumlin Farms Summer Day Camp

[http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin\\_Farm/camp.php](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm/camp.php)

Trustees of Reservation's Summer Quest at the Crane Estate <http://www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do/special-events/summerquest-at-the-crane-estate/>

Fun Chinese <http://www.funchinese.net/>

Empow Learning <http://empow.me/>

Einstein's Workshop <http://www.h3xl.com/> or <http://www.einsteinsworkshop.com>

Kapparate <http://www.kapparate.com/>

Real School of Music's Summer Programs <http://info.therealschoolofmusic.com/summer-music-camp-RealJams/>

Guard Up <http://guardup.com/summer-camps-breaks/>

Lexington School of Ballet [http://www.lexingtonschoolofballet.com/summer\\_sched.php](http://www.lexingtonschoolofballet.com/summer_sched.php)

List from Bedford Family Association <http://bedfordkids.com/camps/>