



Unique Challenges and Opportunities: Holden Village in the Winter Months

Imagine yourself walking on top of eight feet of accumulated snow. Holden's main road is plowed, paths of well-trodden snow trace around lodges warmed by woodstoves, and the expansive landscape around invites exploration through snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. You are living in the boundary-land of the wilderness, with access to breathtaking views of sparkling snow, mountain lakes, and jagged slopes. You are also living near the detritus of an old mining operation and the spaces of living and work date back to 1937. With these facts in mind, the following are things to consider before visiting the Village.

Power: Expect frequent power outages with interruptions to the flow of water from Copper Creek feeding our hydro plant. In the winter time, because power is limited, you will be asked to dry laundry on racks, avoid any power-hungry devices like hairdryers, and unplug appliances like computers when not in use.

Access to the outside world: Embrace letter-writing. Generally, the post office will be open a few days a week during this season. There is Internet but it is restricted and slow. If you are an Internet-based artist, prepare to do your work completely offline and upload projects after leaving the Village.

Space: Heated space is a precious commodity during the winter season. You will be given a modest, semi-private space in which to work (existing spaces include a ceramics studio, music room, woodshop, and loom room). If you need complete privacy for work, you may be given a private bedroom as working space.

Light: Natural light is also a precious commodity during the winter. By the time you arrive, days will be getting longer, but because Holden is situated in a valley, it will still be receiving less than an hour of direct sunlight each day. Most first-floor windows are blocked by snow. That said, it's a motivator to get outside, and just an hour of hiking can get you in contact with sunlight (and breathtaking vistas).

Wolverine Fire: In summer of 2015, the Wolverine Creek Fire reached close proximity to the Village. While successful back burnings made it possible for firefighters to save all of Holden's structures, much of the surrounding forest and road, between Lake Chelan and Holden Village, burned severely. As a result, uncertainties and risks are heightened. Increased risk of avalanche and mudslide activity could lead to unsafe road conditions, making it impossible, at times, for villagers to utilize the road. For this reason, we ask applicants to be flexible when it comes to their arrival and departure dates.

Personal Health: While we usually have a medic or RN on site, Holden Village is not prepared to handle emergency medical situations, and because of winter conditions there will be periods (think days) where the road will not be in use. Applicants should be in excellent health and must complete a health form to insure their safety in the Village at this time.