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REGULAR COLUMNS | Steamboat Adapts

Adaptive Adventures Hosts Steamboat's First Ski Camp for People with Disabilities

Craig Kennedy

Beginning Friday, March 10, individuals of all ages and abilities will take part in a four-day, all-mountain ski camp. Adaptive Adventures, Access Anything, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. and Steamboat Powdercats have joined together to create, sponsor and host Steamboat's First Annual All Mountain Ski Camp and Powdercats Trip; an event that will combine instructor and volunteer training, adaptive ski clinics, and a backcountry Powdercat trip for some 30-40 men and women with disabilities.

Spokespersons for the event promise a one-of-a-kind experience for attendees. Craig Kennedy, co-founder of Access Anything, believes that the Ski Camp will help change the perception of what people with disabilities can (and cannot) do, while also empowering participants to try different and challenging activities. "A lot of people with disabilities don't think they can do things like this," Kennedy says. "We're here to show them otherwise."

For added inspiration, some of the world's best adaptive adventurers and athletes will participate in the event, interacting one-on-one with attendees, including 12-time Paralympic Gold Medalist Sarah Will. Six soldiers, returning from Iraq with a variety of disabilities, will also attend the camp thanks to Adaptive Adventures and the Wounded Warrior Project. Joel Berman, Co-Founder of Adaptive Adventures, says having these exceptional people at the event is an honor. "Sarah is so supportive of what we're trying to do with this Ski Camp," Berman noted. "And these soldiers are returning home from the War after overcoming incredible adversity. They are real American Heroes and it's impossible not to be inspired by them."

Access Anything's Craig Kennedy believes that this is the first of many events of its kind, not only in Colorado, but nationwide. "It's time to change the perception that people with disabilities can't participate in outdoor adventures and extreme sports," he says. "This event is just the beginning."

About Adaptive Adventures:

Adaptive Adventures is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to advance the quality of life of people with disabilities through year-round outdoor sports and recreation. Headquartered in Evergreen, Colorado, Adaptive Adventures identifies, promotes and provides progressive sports and recreation opportunities for children and adults of all ages, with physical disabilities.

About Access Anything:

The mission of Access Anything is to improve the quality of life for millions of people living with disabilities in the United States and around the world by encouraging them to enjoy life to its fullest through the sense of freedom provided by travel, adventure, and a "never give up" attitude. It is our vision to spread awareness concerning the need for better accessibility by writing a series of adventure travel guides for people with disabilities and to establish a common ground where people and information can come together and work to expand the rapidly growing adaptive travel industry.

About Steamboat Powdercats:

For the past 23 years, Steamboat Powdercats has operated backcountry powder skiing and snowboarding tours on Buffalo Pass, Colorado's deepest snowpack. With three snowcats in our fleet, we've tailored our operation to match guests with their true ability level, accommodating intermediate, advanced and expert levels with terrain adequate for each group.

About Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation:

Steamboat is known all over the world as the friendliest family resort on the planet! Along with its real Western appeal and its famous Champaign Powder®, Steamboat also boasts one of the oldest Adaptive Skiing programs in Colorado. Looking to expand their adaptive program and welcome more people with disabilities to this accessible town, Steamboat is proud to help sponsor this event.

Event Schedule:

Thursday, March 9

Instructor/Volunteer Training

Friday, March 10

Participants arrive in Steamboat

7pm - Pre-camp participant meeting & pizza party!

Saturday, Sunday, Monday (March 11-13)

Breakfast





In The News...

Ski Clinics/NASTAR Racing
Video Evaluations (Sat. Only) Tuesday, March 12
Backcountry Powder Cats Trip with Steamboat
Powdercats (Advanced/Experienced Powder skiers.)
Optional Free Skiing & Activities