

# ICE FES

SAULT STE. MARIE  
FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2026

## Festival Info Pack

Here is your festival guide: [Ice Fest SSM 2026 Climbing Guide!](#)

### On The Ice...

**Wear:** Prepare for a cold day! Base Layer, Mid Layer, Shell. Snowpants. Sunglasses. Bring a balaclava, or a neck gaiter and wear a hat that will fit under your helmet. Flexible gloves for climbing plus warm mitts for between climbs.

**Helmets are non-negotiable for all participants**

**Bring:** Snacks, lunch, water, flask of tea/coffee, your climbing gear

**Transport is not provided.** Please carpool as much as possible.

If you haven't already, [sign your waiver please](#) 😊

<https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/jyxsubj9kamt7cmxukmal9w/web/>

# At a glance:

**Friday Night:** Snowpants Party at Outspoken Brewing.

**Saturday:** Independent Climbing at Gros Cap and Searchmont. Climbing Clinics at Searchmont.

**Saturday Night:** Apres-Climb Party and Ice Fest Summit at the Tap Room.

**Sunday:** Independent Climbing at Gros Cap and Searchmont.

# Friday Snowpants Party

**Outspoken Brewing | 6:00–10:00PM**

[350 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario](#)

Kick off the weekend at our outdoor snowpants party! It's a gathering of adventurers with a bar made of ice, fire pits, hot chocolate, outdoor DJ and indoor live music. Pick up your festival grab-bag and plan the weekend.

Wear: Layers! Base layer, puffy, shell, snow pants, hat, gloves, neck gaiter.

\$\$\$: Free for festival pass holders, \$20 door cover for people who don't have a pass.

Grab bags: Ice Fest SSM T-Shirt, Self-Rescue Spikes, Ice Fest SSM sticker and postcard

Schedule:

6pm: Doors open

7pm-9pm: Music from Gemini Music

9pm: Music from Maggie Lee (indoors)

# Saturday

We will have experienced volunteers, a warming station and hot chocolate on site at Gros Cap and Searchmont.

At Gros Cap, our volunteers will set up some routes and the team are on hand to belay.

Wear: See intro for what to wear and bring.

**Gros Cap:** Independent Ice Climbing. Park here: [GCH7+HHM, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6K4](#)

**Searchmont:** Climbing Clinics & Independent Climbing.

Searchmont Climbing Clinic participants have recieved a seperate email with more information.

Rental Equipment: Order in advance and pick up at [Sleep Inn](#), 727 Bay St, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6Y3

Schedule (Gros Cap):

7.30am - 9am: Pick up rental equipment at [Sleep Inn](#)

10am: Volunteers and hot chocolate will be ready

11am - 3pm: Snowshoe Tours with Forest the Canoe

1pm - 3pm: Skills Session (drop in, free with festival pass)

4pm: Volunteers will pack up and head to the Tap Room for the Ice Fest Summit

# Saturday Night

**Northern Superior Tap Room | 6:00–11:00 PM**

[50 Pim St, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3G4](#)

Join us to hear amazing adventure stories from local ice climbing pioneers, grab a drink, and swap stories with other adventurers. The Ice Climbing World Cup will be on the screens and we'll be joined by an amazing local musician after 9pm.

Bring: Your ticket, on your phone or printed out.

\$\$\$: Free for festival pass holders, \$20 door cover for people who don't have a pass.

Food Partner: Gino's Pizza available to order.

## Schedule:

6:00pm: Doors open

6.45pm: Ice Fest Summit opening remarks

7:00pm: Keynote Speaker, Aric Fishman

7.30pm: Keynote Speaker, Steve Foster

8.50pm: Gear Raffle

9:00pm: Live Music from Matthew James

# Ice Fest Summit

## Our Speakers:

**Aric Fishman** is the Founder and Director of Outdoor Skills And Thrills, offering guided adventures across Northwestern Ontario. He is the author of *Thunder Bay Climbing: A Guide to Northwest Ontario's Best Kept Secret* and Director of the Nipigon Ice Fest, Canada's longest-running ice climbing festival. Hear about his ice climbing adventures and why this sport is so important to the region.

**Steve Foster** has been an climbing instructor for nearly 35 years, and one of the original explorers of Northern Ontario ice in Gros Cap, Searchmont, and the Little White River. A 26-year professional firefighter and technical rope rescue instructor, his climbing has taken him from the Canadian Rockies to Ecuador, Peru, and 7 expeditions to Nepal, including Ama Dablam and Mount Everest. Hear his story and get inspired for your next adventure.

**Gear raffle** sponsored by Great Lakes Outfitters, Velorution, Steve Foster, and the Alpine Club of Canada, Sault Ste. Marie.

**Music** by the amazing local singer songwriter, Matthew James.

# Sunday

Choose your own adventure!

Our volunteers may be out climbing, but we have no organized activities.

# Thank you!

Organizing the very first **Ice Fest SSM** has been an absolute blast. And a little nerve-wracking too. We had no idea if anyone would want to be a part of it! But the support we've received has been incredible.

Thank you so much for joining in. We're so excited to meet you and can't wait to hear what you think of the whole experience.

Feel free to get in touch any time at [icefestssm@gmail.com](mailto:icefestssm@gmail.com) or [saultacc@gmail.com](mailto:saultacc@gmail.com)

Special thanks to our sponsors, who made Ice Fest SSM possible.

