

MEMORANDUM

TO: **New & Returning** TRS POWDERHOUND SKI & SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS

FROM: ALICE BUSCH, THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Therapeutic Recreation Ski & Snowboard Programs

DATE: October 16, 2024

Powderhounds program experienced great success with combining our former two programs into one. We are grateful for the flexibility and professionalism all the instructors provided. The program will remain at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park. We are excited to be able to better utilize our resources and serve our students in improved ways. We will start off the season with an informational meeting for new instructors wanting to learn about the entire TRS ski program volunteer opportunities on **Tuesday December 3 6PM-7:30PM at Park Operations located at 2304 E. Mallon Ave.** At this meeting, we will outline the program, go over expectations, fill out paperwork, and meet a few returning instructors.

This is a great opportunity to encourage new people to come learn about the programs!

The TRS Powderhound program gives people ages 6 + opportunities to experience freedom and control gliding down the slopes. We will offer snowboarding, sit ski lessons (mono and bi-ski), Stand up with outriggers (3 & 4 track) for those with amputee/balance needs, and 2 track stand up for those with cognitive, visual or sensory needs. Lessons will be conducted out of the Yurt at Lodge #1 or the Snowsports Chalet at Lodge #2. Mandatory Volunteer training sessions are January 3-5, 2025 for returning instructors and 10-12, 2025 for new instructors. Teaching session dates are Saturday, January 18th through March 1st - with no program on February 8. The 5th Annual Powderhounds Cup will be held Saturday March 8. Morning session is 9-11:30am and Afternoon session is 12:30-3pm.

In an effort to improve risk management and best practices of standard industries the Training requirements for Instructors is being modified. It is crucial trainings are attended (new and returning), and instructors wear helmets that are 5 or less years old. Charley Phelan out of Steamboat Springs will be our Head Clinician.

Mandatory Instructor Training for Returning Instructors: Please note the new requirements.

Dryland Training **Friday Jan 3, 2025 6-8:30 pm** at Park Operations, 2304 E. Mallon Ave. On snow training will occur **Sat. Jan 4, 2025 8:30 am-1pm or 1:30-6pm**. **This will be the same clinic repeated so only sign up for one.**

The second on snow day will be:

Sun Jan 5, 2025 8:30am- 4pm (choosing 2 of the 3 sessions)

#1:8:30am-11am for Sit Down,

#2 11:30am-1:30pm Visually Impaired/ Cognitive

#3: 2-4pm Stand Up 3 & 4 Track

On snow clinics will be meeting at Mt Spokane Ski and Snowboard Resort- exact location TBA. These clinics will help teach new and returning instructors skill progressions and new teaching techniques. We will be observing your ability to work with people, your ability to ski, and your ability to teach to ensure a quality program. Instructors are asked to commit to volunteering a minimum of 6 lessons so students experience consistent instruction.

Mandatory Instructor Training for New Instructors:

Dryland training **Friday Jan 10, 2025 6-8:30 pm** at Park Operations, 2304 E. Mallon Ave.

On snow training will occur **Jan 11, 2025 from 8:30 am-4 pm. The focus is on personal ski development and progression steps 1-4.**

Day 2 of training is Sunday Jan 12 8:30am-4pm The focus will be teaching progression with equipment.

All on snow trainings will be meeting at Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Resort....exact location TBA. These clinics will help teach new and returning instructors skill progressions and new teaching techniques. We will be observing your ability to work with people, your ability to ski, and your ability to teach to ensure a quality program. Instructors are asked to commit to volunteering a minimum of 6 lessons so students experience consistent instruction.

During the program, *Saturday morning* session volunteers will meet at 8:30 am to receive a lift ticket and need to be at pre-assigned building no later than 8:45 am for a staff meeting, assignments, equipment check, etc. Volunteers will need to be ready to teach lessons from 9:00 am-11:30 am, then do paperwork, put away equipment etc. until 12 pm.

If volunteering for the *Saturday afternoon* session, volunteers will meet at 12:00 pm for pre-lesson meeting, and teach lessons from 12:30- 3:00 pm, then put away equipment, do paperwork, etc. until 3:30 pm.

Instructors teaching one lesson a day will be able to free ski during non-lesson time. At the end of three weeks the half-day instructors will earn the ability to purchase one incentive lift to line ticket for \$20. If instructors choose to teach two lessons a day for 3 weeks, they will be able to purchase an incentive ticket for each full day. Do not sell these incentive tickets or you will be dismissed from the program immediately. They may be used for friends or family. Spokane Parks and Recreation will be paying for the daily tickets used while you are instructing.

Anytime not teaching (free skiing), the volunteer instructor will NOT be covered as a city volunteer under workman's compensation.

Returning instructors who volunteered at least 4 weeks last season are encouraged to purchase a season pass for Mt. Spokane at \$100 plus tax. The mountain is offering this amazing deal to help support our TRS ski programs. Passes will be good at the start of the season. The season pass helps to keep the costs down for the program as Spokane Parks and Recreation will be paying for the daily tickets used while you are instructing.

Once registered and paid for class #17627, background check passed and the mountain creates a link, we will email you the link for the pass purchase.

Our last day, Saturday March 8th will be our 5th annual Powderhounds Cup! MSSRA and Mt. Spokane staff will set courses, and times will be taken for both students and instructors who go through the courses. There will be prizes and great food! We will be looking for sponsors so please let us know if you are interested or have someone we can contact.

A firm commitment to the program is ESSENTIAL! Please let the Ski Coordinators know in advance if you are unable to teach. It is best to include correspondence to both Roger and Sara. **Don't wait until Saturday to call if you know in advance.** Many people meet at the dryland & on snow clinics and set up car pools.

Please use the attached registration form, fill out the background check (which **REQUIRES** a social security number in order for us to process the city required background check) and attach your payment option with checks made payable to Spokane Parks and Recreation. Volunteer Registration fee is \$55 for new and returning instructors not buying pass and \$35 for return instructors purchasing discounted season pass.

Come see us at the Mt. Ski Patrol Ski Swap October 26 9am-5pm and October 27 9am-noon at the Spokane Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5 at door, kids 12 & under are free. This is a great way to get new or used gear at a super price and support our amazing Ski Patrol at the same time!

We also will be at the Winter PreFunk at Mt. Spokane on Sunday November 10 11am-5pm.

Don't forget to visit our wonderful partner The Alpine Haus now with two locations: 2925 S. Regal St. and brand new location 2215 W. Northwest Boulevard(former Chase Bank). Be sure to tell them you are a Powderhound and thank them for their support.

We are looking forward to a fun and exciting gliding down the slopes season. If you have any questions, please call Powderhound Coordinators Roger Schramm 509.999.8586 and Sara Bryant 509.714.7654 or TRS Supervisor Alice Busch at 509.625-6245. See you on the mountain!!

Alice Busch
Cell 509.720.3099

abusch@spokanecity.org

Therapeutic Recreation Services Supervisor
Spokane Parks and Recreation
2304 E. Mallon
Spokane, WA 99202

Sara Bryant sm_dunbar@hotmail.com
Roger Schramm roger.l.schramm@gmail.com