

2024

WINTER *Guide*

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Michigan may have a reputation for its idyllic summer destinations, but those who call this state home know there is no more magical place than Michigan in the winter.

With more than 3,000 miles of cross-country ski trails, nearly 1,000 downhill ski runs, 6,400 miles of snowmobile trails, 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, there are endless outdoor adventures right around the corner.

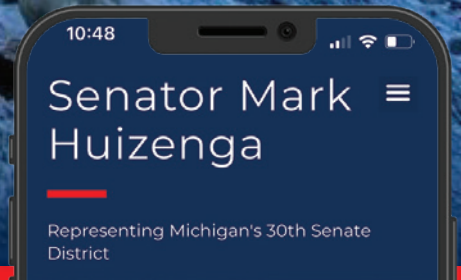
Michigan is also home to a wide variety of family-friendly winter events and festivals. From small-town ice displays to world-class dogsled racing, communities across our state are alive with activity during the winter months.

This newsletter offers a small sampling of the many unique activities and events available. Additional information and even more activities can be found by visiting Michigan.org.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about state government, or if we may be of assistance with a state government agency.

Best wishes for a safe and fun Michigan winter.

Sincerely,



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FREE FISHING WEEKEND

Mark your calendar! During Michigan's Winter Free Fishing Weekend, anglers have the perfect opportunity to try cold weather fishing and reel in favorites such as yellow perch, bluegill, pike, smelt and walleye.

Michigan residents and out-of-state visitors can enjoy great fishing during Michigan's annual **Winter Free Fishing Weekend — Feb. 17 and 18** — when all fishing license fees are waived. A DNR Recreation Passport will not be required at any state park or recreation area during the free fishing weekend. All fishing regulations still apply.

For more information about **Winter Free Fishing Weekend**, visit Michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing/free-fishing.



WEEKLY FISHING REPORT

Stay up to date on the latest regional fishing news and fishing tips all year. The Weekly Fishing Report outlines fishing conditions around the state. Visit Michigan.gov/DNR/things-to-do/fishing/weekly to access the report online.



WINTER EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

WINTER WONDERLAND IN ADA*

Ada • Dec. 1 – Jan. 31

WORLD OF WINTER*

Grand Rapids • Jan. 12 – March 10

WINTER WHEAT FESTIVAL*

Grand Rapids • Jan. 13

GREAT SKATE WINTERFEST*

Grand Rapids • Jan. 27-28

ICE BREAKER FESTIVAL

South Haven • Feb. 2-4

ICE TIME FESTIVAL

Dowagiac • Feb. 3

MEIJER STATE GAMES OF MICHIGAN*

Grand Rapids • Feb. 16-18

NORDIC FIRE FESTIVAL

Feb. 23-25

TRAVERSE CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

Traverse City • Feb. 25 – Mar. 2

ROCKFORD'S 19TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY EXPO*

Rockford • Mar. 9

* In District Events



RIDE RIGHT SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

- Ride on the right side of the trail.
- Ride at a safe speed.
- Ride sober.
- Anticipate and yield to groomers.
- Ride safely, so you make it home to your family and friends.



PURCHASE YOUR 2024 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PERMIT

Michigan's state-designated trails are open Dec. 1 through March 31. Trail permits for the 2023-24 season are available now and enable you to ride authorized, state-designated trails and thousands of miles of public roads.

Permits can be purchased:

- Online through **eLicense** (your sticker will be mailed to you within 7-10 days).
- Online with the **Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association**.
- In person at a number of **DNR license agents and dealers**.

FREE SNOWMOBILE WEEKEND

The DNR has announced a free snowmobiling weekend.

The free weekend, which lands on **Feb. 9-11**, comes as a result of Public Acts 55 and 56, passed by the Legislature in 2022. During these two days, snowmobilers can operate their machines without the need for a snowmobile registration or trail permit.

For more information on snowmobiling in Michigan, including trail maps, visit Michigan.gov/snowmobiling.

