

FEB 18

Preview: Snowshoe Constellation Hike from RSOP

Eric Anderson

On February 20, a Constellation Snowshoe Hike will be offered to both students and non-students alike by the Recreational Sports and Outdoors Program (RSOP).

Participants in the event will be provided with snowshoes, hot cocoa, and transportation to Hartley Nature Center, where student guides will provide instruction in snowshoeing, as well as lessons on the locations and origins of the starry imagery above.

“It’s a good opportunity to get outside and learn about snowshoeing and constellations in a unique setting,” said Kirk Pearson, one of the student guides for the hike and a freshman at UMD.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, meeting at the trailhead in the SpHC lobby. There’s a \$5 registration fee for students – \$10 for non-students – and participants are required to bring their own mugs.

“It’s an environmentally conscious requirement,” said Pearson. “That way we don’t have to bring a bunch of Styrofoam cups that will get thrown away later – assuming they don’t just get left on the trail.”

Pearson admitted that, even while it’s been enjoyable, the recent warm weather hasn’t been great for outdoor activities requiring snow.

“The snow’s been pretty hard and packed, which generally isn’t great for snowshoeing. At this point, though, you’ll still want that added traction,” he said.

“There’s also a good chance it’s going to be an overcast night, with a chance of rain,” Pearson added, “but we’ll still get out and have a fun time on the trails regardless.”

Pearson, nonetheless advised against seeing that as a reason to take the winter weather lightly.

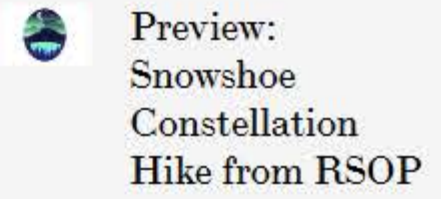
“You’ll definitely want warm clothing,” he said. “It still gets pretty cold at night even with all the warm weather we’ve had lately, so come prepared.”

Persons who wish to participate in the event must register by 12 p.m. on Monday. Registrations and further inquiries can be made at RSOP’s offices in SpHC 153.



Eric Anderson

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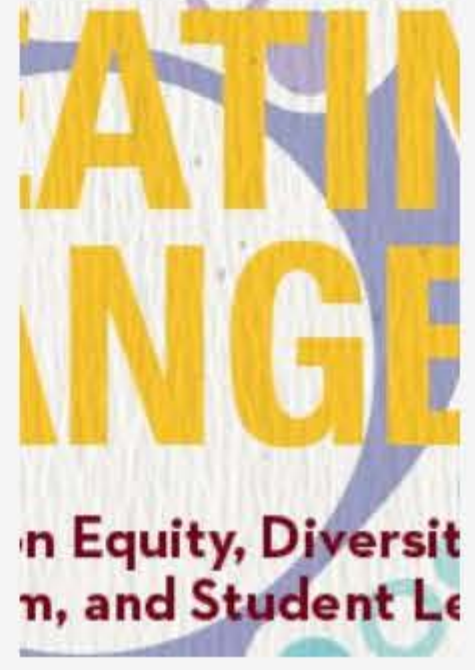


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