

# 2020 WINTER *Guide*

## DEAR FRIEND:

Winter is a great time to bundle up and escape — to Michigan's great outdoors!

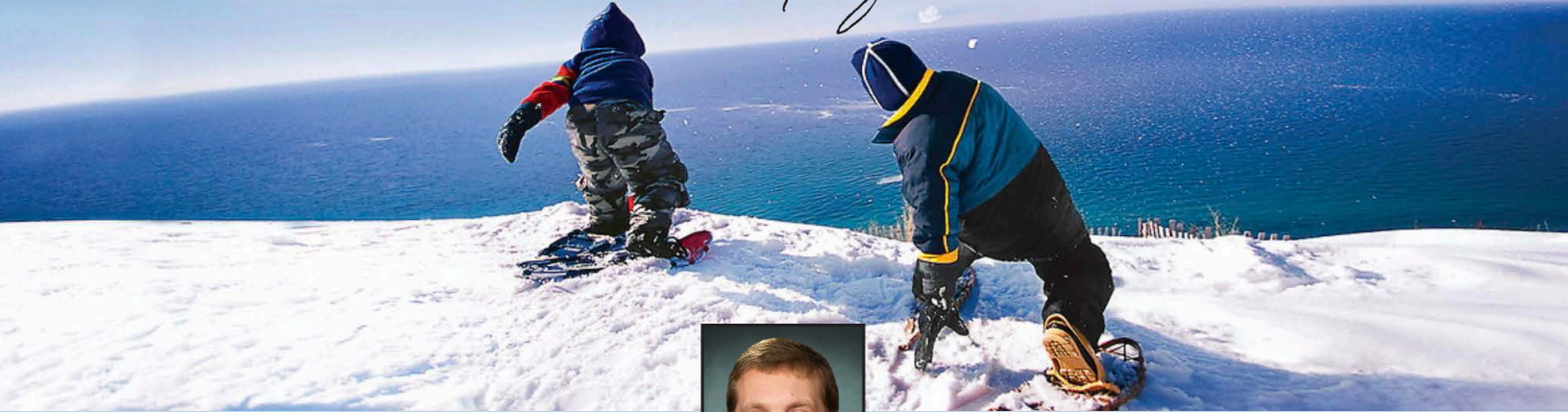
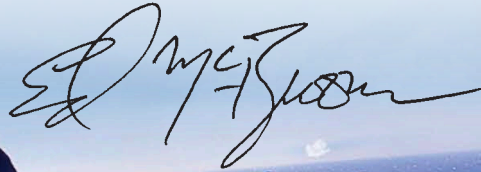
Michigan is the perfect state for those seeking all the adventures that winter has to offer. Families can enjoy skiing, snowboarding, skating, snowmobiling, ice fishing and more during the winter season. With more than 3,000 miles of cross country ski trails, some of the best downhill skiing in the Midwest and 6,400 miles of snowmobile trails, Michigan offers fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities, especially in the Upper Peninsula.

Local festivals and winter events provide more opportunities for outdoor entertainment. This Winter Guide highlights many of these activities statewide and in our community.

Tourism has a huge impact on Michigan residents statewide, and tourism spending grew 3.9% in 2018 for a total of \$25.7 billion. So when you spend your leisure and sporting dollars in our great state, you help support small businesses and communities.

Best wishes for a safe and cool Michigan winter.

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR  
**ED**  
**McBROOM**



**SENATE DISTRICT 38**

TOLL-FREE 855.347.8038

E-MAIL [senembroom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senembroom@senate.michigan.gov)

VISIT [www.SenatorEdMcBroom.com](http://www.SenatorEdMcBroom.com)

# 2020 WINTER *Guide*

## ENJOY MICHIGAN STATE PARKS DURING THE WINTER

Michigan state parks aren't only great for warm weather destinations!

Michiganders can enjoy camping in the great outdoors all winter long, with more than 40 parks statewide offering campgrounds, cabins, lodges and yurts that are open year-round. Most of the locations are surrounded by beautiful cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails.

Many of the locations offer heated cabins, lodges and yurts available to rent. Some locations are only accessible by hiking or snowmobiling, so be sure to do your research before you embark on your adventure. When snowmobiling, four inches of snow or more is required to operate a snowmobile within a state park and any trail riding must take place on trails designated for such use.

There's even a luge run at Muskegon State Park where the adventurous can catch the Olympic spirit! Call **1-877-TRY-LUGE** or visit [www.msports.org](http://www.msports.org) for more information.

To find the perfect park for your favorite cold weather activity, visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the Camping icon. A state recreation passport is needed for park entry; campsite fees are extra.



## 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. Access it online at [www.michigan.gov/fishingreport](http://www.michigan.gov/fishingreport) or by phone at **855-777-0908**.

## McBROOM ALERTS SPORTSMEN TO FREE WINTER FISHING WEEKEND

Michigan anglers can enjoy great fishing opportunities during the winter season. Popular winter species include bluegill, pike, smelt, walleye and yellow perch.

Additionally, anglers can check out **Michigan's annual Winter Free Fishing Weekend — Feb. 15-16** — when all fishing license fees are waived for residents and out-of-state visitors on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations still apply.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/freefishing](http://www.michigan.gov/freefishing) for information on special events and activities. A DNR Recreation Passport will not be required at any state park or recreation area during the free fishing weekend.

Fun fishing starts with being safe, and winter fishing has its own set of safety rules. Take extra care to follow all of the safety guidelines and enjoy Michigan's bounty!





**SPEED** IS A FACTOR.

**80%** OF U.P. SNOWMOBILE

**ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS WERE CAUSED BY SPEED.**

## RIDE RIGHT

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

## BUY YOUR 2019-20 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PERMITS

Snowmobile trail permits are valid for one year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30) and enable you to ride state-designated trails and thousands more miles of public roads and on public lands (where authorized).

**State-designated trails are open Dec. 1 to March 31** and grooming occurs when there is enough snow on the ground.



## WINTER EVENTS

### Tip-Up Town USA

Houghton Lake • January 18-19, 25  
[www.houghtonlakechamber.net](http://www.houghtonlakechamber.net)

### International 500 Snowmobile Race

Sault Ste. Marie • Jan. 27 to Feb. 1  
[www.i-500.com](http://www.i-500.com)

### UP 200, Midnight Run, and Jack Pine 30 Sled Dog Races

Marquette & Gwinn • Feb. 13-17  
[www.up200.org](http://www.up200.org)

### Continental Cup Ski Jumping Tournament

Iron Mountain • Feb. 15-16  
[www.kiwanisskiclub.com](http://www.kiwanisskiclub.com)

### Winter Free Fishing Weekend

Statewide • Feb. 15-16  
[www.michigan.gov/freefishing](http://www.michigan.gov/freefishing)

### Michigan Snowmobile Festival

Gaylord • Feb. 21-22  
[www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net)

## FESTIVALS

### Plymouth Ice Festival

Plymouth • Jan. 10-12  
[www.plymouthicefestival.com](http://www.plymouthicefestival.com)

### SISU Ski Fest

Ironwood • Jan. 11  
[www.sisuskifest.com](http://www.sisuskifest.com)

### Snowfest

Frankenmuth • Jan. 22-27  
[www.zehnders.com](http://www.zehnders.com)

### Winterfest

Grand Haven • Jan. 23-26  
[www.winterfestmi.org](http://www.winterfestmi.org)

### Winter Carnival

Houghton • Feb. 5-8  
[www.mtu.edu/winter-carnival](http://www.mtu.edu/winter-carnival)

### Winter Games

Grand Rapids • Feb. 14-16  
[www.stategamesofmichigan.com/winter-games-sports-lineup](http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com/winter-games-sports-lineup)