

ELK IS CLOSE to HOME with GREAT GROOMING and SNOWMAKING

UNION DALE, PA — It all started in 1959, when a mountain became a new recreation complex for skiing. Elk Mountain, as it was named, started out with only a handful of trails. Today Elk Mountain Ski Resort has evolved into a sprawling 27 trails and some of the most challenging terrain in Pennsylvania. During its opening year, Elk featured a small base lodge (now the picnic lodge), a 2,200-foot T-bar and several slopes. There were also some rope tows and a small warming hut built a few years earlier by the Scranton Ski Club.

The first Hall double chair was installed in 1961, heralding the development of five expert trails and various intermediate trails from the top. Elk's first expert trail, completed before the chairlift itself, was host to the 1960 Pennsylvania State Championships. Enthusiastic competitors and gatekeepers actually walked to the summit from the top of the T-bar to run the race.

A year later in 1962, snowmaking was installed and a new A-frame base lodge was built. Skiing at Elk got a lift, quite literally, with the installation of a beginners J-bar in 1964 and a double chairlift from the lower parking lot to the top of the mountain in 1965.

The original T-bar was replaced with a chairlift in 1969, and the J-bar was retired for a double chairlift in 1973. Skiers saw Elk in a whole new light when, in 1966, lighting was installed on the East and West slopes for night skiing. Lighting was installed along three summit trails in 1972. Now a large number of trails are lit for night skiing, including the entire beginner area.

(Please continue reading at the top right.)



UNIONDALE, PA – Elk Mountain is an independent mountain dedicated to great grooming and snowmaking. It is a big mountain experience without the drive. Scan the QR in the ad to buy lift tickets online.

Photo courtesy Elk Mountain

Elk Mountain continued to build on that legacy of great skiing when it upgraded its snowmaking ability by adding tower mount snow guns on the Tecumseh trail. Additional guns were also placed on Stomping Grounds Terrain Park. These guns helped to ensure better coverage in the most challenging ski seasons.

From the recently upgraded and resurfaced parking lots to the more than 1,000 Norway and White Spruce trees that were planted slopeside, your Elk experience is always a pleasant and environmentally friendly one from arrival to departure.

First-time skiers, established skiers, or snowboarders looking to learn or fine-tune their skills can do so with a lesson from a member of the Elk Mountain Ski School.

The school is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and utilizes the American Teaching System. With a staff of approximately 75 trained instructors, Elk has a program and the staff to meet your individual needs. Class sizes are limited to provide a quality experience. Lessons may be sold out during busy periods so check online. Details are available at the ski school desk.

The perfect time to learn to ski is while you are young, and the staff wants to make your child's skiing experience fun. They offer programs that allow parents to enjoy themselves while children learn to ski with confidence.

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To easily go to Elk online, scan the QR code in the ad above to buy tickets or sign-up for ski school. Please call Elk at 1-800-233-4131 or log on to: www.elkskier.com and get your Elk visit started.



A FRESH LOOK, MORE SNOW, and MORE REASONS to SKI BEAR CREEK THIS WINTER

MACUNGIE, PA - After a strong 2025–26 ski season, Bear Creek Mountain Resort headed into winter 2026–27 with optimism, fresh improvements and a full calendar of on-mountain fun.

Located close to home but built for a true winter escape, Bear Creek continues to invest in the guest experience, from the first turns of the season through spring's final laps. Whether you are a longtime passholder, a family planning its first ski day, or a group looking for an easy getaway, there will be even more to enjoy this winter.



MACUNGIE, PA – Bear Creek Mountain Resort is home not only to a great ski, snowboard and tubing mountain but also a great hotel, conference center and a wedding and celebration venue.

Photo courtesy Bear Creek Mountain Resort

A key focus for the coming season is snowmaking. Bear Creek has added 18 new, fully automated snow guns designed to help the mountain make snow more efficiently and consistently when temperatures cooperate. The resort has also continued its multi-year work replacing older water pipes, helping move more water uphill to support snowmaking operations where it matters most.

In addition, Bear Creek has increased its water capacity, giving the snowmaking team more resources to build and maintain quality conditions throughout the season. Together, these behind-the-scenes improvements reinforce the resort's commitment to delivering a dependable winter experience for skiers, snowboarders and snow-tubing guests.

Guests will also notice an updated look inside The Lodge. New carpet and fresh paint have given the space a welcoming refresh, perfect for warming up between runs, sharing a meal with friends and family, or relaxing after a day on the slopes. The Lodge remains a central part of the Bear Creek experience, blending mountain energy with the comfort and hospitality that make a ski day feel like a getaway.

The excitement will continue well beyond opening day. Bear Creek is planning a season filled with special events, including demo days that give guests opportunities to explore new equipment, live music, themed fun and other on-mountain experiences throughout the winter.

When spring arrives, one of Bear Creek's most anticipated events will return: the Spring Snowmobile Race. This high-energy event brings a unique burst of excitement to the slopes and is just one more reason to keep the winter spirit going late into the season.

With upgraded snowmaking infrastructure, refreshed Lodge surroundings and more events on the calendar, Bear Creek Mountain Resort is ready to build on the momentum of last winter. The 2026–27 season promises more opportunities to make memories, whether that means learning to ski, enjoying a favorite run, catching live music with friends, or simply spending a great winter day in the mountains.

Start planning now and get ready to make Bear Creek your winter tradition.

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For more, please listen to the Bear Creek Mountain Resort podcast episodes, visit: www.AlwaysUpright.com and easily find them linked from the East section label.

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