

SPRING UPDATE

2022

EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO



ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Adventure Seekers and Supporters,

With the 2021-2022 year wrapping up, we continue doing what we are here to do—getting lots of well-deserving folks out on some super positive adventures in the mountains. While the pandemic still required navigation, our crew and participants continued to take steps forward to define the new normal. As a result, we finished the season with a full schedule, lots of smiling faces, a ton of fist-bumps, and, the best part, welcomed back many participants we hadn't seen in a while. In short, it felt great to have the hustle and bustle of a busy program again. We are so grateful to everyone who supported us and helped make it happen.

One of my favorite things about my role at the ASC is sharing the stories that highlight our mission. As we all know, our mission is our guiding light. These “mission moments” always prove to be incredibly motivating. The stories are numerous, but this note highlights our mission well:

“My daughter often notices all the “can’t’s” compared to her peers. The fact that she was able to get out and do something challenging this week gave her so much confidence. With the right equipment and the right amount of challenge, she felt so capable. As her mom, I LOVED seeing that.”

- Parent of an ASC Participant

Sadly, we lost our long-time beloved friend, participant, and board member Linda Fialkoff, who passed in December. Linda was truly one of a kind: a firecracker, a mentor, a gracious soul, and responsible for helping

the ASC get to where it is today. The entire ASC community is very fortunate to have had her as part of our family. She will be deeply missed.

All reports indicate that Chris Hensley, our Executive Director, is having a productive and well-deserved sabbatical. During his time away, the administrative staff has been fantastic at keeping operations running smoothly. We did miss having the boss-man drag us out for some turns this Winter, followed by coffee! But what we miss most of all is his advice and camaraderie, and we look forward to his return.

Looking ahead we plan on doing so much more, guided by our new, board-approved 3-year Strategic Plan. As always, after a winter in Crested Butte, we are looking forward to sunshine, green meadows, waist-deep wildflowers—CB's other “waist-deep!”—and endless rivers and trails. We can't wait to welcome our participants back this summer with sharp new adaptive equipment, our fantastic Crested Butte community, a newly renovated Gothic Lodge, and most importantly, a phenomenal team excited to do their part to help our participants “get out there.”



Christopher Read
Acting Executive Director,
Program Director
Adaptive Sports Center



MISSION MOMENTS

The seven-year-old snowboarder who gained independence; then challenged his mom to a turning contest down Mt. CB; and went on to ski International with her!

The husband and wife who rediscovered vacationing together.

The young girl who skied independently with her parents for the first time.

Kelly visited with a group from Powered to Move, an organization from Texas, on their first trip to the Adaptive Sports Center this winter. Photo: Nolan Blunck

WINTER 2021-2022 REWIND

VISITING GROUPS & CAMPS

We are honored to have hosted the following groups from across the nation for week-long trips. These opportunities provide peer-to-peer support and adventures that promote independence and well-being.

DECEMBER

Operation BASH

Veterans with visual impairments

Fort Carson

Soldiers and veterans with disabilities

JANUARY

Expedition School

Young adults with visual impairments

Move Mountains

Youth at-risk

Texas Shredders

Adults with spinal cord injuries

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana

Veterans with disabilities

FEBRUARY

Craig Hospital

Adults with spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries

Mountain Mobility

Youth with visual impairments

Wounded Warrior Project

Veterans with disabilities

Powered to Move

Adults with spinal cord injuries and other neurological disabilities

MARCH

DC Adults

Adult burn survivors

Ladies Session

Women with disabilities

Chapel Haven

Adults with cognitive disabilities

International Neurorehabilitation Institute

Adults with multiple sclerosis and other neurological disabilities

SUMMER 2022 PREVIEW

JUNE

Roger Pepper Adventure Camp

Teen burn survivors

Ride the Rockies

Adults, including veterans, with disabilities

DC Adults

Adult burn survivors

Operation BASH #1

Veterans with visual impairments

Rancho Los Amigos

Adults with physical disabilities

Servicemembers Undertaking Disabled Sports (SUDS)

Veterans with amputations

JULY

Move Mountains

Youth at-risk

Ladies Session

Women with disabilities

Fort Carson

Soldiers and veterans with disabilities

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital

Youth with cerebral palsy

Mountain Mobility

Youth with visual impairments

Expedition School

Young adults with visual impairments

AUGUST

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Veterans with spinal cord injuries

Wounded Warrior Project

Veterans with disabilities

Chapel Haven

Adults with cognitive disabilities

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Adults with spinal cord injuries

SEPTEMBER

Operation BASH #2

Veterans with visual impairments

Brooke Army Medical Center

Veterans with amputations and other orthopedic disabilities

DC Firefighters Burn Foundation

Adult burn survivors

Lakeshore Foundation

Veterans with disabilities

50

Winter Program
Volunteers

2,600

Volunteer
Hours



VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all the amazing folks who humble us every season with their gift of time and talents. Thank you.

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

The individuals and families who visit the ASC are just as varied as the groups we serve. Our program encourages together time for families and provides exceptional fun for everyone!

VETERANS

The Adaptive Sports Center's Operation Rise and Conquer program offers a \$50 discounted rate for veterans & first responders with disabilities, along with their families. We also have several groups, including ones for visually impaired veterans and firefighters who are burn survivors.





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Photos (top left to right): (1) Ricky and Jeff, along with other members of Six Points in Gunnison, rocked it at the Special Olympics Western Colorado Regional Games. (2) Teens with visual impairments traveled from Colorado's Front Range for a week of comradery and skiing. (3) Kevin really wanted to snowboard again, and with some adaptations for balance, it was possible. (4) It's all laughs with Meredith and Brett. (5) Codi and Mayra soak in the Rocky Mountain sunshine! (6) Trey and Avi working on turns with tethers — amazing! (7) Vince joined with Craig Hospital and skied with Maura. (8) Texas Shredders is a one-of-a-kind group embodying the spirit of shredding. (9) Elie and Ryan attack the North Face with the aid of Bluetooth speakers for instruction. (10) Nicole and Maharanie give this year's Ladies Session two thumbs up. (11) Alex and Codi grin for the camera.



A FAMILY SHRED SESSION



PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: RUTHIE MAE & HER FAMILY

Bright-eyed kindergartner Ruthie Mae Yates loves school, coloring, doing puzzles, jumping on her trampoline, playing in the snow, and being with her older sister and brothers. So when it came time for Ruthie Mae to learn to ski, the whole family wanted to be there to encourage her and join in on the fun. In December, the Yates family traveled from Dallas to enjoy a vacation in Crested Butte so Ruthie Mae, who has spina bifida, could try skiing for the very first time at the Adaptive Sports Center.

The early stages of the trip brought up many new and unfamiliar experiences for Ruthie Mae, ranging from gear fittings, to learning about the different support equipment, and trying the magic carpet. Ruthie Mae learned to use a slider, which is a device developed from a standard walker mounted on skis that provides support and aids with balance while skiing.

“Ruthie Mae has a tenacious spirit, she is very brave and courageous,” said Jayme Yates, Ruthie Mae’s mom.

Ski instructors Krista Powers and Maura Roche couldn’t agree more! “Ruthie Mae was such a pleasure to work with! She is full of spitfire, she’s smart, funny, and so sweet,” said Krista. “I look forward to seeing all the amazing things she will do in her life! The possibilities are endless with a spirit like that!”

Krista and Maura tapped into Ruthie Mae’s love of writing and homework to collaborate



The ASC leveled the playing field for her. You made it possible for her to not stand apart but to join in with everyone.



Jayme Yates



on a contract outlining the goals she would work towards each day. Using colored pencils, Ruthie Mae and her instructors drew up skills and tasks, then creatively crossed off her accomplishments as she completed each one. Another creative teaching tool Krista and Maura used to encourage Ruthie Mae was placing stuffed animals on the mountain to promote turning.

Jared Yates, Ruthie Mae’s dad, said, “The ski instructors were very creative and not afraid to push Ruthie Mae to try new things.”

One day, Ruthie Mae decided she’d had enough of the magic carpet and asked to ride the big “couch,” as the Red Lady ski lift is affectionately known. From that moment, Ruthie Mae’s confidence grew and she made several runs down the mountain in a row.

“Ruthie Mae went from being timidly nervous of the entire set-up to going up the Red Lady Express lift to the top of the mountain and skiing down 7 to 8 times,” said Jayme proudly.

When asked if she enjoyed skiing, Ruthie Mae smiled brightly and exclaimed, “Yes!”

While Ruthie Mae was mastering new skills, her siblings were close by skiing and taking lessons of their own through the ASC. The Yates family

skied together near Ruthie Mae, rode the lifts with one another, and made plans to stop for lunch as a group at the ASC’s Kelsey Wright Building.

Jayme and Jared stated that the ASC allowed them to spend quality time together rather than choosing between skiing with Ruthie Mae or her siblings. Jayme said, “We appreciated just how encompassing the ASC is for the whole family. Our second son took snowboarding lessons while Ruthie Mae was getting her lesson and we loved it so much. The ASC allowed our family to stay together rather than having our son take a lesson somewhere else on the mountain. We came on this trip to be together as a family.”

Jayme and Jared Yates remarked that the ASC did more than give Ruthie Mae the experience of skiing. The instructors empowered her and creatively guided her toward skiing independently. Jayme said, “The ASC leveled the playing field for her. You made it possible for her to not stand apart but to join in with everyone.”

After the trip, Jared Yates noticed a change in Ruthie Mae saying “We saw her learn to do something that was seemingly impossible. Now she has the confidence to say ‘I can do this.’ Skiing has helped remove barriers for her and fuels her tenacity in other areas of her life.”

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 11

BRIDGES *of the* BUTTE

THE MOST FUN YOU'LL HAVE ON WHEELS

This summer marks the 18th year of Bridges of the Butte. Over the course of two weeks, you, our loyal supporters, can pedal your buttes off and support the ASC! Funds raised during Bridges of the Butte help to provide affordable lessons, state-of-the-art equipment, and highly-trained instructors in many disciplines and disability adaptations.

PARTICIPATE FROM ANYWHERE!

August 28 - September 11

Show your love from afar by participating in our annual fundraiser! Starting on August 28th, we encourage you to set a challenge, share your personal fundraising webpage (free with registration), and ride for good from wherever you are! We'll have fun challenges to join along the way with prizes!

JOIN US IN CRESTED BUTTE FOR THE TOWNIE TOUR!

SEPTEMBER 11 — Noon - 4:00 pm

There's no disputing that everyone at the Adaptive Sports Center has more fun in the outdoors. Let's prove this to the town by celebrating our two weeks of fundraising by riding a course meandering through town, over all its bridges! Join the After-Party for fun prizes, great music, and incredible food!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FUNDRAISING WEBSITE AND LEARN MORE AT
ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG/BRIDGES



The world needs
more Lindas



LINDA FIALKOFF

“MORE THAN A DONOR” DONOR SPOTLIGHT

BRINGING HER A-GAME, ALL THE TIME

Resilient, courageous, and invincible; fiery, opinionated, and strong; creative, intelligent, optimistic, generous, and loving—these are just a few of the words that come to mind when thinking of Linda Fialkoff, a participant, board member, and past board president of the Adaptive Sports Center who left us far too early on December 18, 2021.

Born and raised on the East Coast, Linda and her husband, Frank, first came to Crested Butte in 2001 to participate in Fat Tire Bike Week. Although quick to admit that they were not “outdoorsy” types, Linda and Frank were instantly attracted to all that Crested Butte had to offer and they and their children, Brett and Gabrielle, and grandchildren Andie, Jack, Hannah, and Thea quickly became involved with the Crested Butte community.

Photo: Linda captivating
the crowd at the Crested
Butte Open.

Linda, who had psoriatic arthritis, discovered a new lease on life when she learned about the Adaptive Sports Center. She first started with alpine skiing. As Chris Read, Program Director, recalls, “Linda was one of my first, if not my first participant, and I got a lot of ‘Oooh, you have Linda today’ and ‘Linda... better be on your A-game’ type of comments from my fellow instructors.” Chris admits that he was more than a little nervous. That initial experience was the beginning of a long—and fun—relationship, not only on the slopes, but Nordic skiing, rock climbing, and ice climbing as well. Linda was never apprehensive about trying something new and she was thrilled to have a resource in the Adaptive Sports Center that could help her remain active.

Not content to just sit on the sidelines, Linda and Frank made an immediate impact on the Adaptive Sports Center. They integrated themselves into the organization by making lasting friendships with many of the instructors, volunteers, and administrative staff. In addition, Linda rarely passed on an opportunity to help. She did a great deal of volunteering with Adaptive and became an integral part of our Crested Butte Open Committee.

Linda became the second female to join the Board of Directors in December 1999 and was elected our first female president in June 2012. She was at the forefront of our efforts to diversify the board to make it more representative of our clientele. Currently, the board is roughly 50 male/50 female, as is our participant mix.

Chris Hensley, Executive Director, soon realized that Linda believed that there was never a challenge that the Adaptive Sports Center could not overcome through a little hard work. She had a tenacious, New York attitude about her and she did not mind ruffling feathers to get something done. It was

during her presidency that the Adaptive Sports Center was first approached by Crested Butte Mountain Resort to buy the Outpost Building as an opportunity to secure a viable, permanent home. When some grappled with whether the organization could truly pull off that kind of capital campaign, Linda’s optimism remained true to form. She believed that Adaptive had the capacity to raise significant funds for the project and her enthusiasm convinced others. There is no doubt that the highlight of her tenure as board president was the launch of the Kelsey Wright Building project.

The world needs more Lindas. All who knew her will remember her for her never-ending love for Frank, for her unconditional love for her grandkids, for all the support and help she gave to the Adaptive Sports Center, and for that special sparkle in her eyes. Even though Linda left us too soon, she would have been the one to say about her life, “What a ride!”

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

June 30, 2022, 4-6pm

Kelsey Wright Building

Linda’s Obituary can be found at
<https://qrco.de/lindaf>

Contact Allison Butcher
(970) 349-2296 x107 or
Allison@AdaptiveSports.org

ADVENTURE EQUITY

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS

Advocating for equal access to outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities is core to our mission. Since our inception in 1987, we have accomplished this by offering adaptive adventures at a reduced cost.

\$125 FULL DAY LESSONS

New this year, the Adventure Equity Initiative reduces the ASC's existing subsidized full-day rate to only \$125. We recognize that the cost to enjoy the great outdoors is commonly a barrier to participation, considering the added requirement of specialized equipment and professional instruction. If additional assistance is needed for a lesson price, we have an amazing scholarship fund.

HELP SUSTAIN ADVENTURE EQUITY

A typical adaptive full-day lesson costs the ASC \$300. We charge \$125, the remainder being made up through grants and donations. For those who are able to contribute above the lesson fee, they can add a tax-deductible donation to their payment.

This peer-to-peer show of support helps fellow adventurers with disabilities and their loved ones join the ASC to experience the therapeutic value of outdoor adventures. If you'd like to join in your support, we welcome you to do so.

AdaptiveSports.org/adventure-equity



“Our commitment to the Adventure Equity Initiative helps make adaptive sports accessible to more people. No matter what, we want to get everyone out to experience our programs.”

”
Chris Read, Acting Executive Director & Program Director



Volunteers make these great events successful! If you are interested in helping, please contact Gabe Walker at gabe@adaptivesports.org



SUMMER EVENTS



CRESTED BUTTE OPEN GALA AND GOLF TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY CAROLYN & DAVID MILLER, KATY AND KYLE MILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION | MEREDITH & KYLE BEBEE

August 7 & 8, 2022

The Crested Butte and Gunnison communities undoubtedly love traditions and the CB Open is a 27-year tradition still going strong. The proceeds we raise during this event transcend directly into the lives of approximately 1,000 people annually, and the ripple affects hundreds more.

If you can't attend, you can still participate in the Silent Auction and help support the program, while bidding on some fantastic items. Learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/cbo

ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 19 - 21, 2022

Riders from around the country gather for three days of riding and racing. Cheer on the racers during this multi-stage, multi-discipline race with advanced to recreational categories. Learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/worlds

BRIDGES OF THE BUTTE TOWNIE TOUR

August 28 - September 11, 2022

Participate from anywhere or join us in Crested Butte for the 18th Annual Townie Tour! Sign up for your fundraising website and learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/bridges



REGISTER NOW! SUMMER PROGRAMMING STARTS JUNE 4TH!

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