

Frequently asked questions

Can I request a coach and/or a friend to be with? We will certainly try to accommodate coach and/or friend requests. The goal is to match age and ability in every group, so if your athlete is a good fit for a requested coach, chances are your child will be placed in that group. If your child and his/her friend are a good match (age/ability), then it makes it very easy to place them both in the same group.

Will my athlete have the same coach all season? We try to have the same coach with the group all season. The coaching staff is comprised of well-rounded and successful people so it's possible that they will be busy with their careers and families on occasion. As a result, your athlete may have a substitute coach from time to time or may have a group that is shared between a couple coaches.

Can my athlete try the program for a day or two? Nope. "Drop-in" athletes would be impossible to predict or staff for; also we would find ourselves duplicating what is already offered through the Winter Park Ski and Ride School. Out of the hundreds and hundreds of kids who have experienced the program, there is only a small handful who decided that they didn't like it and decided not to continue.

Why can't the groups cut lift lines? Our philosophy is to teach skiing skills and, just as important, introduce the values and practices of skiing as part of a lifestyle in the context of lifelong skiing. The majority of skiers do not get to cut lift lines. One of the lessons in becoming a skier is learning the etiquette of waiting in line. One of the strategies of our expert coaching staff is to pass along the knowledge of the rhythms of the mountain as far as which lifts are busy when. Also keep in mind that even on the busiest days, our groups get in plenty of skiing.

How are groups determined? Your child will meet a group of 2-4 coaches and 20-30 kids on the first morning of the program. The 20-30 kids will be in the same age range, and, as far as we can tell based on prior programs and ski evaluations, same ability. The coaches will then head up the hill and perform another skiing evaluation over the course of a few runs. Groups of 6-9 will then be split off from the bigger group to ski with one coach.

What is the difference between All Mountain Development (AMP Devo) and All Mountain Team (AMT)? AMP Devo is geared toward kids ages 6-12, AMT is geared toward kids ages 10 and older. The age overlap is intentional as AMP Devo includes program lunch at Snoasis and gives parents of 10-12 year olds the option of a supervised lunch. AMT has one extra session in March and an option for Christmas Camp. AMP Devo has a supervised lunch included but no Christmas Camp. *If you are at all uncomfortable with your athlete being unsupervised at lunch, please register for AMP Devo.* Other than that, the groups are split the same way with age and ability matched as closely as possible.

How does AMP Devo lunch work? Lunch for the AMP Devo groups are upstairs in Snoasis. The menu is varied (pizza, chili, mac & cheese, lasagna, hotdogs, etc.) with salad and a dessert. Nothing has nuts, and we try to accommodate dairy and gluten requirements. We try to make 300 kids happy with lunch every weekend, so multiple allergies, finicky tastes, or religious and/or lifestyle requirements might be best taken care of with a sack lunch from home. We are happy to transport these lunches to Snoasis.

What is the difference between AMT and AMT Short? Essentially, only the dates. AMT starts earlier in the season and goes one more weekend in the spring. Other than that, groups are about the same size, they ski the same places, and take advantage of the same great coaching staff. AMT Short is designed for kids who still want to get into a great skiing program with kids their but need to work around other commitments such as fall/spring sports, High School AP courses, etc.

Why don't AMT and AMT Short program athletes get lunch with the program? AMT and AMT Short athletes are recognized as athletes of an advanced Comp. Center program. As such, they are expected to exhibit the responsibility required to have lunch on their own and show up for the afternoon ski session at the predetermined time and place. *If you are at all uncomfortable with your athlete being unsupervised at lunch, please register for AMP Devo.*

Why don't AMP Devo athletes have a Holiday Camp? We schedule a break for the week of Christmas to make it easier on families with younger kids. It is typically one of the busiest weekends of the ski season. Also, it seems a fair tradeoff to provide lunch instead of camp as an economic decision.

Will my child get a chance to compete? There will be chances to compete in Internal Mogul competitions for all AMT/AMP Devo/AMT Short athletes. AMT/AMT Short athletes will be able to ski in our version of a Freeski Comp on Brian's Run. You will be provided information on these opportunities well in advance.

Is a season pass included? No, a season pass is not included in the program fees. A Winter Park/Mary Jane Season Pass is available to purchase with program registration. Visit www.wpcompcenter.com under the Registration, Resources, and FAQ page for additional information on pass prices for the upcoming season, or call ccenter@winterparkresort.com.

Is equipment included? Equipment is not included.

What type of equipment should my athlete have? All mountain skis, approximately eyebrow high. Front entry boots. Helmet. Poles, goggles, mittens/gloves, neck gaiter, season pass, layered clothing (no cotton), ski jacket/pants. Other great items to have in pockets are handwarmers, lens cleaner, a snack.

Is there a telemark program? Yes. Telemark skiers are assimilated into alpine skiing groups with a coach with telemark expertise. The coach will spend time on both types of equipment.

Is there an Adult AMP program? There is! AMP adult is offered as a 5-pack or unlimited program. It runs for 10 weeks and is offered on Saturdays and Sundays. Want to try it out? We allow a paid trial day, and you can apply that fee toward the program tuition if you choose to upgrade to the 5-pack or unlimited program!

Is there a day that I can ski with my kid's group? We do not have an official "parent day." Coaches are happy to accommodate any request to ski with the group (provided you can keep up). Please be aware of your child's reaction to you in the group (kids are generally different away from parents) and please refrain from becoming another coach (a good spot to be is behind the group counting heads).

Where will they ski? It depends on the group. The high level groups, snow conditions providing, might only be on a named trail a relatively small percentage of the time. The goal is to choose terrain that will develop the skills to navigate trees, glades and chutes, as well as preparing our athletes for other Competition Center disciplines.

How much time will the kids spend on different skills? It depends on several things. We have coaches with freestyle, racing, ski instructor, patrol, and recreational backgrounds who will tend to coach to their areas of strength. They will also balance the curriculum with the snow conditions and terrain availability. Bottom line is that every coach will teach the skills necessary to progress through any of the Comp Center programs as well as being great all mountain skiers.

What does a typical day look like? Given that a day in early December is going to be different than a day in late February, here's an example: Meet at 9 am, head to the lift, warm up run, then a run focusing on stance and balance. Look for some powder in the trees, head over to Eagle Wind (toward the end of the season just about every group can ski the Eagle Wind territory) to ski some glade and chutes and then head in for lunch. After lunch, hustle over to Panorama lift, ski the Cirque, a run or two in Vasquez glades, and then down to meet parents/guardians at 3:15 pm.

I can make it only every other weekend. Can you prorate the program fees? Nope. We try to provide as much continuity as we can with the groups. Prorating is a slippery slope to a drop-in type of program which would essentially be a duplication of the Ski & Ride School.

What if we need to miss a day? Make-up days are not offered.

What if I'm running late? You will be provided your coach's phone number, so please try to contact him/her directly. Depending on the ski crowd for that day and how late you are running, you may have to meet your ski group at lunch.

Why don't you offer an AMP Devo program shorter in length? One of the AMP programs goals is to prepare kids for the competitive disciplines/advanced Competition Center teams. Part of that goal is to prepare athletes for the rigors of skiing all season long. 4-Week programs are offered through the Winter Park Ski & Ride School.

Who are the coaches? Coaches are as varied as the athletes themselves. Most coach one day a week, taking time off from careers like doctors, nurses, teachers, law enforcement, and business owners. All have backgrounds as either former competitors or expert recreational skiers and are all committed to the idea of passing along a love of skiing.

What if I'm not happy with my athlete's group? As a courtesy and show of respect, please be in contact with your coach first to express concerns and suggestions. Coaches will generally go out of their way to fix any problems. In the unlikely event that you are not satisfied, feel free to take your concerns to the Program Director anticipating that his first question will be, "Have you talked to your coach?"

How do I get ahold of the Program Director? Best line of communication is email
ppittz@winterparkresort.com

What to expect from the Program

Expect your athlete's skiing skills to progress remarkably, but equally important, expect your athlete to learn what it takes to be a skier. Expect them to not only learn their way around Winter Park, but to learn the personality of the mountain during different times of the season and different times of the day. Expect them to gain experience and learn the difference of skiing in the shadowy cold of mid-December to the slushy sunshine of mid-March (and enjoy both).

Expect your athlete to be held accountable to be on time, learn the etiquette of handling crowds, learn and live the Skier Safety code, and realize that at all times that they are representing the Competition Center. Expect them to be held responsible for managing their equipment, buckling their own boots, cleaning their own goggles, and to deal with what happens if they don't have these things. They will be viewed as some of the best skiers on the mountain, but this level of visibility makes them very identifiable especially if doing anything that can be interpreted as wrong, rude, or inappropriate.

Expect our coaches to instill an appreciation of skiing to the point where your athlete defines him/herself as a skier. Expect this stage of self-definition to follow them for their entire life and then may influence their future lifestyle. Full disclosure: Our mission is to provide exceptional programs and events that inspire lifelong enjoyment of mountain sports, empowering people to realize their full potential in life and sport. Expect your athlete to learn that any day on skis with ski buddies is a very special day.

Expect our coaches to have a short-term plan. Coaches are experts at maximizing potentially changing conditions and terrain to coincide with the learning experience. While a daily plan may include working on a specific skill set, our coaches will adapt the plan to match changing ski conditions.

Expect our coaches to have a long-term plan. Realizing that the cost of a junior competitive skiing career can run in excess of \$100k, we know that there is likely no economic pay off at the collegiate or even World Cup levels. The long-term plan, therefore, has to be the lessons learned that can be applied to the tasks of life: dedication, discipline, perseverance, accountability, and rising to meet a challenge. 99.9% of the program athletes will not compete in the Olympics or get a college scholarship, but 100 percent will go on and be expected to be successful in their personal relationships and in their professional lives. Coaches fully understand that this is where the big impact can be on your athlete's personal, social, and athletic development, thereby making the resources invested more than worth it.

Expect our coaches to have your athlete's best interest at heart. We have no interest in holding anyone below their ability level, but also realize the safety implications of putting an athlete in a situation that might be above their skill level. We will match ability and age as closely as possible, but please remember that, by definition, as soon as you have more than one person, you have a difference in age and ability.

Expect our coaches to emphasize the social aspects of skiing. It is not unusual to make a lifelong ski friend (ski friends are best friends!) in their very first Competition Center group. Ski friends are encouraging, understanding, compassionate, and sometimes wait for ski friends.

Expect your athlete's coach to provide and demand respect. Your coach will respect every individual in the group while balancing the respect of the group dynamic. Expect coaches to have high expectations for the group and from the individuals as evidence of this respect. Expect your athlete to show respect to the coach by following directions, being on time, leaving cell phones in pockets, and showing the same respect to other members of the group and program.

Expect to have access to your athlete's coach. Your coach will know your athlete better than anyone in the program and should be considered a partner in your athlete's experience and development. Include your athlete's coach with any non-skiing issues that may or may not come up during the ski season. Please include your athlete's coach in any discussions regarding your athlete's Comp. Center experience including concerns you may have with coaching.

Expect your athlete to be put into a safe environment with a positive team dynamic. Expect ever-changing snow and weather conditions. Expect that your athlete's coach will assess different levels of risk to expose your athlete to learning skills and tactics and meeting challenges. Expect your athlete to be put into a great situation to learn and have fun, but it is ultimately your athlete's choice of what attitude they carry into the program.

Expect your athlete's coach to prioritize. It is easy to prioritize in this order: 1. Safety, 2. Fun, 3. Learning. Expect your coach to prioritize team building and stress the opportunities involved in this sort of program. Fun makes for a good day. Fun with expertise makes for fun for a lifetime. Expect your coach to balance both fun and learning.

Expect your athlete to learn that the attitude they bring to the mountain directly affects the quality of their learning and the quality of their performance. Attitude is as important as balance, stance and vision in good skiing.

Expect your athlete to ski a lot. We are a mileage-based program in the context of learning the ski fundamentals. Expect your athlete's coach to teach these fundamentals with a minimum of explanation and a maximum of motion.