

## Responsibility Code # 4

### WHEN STARTING DOWNHILL OR MERGING ONTO A TRAIL, LOOK UPHILL AND YIELD TO OTHERS

This one seems simple but its application can be far reaching. Mt Hood Meadows is blessed with natural playground-like terrain where slopes often change pitch and aspect. We have trails all over our ridges and gulleys and intersections abound. Let's explore what the Responsibility Code can teach us about skiing defensively and avoiding collisions.

Code #2 teaches us that those ahead have the right of way. Code #4 instructs stopped guests to look uphill and yield to those already traveling downhill before starting again. Downhill travelers should be aware of guests who stopped in a safe and visible place according to code #3. Furthermore, downhillers should be in control (code #1) and capable of avoiding everyone and everything. Be aware, patient and safe.

Code # 4 also offers guidance to those who like to explore both on- and off-piste terrain. When entering a trail from an off-piste location, yield to those already on that trail. When traversing (traverse = travelling across slopes instead of down) through off-piste terrain I recommend yielding to those in the fall-line. Keep in mind the big picture. We're a mostly a chairlift-up, sliding-on-snow-down kind of place. Let's respect those already enjoying the down as we traverse to where we want to ski.

As an example, let's look at two common traverse routes here at Meadows.

When lower Heather Canyon is open, Jacks Woods can be accessed from a traverse beginning at the top of the Heather Chair. Those traversing through the entire Shooting Star basin to Jacks should be hypervigilant, looking uphill to their left and yielding to all others throughout their long left cross-slope travels.

South side traversers heading to Easy Rider or the Fireweed, Zoo, Shipyard & Half Pipe freestyle terrain parks from Mt Hood Express should keep an eye on traffic coming downhill over their right shoulder. Please yield to these guests coming from Cascade or Vista Express as you cross their paths and join their trails. Please note that this traverse is not permitted during night operations due to a lack of lighting on the Cascade Skiway.

Make safety your priority. Be aware of others. Ski and ride defensively. On busy days, keep your head on a swivel as trails and skiers' paths approach you and your intended route. If in doubt, please yield. Be smart today in order to ride again tomorrow.

You are responsible.