# SUN VALLEY SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



"Someday there will be established a ski center in the mountains here of the same character as in the Swiss and Austrian Alps."

—Averell Harriman, September 25, 1935\*





SCOTT MCGREW executive director

Dear SVSEF Families and Friends,

The 2020/21 season was unlike any other. As a global pandemic bore its way deep into our lives, we were forced to evaluate everything we do, why we do it, and how to do it. It was evident that our mission of providing world class winter sport experiences for the youth of our community was the means to a much greater purpose. SVSEF was the vehicle which supported our children through unimaginable stress, uncertainty, and high seas. We became an arc which carried over 800 children, and their families, through the long winter months.

As the ostensible challenges grew and morphed, we committed as an organization to look back in order to step forward. We felt as though a generation of children and athletes were depending on us to bring stability, inspiration, and normalcy to an otherwise chaotic time in their lives and for all of us. Failure was not an option, and we began to mine for opportunities to make positive and lasting change.

History, heritage, and honoring those whose shoulders we stand on, provided an unwavering north star to help fuel our resolve and find our way. We committed to keeping the integrity of our values at the core of the process, and were intent on never losing sight of the fact that SVSEF belongs to the kids of our community—past, present, and future. We have always been, and will continue to be, the stewards of our mountain culture and ethos.

This sense of history, and how it weaves into the work we do, is a theme we hope you enjoy throughout this year's report.

The winter of 2020/21 was marked by our investment in better tools and venues to improve our organization's impact, increased financial aid targeted to support the families most affected by the pandemic, and a proliferation of programming designed to introduce the magic of wintersport to hundreds of first generation children in our community. These efforts were met with appreciation and I will be forever proud of the difference we made during a time of need.

In light of the clear challenges, we had one of the most successful competition seasons on record for SVSEF. The capstone achievement for our club was having nine athletes, across three disciplines, named to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams. An incredible number considering the small size of our community. These young men and women represent our signature on the world stage and something we can all be proud of. Additionally, the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team recognized SVSEF as one of its Gold Level Clubs, a designation reserved for only a few of the Nation's top wintersport organizations.

It takes a village to propel an aspiring young athlete to the world stage, and it takes an even stronger village to thrive when hope is hard to find.

Thank you so much for being a part of our village, and for believing in the work we do for our children, our families, and our mountain community. We hope you enjoy this year's SVSEF Annual Report, Reimagined.

Scotty McGrew, Executive Director. SVSEF Alumni, Class of '95

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### STRONG MINDS - STRONG BODIES - STRONG FUTURES

Our team philosophy is implemented by both identifying with our incredible heritage as a community (21 Winter Olympians) and by innovating to meet the changing demands of our society.

To provide exceptional snowsport programs for the youth of the Wood River Valley thereby enabling each participant to reach their athletic potential, while developing strong personal character through good sportsmanship, strong values, and individual goals.

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• SPORTSMANSHIP. CITIZENSHIP. CHARACTER. TEAM-WORK. CREATIVITY. PASSION. PERSEVERANCE.

We view the mountains as the world's best classroom, where a child's imagination is captivated and their potential for learning, growth, and inspiration is realized.

# ATHLETES NAMED TO U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD TEAMS IN 2020/21

Chase Josey - U.S. Snowboard Team

Dasha Romanov - U.S. Development Team - Alpine

Jack Smith - U.S. Development Team - Alpine

Jake Adicoff - U.S. Paralympic Team - Cross Country

Jesse Keefe - U.S. Paralympic A Team - Alpine

Johnny Hagenbuch - U.S. D Team - Cross Country

Kevin Bolger - U.S. B Team - Cross Country

Ryder Sarchett - U.S. Development Team - Alpine

Sydney Palmer-Leger - U.S. D Team - Cross Country





Teaching kids how to ski and inspiring a love of the mountains is at the very heart of what we do. The storied and community-driven history in the South Valley goes back nearly 75 years to 1948 when Olympian Ann Winn started teaching kids to ski on a little mountain called Rotarun, three miles west of Hailey.

Our vision through affordable and tuition-free programs is to ensure that every kid in this community has the opportunity to ski and access these winter sports. The generosity of individuals, local businesses, and foundations make it possible for SVSEF to bring the gift of skiing, riding, and professional instruction to kids who may not otherwise have the opportunity—and to bring our community closer together through the sports we love and the mountains we play in.

In collaboration with Rotarun Ski Area, SVSEF helps support Rotarun's mission to provide affordable ski access to locals and the new generations of skiers and riders. One program at the heart of this grassroots work is the Rota-Rippers afterschool program. Rota-Rippers is a tuition-free, community supported, learn to ski and snowboard program held at Rotarun and available to youth in the Wood River Valley. Kids ages 5-11 years are geared up and given the opportunity to learn and train on snow two days a week after school, while they build on tradition, create bridges across cultural divides, and foster countless smiles.

To help fund programs like this and others, SVSEF relies on the generosity of our community, partners, and on dedicated fundraising initiatives such as the Cooper-Taché First Tracks Fund. Started by Olympian Christin Cooper and her husband and former pro-skier, Mark Taché, the First Tracks Fund is instrumental in welcoming first-generation winter sport families through its support of afterschool programs for children.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a gem like Rotarun in our backyard for a number of reasons, but ultimately it is the perfect combination of tradition, accessibility, and community. Ask anyone who has been there, and they will tell you that Rotarun Ski Area is a magical place. With special events and holiday celebrations throughout the winter, free night skiing, and terrain for Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation (SVSEF) programs, this little mountain with a big heart has launched Olympic dreams and successes over the decades, and continues to be the cornerstone for so much of what we do.

"Everyone deserves the thrill of being able to do something they never thought was possible!"

Barb Dunn, program director, Rota-Rippers







WILL BRANDENBURG program director

Looking back to the beginning more than fifty years ago, when the Sun Valley Ski Club recognized an opportunity for the kids in our mountain community, we have stayed on track with our mission to help junior ski racers achieve their dreams while delivering inspiration for them to set the bar high in all facets of life.

There is a delicate balance in coaching junior athletes. It's critical that we as coaches recognize how to tap into each athlete as an individual to maximize their potential—while at the same time encouraging a strong sense of team.

The 2020/21 season proved how the effort of one affects many. Athletes individually evolved and grew, every team progressed, and as a result the alpine program emerged stronger for it. This season also presented opportunities to

embrace the changes and uncertainties the world had in store for all of us.

Be flexible. That was the mantra this season—and it was recited in every team email and at every training session. It became the team mentality. With all the change we faced this season, from race cancellations to last minute training changes, flexibility was the name of the game and our athletes and parents rose to the challenge!

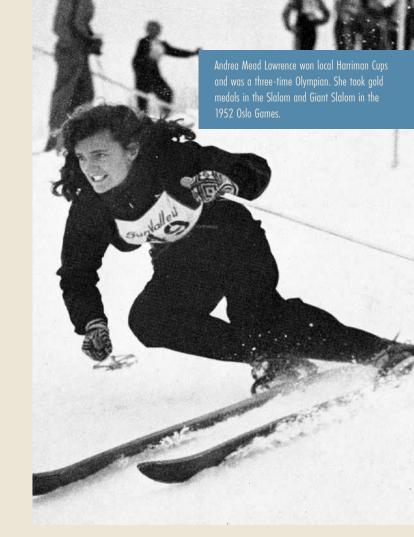
We continued to build on the program's winning history and Olympic heritage with athletes qualifying for divisional, regional, national, and international events at all levels. Most notably, Jesse Keefe was recently named to the U.S. Paralympic National Team, Ryder Sarchett and Dasha Romanov were newly named to the U.S. Alpine Team, and Jack Smith was named to the U.S. Alpine Team for a second straight year.

Rotarun was the shining light for the alpine program this season, amidst all the chaos and constant change, because it allowed us to be flexible. From the very beginning we were able to utilize the venue for training and races at all levels, and there is no doubt that so much time spent at this little hill elevated our program. The staff was given a tool we've never had before, which enabled our teams to build progressions that led to some of the best slalom results we've seen in a long time.

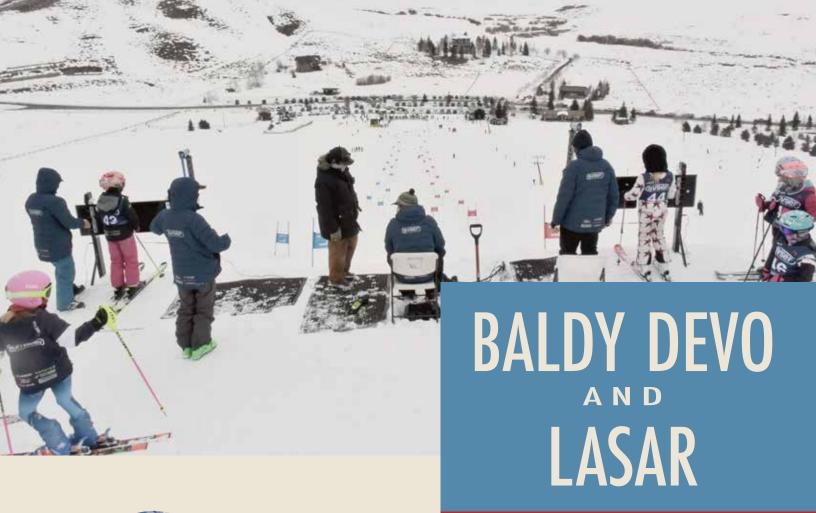
Not only did Rotarun provide excellent training, it provided a much needed outdoor community resource during this unusual year. If you went out on a Thursday afternoon, you would see the Mini World Cup, North Series, and IMD teams training, with families rolling into the parking lot throughout the session ready to start night skiing as soon as training wrapped up. On any given Friday night, you'd see SVSEF alpine athletes and coaches making extra turns with family and friends.

The love for skiing in our community deepened in the last year and a large part of that is due to Rotarun.

Thinking back to this time last year, it's hard to comprehend how much has changed. We weathered the storm and I'm proud of how the staff came together to pull off such an amazing season for the athletes. Thank you to all the coaches, athletes, parents, and the greater SVSEF Alpine community, for making this year so memorable!









BRIAN CAULKINS program director

SVSEF's Baldy Devo and LASAR programs are the essence of our organization's philosophy: We view the mountains as the world's best classroom, where a child's imagination is captivated and their potential for learning, growth, and inspiration is realized.

#### ATHLETE PLEDGE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to do the following every day I show up for ski team. As soon as I step on the snow, I will:

Respect others

Have a positive

• Take care of my gear

- Be willing to learn
- Be a good listener
- Have FUN
- Be a good teammate

#### **BALDY DEVO**

The magic of Baldy Devo starts with our Athlete Pledge — when the kids meet their coaches and expectations are laid for the season. This is where we plant a few seeds to help grow great citizens and leaders for the future, because the time together for these kids is about so much more than skiing. Sure, it's about teaching them to be strong athletes. But it's also about learning how to respect yourself and respect others, and how to be a good teammate.

Our approach focuses on strengthening the foundation for these young athletes. We teach and work with the kids through goal setting, drills, nutrition, and the basics of equipment. We consistently emphasize the importance of mountain etiquette whether it's always putting your skis in the rack, cleaning up after yourselves, and being courteous to others around the lodge—looking uphill, staying inbounds, controlling where we jump, and being considerate of the public and all Sun Valley Co. employees on the hill—or helping your teammates if they fall or need help, making group decisions on runs and lunch, and riding lifts with everyone in the group as a team. Their Athlete Handbook becomes a conversation starter with parents—and their means to track progression, build skills, and grow humble self-confidence.

The Baldy Devo program is designed to refine drills and skills required to advance within SVSEF's Alpine, Freestyle and Freeski programs, and the year-over-year growth we have seen in the past six years is pretty astounding. We know that this growth will only allow us to evolve, while maintaining the quality and integrity of experience for these young skiers.

#### LASAR

Teaching the joys of skiing to children of all levels of ability is at the heart of our Learn to Alpine Ski and Ride (LASAR) program. Just three miles west of Hailey, Rotarun provides the perfect venue for progression in the sport at any age, and plays host to our LASAR programming. Since 1948, Rotarun has been a community hub for local snow sports enthusiasts, and this "little mountain with a big heart" continues to evolve as one of our most treasured partners for learning, training, competing, and ultimately bringing the friends and families of wintersport together. Through the generosity of the Cooper-Taché First Tracks Scholarship Fund and the Kids Mountain Fund, we are able to introduce kids and bring them along in the sport as we focus on stance, balance, adventure, and freeskiing with one thing top of mind—keep it fun!

The 2020/21 season saw some positive changes for these programs, one being our move from mornings to afternoons. Kids showed up rested, ready, with a sense of team, and eager to hit the slopes. Coaches brought the spirit of keeping it fun, keeping the kids engaged, asking questions, and modeling what it looks like to be a good listener and make good choices.

The season undoubtedly brought challenges through the inherent implications of a global pandemic, yet this allowed us to take our preparedness to a new level and keep the kids on the snow. The programs' growth proved to stretch our parking capacity at Rotarun, yet this allowed us to find a solution. Our passion, perseverance, and dedication echo that of the original Sun Valley Ski Club, and we are committed to our place for the kids and families in our community.

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, volunteers, and donors who continue to support and believe in the power of this experience for our community's children. We couldn't





RICK KAPALA program director

Cross country ski racing at its core is about trying hard and overcoming challenges, and the 2020/21 season certainly provided lots of opportunity to do just that.

It seemed that for a while during the early days of the pandemic, our skiers and coaches were continuously modifying plans and learning how to move forward regardless of the circumstances. When it came to the challenge of accomplishing our daily training goals, we learned that simple is often far better. For example, COVID forced us out of our strength gym so we re-learned that pausing during a run to do push ups, squats, and core work was pretty darn effective.

The lesson was that our mindset is ultimately the most important asset that each of us have in our efforts to work hard and excel. The challenges of the pandemic also helped us gain a sense of gratitude for the most important aspect of what sport provides us, namely working together with others

who share our drive and passion. Regardless of the challenges we face, when we get to strive together towards a common goal, we can all grow.

The season was also full of surprises. Our Devo and Strider Youth Programs had, in our opinion, our best year ever—and who would have predicted that outcome? Our programs were full of happy, amped-up children who just wanted to be outdoors and ski with their buddies and as a result, we saw the overall ability of our youth skiers take a big leap forward. When it came to racing part way through the winter, cross country race organizers were able to implement protocols that allowed for safe participation. Our skiers saw this opportunity to actually compete as a huge gift. In turn, they threw







Leif Odmark

themselves at their race efforts with a new found enthusiasm and energy. Another unexpected win on many levels.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the commitment of our cross country team coaches. They worked harder than ever in uncertain circumstances and their reward was kids psyched to be out there skiing with them.

As I reflect a little more on the past year, I have come to realize just how resilient and strong SVSEF is at its core. When we think about any organization, its success is really built on the commitment (there is that word again) of the people who are currently leading and supporting the program, as well those who forged the trail and led the way going back to our earliest years.

The SVSEF Cross Country Team was built on the vision of Rob Kiesel in 1972 when he saw the sport taking its first strides across the country and thought a cross country team would be a good fit for SVSEF and our community. Was he ever right about that! In the early days the team would have 10 to 15 kids, but the potential was there. At the same time the SVSEF Nordic team was founded, local cross country events like the Boulder Mountain Tour fueled more excitement for the sport,

and the development of more cross country ski trails across the valley led to broad community engagement.

Thanks to the vision of Kevin Swigert, Head Coach in the early 1980's, the SVSEF Cross Country Team established a permanent homebase with a building dedicated for the team and our own Nordic trails at Lake Creek. This was the key piece of the puzzle as the team started to grow. By the early 1990's the program had grown to more than 100 participants of all ages and now in 2021, the team serves more than 250 children per year with programming based in both Hailey and the north valley.

Along the way, we have grown more than our fair share of National Champions and Olympians, but most importantly, we have built a legacy program that serves the youth of our valley now and for years to come.

It has always been about the simple process of stepping onto a pair of skis and gliding through winter.





JOHN GRIGSBY program director

The SVSEF Freestyle program started back in 1993 under the supervision of John Zuck shortly after Freestyle's debut in the 1992 Winter Olympics in Tignes, France. Since then the SVSEF Freestyle program

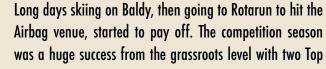
has been an avenue for athletes that want to break away from running gates—to catching air. Freestyle skiing's roots run deep within the Sun Valley community back to the 1960's and 70's, from local legends like Bobby Burns and his invention of one of the first freestyle specific skis called "The Ski," to being home of the 1983 World Champion, Joe Cordeau—and don't forget Bill Minor who won the 1974 World Freestyle Skiing Championships in moguls at Heavenly Valley.

The 2020/21 season was a season of flux and adaptation for the Freestyle Program. The previous season ended abruptly.... literally overnight. I remember being pulled into the coaches meeting in Winter Park, Colorado at Junior Nationals in March, and was told to tell athletes that Dual Moguls were canceled and that U.S. Nationals were put on hold. Within minutes of hearing the news I received a phone call from Sun Valley Company saying that we needed to tear down the venue at home and that tomorrow would be the last day of the season.

The biggest question the coaches faced was 'how can we reshape the program to stay productive during the ongoing pandemic with the current restrictions put in place?' The answers were right there in front of us. Smaller groups in an open environment. We didn't know it at the time, but the CDC guidelines restricting the size of training groups was a blessing in disquise. This allowed for more one-on-one

coaching time with athletes and it also helped build the team's cohesiveness.

As the season began to take shape it was apparent that we had to be flexible with our training and scheduling for competitions. The NorAm Tour was canceled and regional competitions were rescheduled for during the week. This allowed for athletes to spend more time training full days on the weekend, which skyrocketed our athletes' progression.



In the early 1970's, wild "Hot
Dog" contests evolved into the
new sport of freestyle skiing.
Sun Valley racers Penelope
Street and Holly (Diest)
DuPont (pictured) were top
professionals.

10 finishes in the Nation for U14, followed by a Top 35 in the Nation in Dual Moguls, a third place finish at Junior Nationals, and a sixth place finish at U.S. Nationals.

I look back at this past year as a huge success and how thankful we are for being a mountain town. It's difficult to think where we would be as a program if we played our sport indoors and we're grateful for having such a supportive community that inspires us each and

everyday. I owe everything to our amazing coaching staff—Josh, Wyatt, Alec, Kate, Chris, and Luke, who continue to share their love and passion for skiing.





# **SNOWBOARD**



ANDY GILBERT program director

Imagine it's 1936, you're a skier in Sun Valley, Idaho, and you've just joined the newly founded Sun Valley Ski Club. You

were part of a group that banded together to push your passion for the sport you found. There is zero difference between what they were doing then and what we were doing in 1992 to start a snowboarding program with SVSEF. They were making it up—just like we were when we first started.

Here we are nearly 30 years later, as the sport of snowboarding has ebbed and flowed from decade to decade, and where now we're seeing a resurgence as younger kids are finding the love and opportunity for creative expression similar to what they see in music, art, and other interests. From the equipment to the tricks to the lines they ride—even to their individual style and what they wear on the hill, there is no "right" way to do snowboarding.

As snowboarders, we simply do things differently, we use the park differently, we see the mountain differently.

As coaches, our focus with the snowboarding program is to build the strongest skill set possible for each and every athlete. Mt. Baldy is the greatest teacher there is, and by splitting our time between Baldy and Dollar, the kids fill their tool box with the know-how to use the right

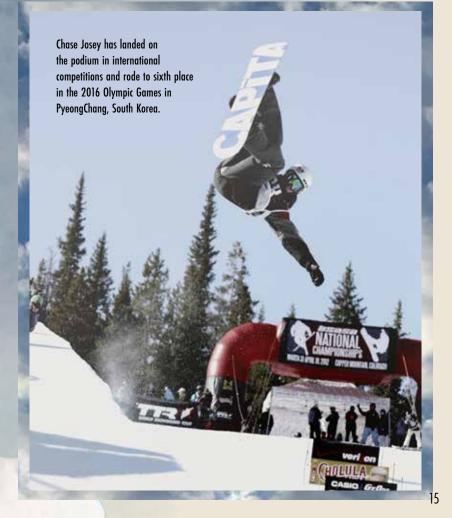
tool at the right time. Our kids can ride a heel edge, carve their turns, and translate their technical savvy to compete in the halfpipe when we're on the road.

Looking back to last season, it presented an opportunity worthy of revisiting as we move forward. We had a little more time to refocus on community and building our team in the sense of a group that loves riding together. We focused on the act of snowboarding, on celebrating the culture of the sport, and on pushing each other through fun sessions without the stress of a busy contest calendar. The skills come through this kind of camaraderie and through the older and younger kids riding together and encouraging each other.

We were able to bring a couple of local showcase event concepts to reality in collaboration with the Freeski team, and this energy and community are super important. These events present strong opportunities for mentorship, which is so much the essence of the sport. We were able to show up as a team, but maintain our individualism as part of the broader snowboarding culture.

We've been blessed and lucky to have the group that has come to work and coach here. Sun Valley can be an interesting place to be a snowboarder because we're kind of an outpost; but it's great because we are a small but mighty program that makes an impression when we go to other venues. The kids can really ride. Take Olympians Chase Josey and Kaitlyn Farrington, for example. They both grew up in this small valley learning and practicing where we may not have a halfpipe, but we instill the priorities to put in the work, take the fundamentals, and then choose your line on the mountain and in life.





Rider: Channing Curci





Skier: Charles Goodyear

TYLER CONWAY program director

The Freeski Program as we know it today may be one of the youngest in the lineup at SVSEF, but freeskiing has always been a part of wintersport.

Those before us were freeskiers as much as we are —they jumped, they flew, they expressed themselves through their own style. In the context of our organization's history, we simply continue to challenge the guidelines as we awaken the freeski movement here in Sun Valley. We're creating community and culture in the now—always leaving the door open to evolve as athletes, as people, and for the sport.

We ski sideways and backwards, we swerve, we're in the air, there's no script for how we ski. We're at home in our elements of big air, slopestyle, rail jam, and halfpipe. We have our own 'vograbulary' with terms like 'dub

nose, 'japan,' 'blunt,' and 'liu kang,' to name a few. And while creativity is the essence of freeski, commitment and teamwork are essential—collectively they are the core of what we do and who we are.

**FREESKI** 

The 2020/21 season delivered less on the competition front with cancellations becoming the norm, but it gave us the opportunity to gel even more as a team. Our intentional approach to unite the team, engage each other, learn from each other, and share in the commitment, effort, and willingness to try—enables our athletes to build off of each other and continually progress both on and off the snow.

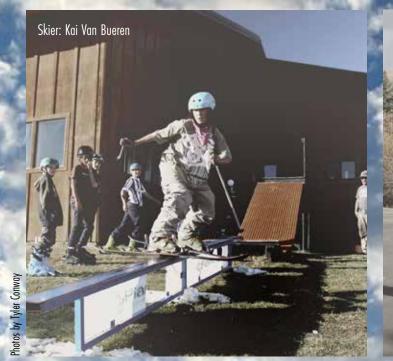
Access to the facilities where our athletes learn, practice, and compete are nothing short of world-class, and year-round training at the Air Barn\* is simply invaluable when it comes to the athletes' ability to develop tricks and skills, craft their sport, and break through to their next level.

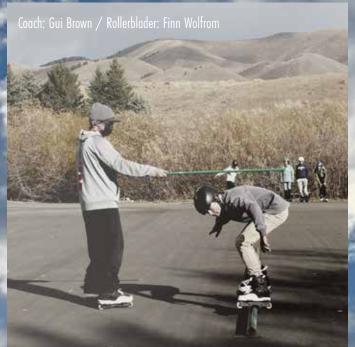
We embraced this unusual year as an opportunity to host events like the high-energy Sauce Cup and the intramural Air Barn Games. We've upped our game with more technical work on the dryland training side of things where rollerblading hits the mark in developing fitness, rail skills, and air awareness. This past year we saw one

of the strongest teams in the program's history with two athletes landing in the Top 10 at the Futures Tour and a door opening for one of our graduates to take his talent and passion to college through a freeski scholarship.

Thank you to Cassidy DuBois, Gui Mattheis-Brown, Bob Mollineaux, and Gabe Mondragon for bringing all you do to the team, to keeping the energy and the stoke high for our athletes, and for always inspiring them to push the boundaries.

\*SVSEF Air Barn at Sun Valley Community School's Dumke Family Sagewillow Campus







mtn experience director

Our big mountain skiers and riders start at the top and everything is in their hands. They're not judged on speed but rather on the style and energy they project as they paint their line down the slope. When you think of skiing in its purest form, Big Mountain hearkens back to the pioneers of the sport who first strapped two wooden planks to their feet and skied anywhere they could. It wasn't until 1936 that we were given the gift of the chairlift right here in Sun Valley, Idaho; and it opened a new world to reach greater heights.

As coaches in the Big Mountain program, we're in a unique position to offer kids a broad pathway—one that helps them build skills and experience in snow sports that can lead to many places. Our number one goal is to create lifelong skiers. Skiers who will maintain an uncompromised love of the sport, whether it's jumping on a chair or touring in the backcountry.

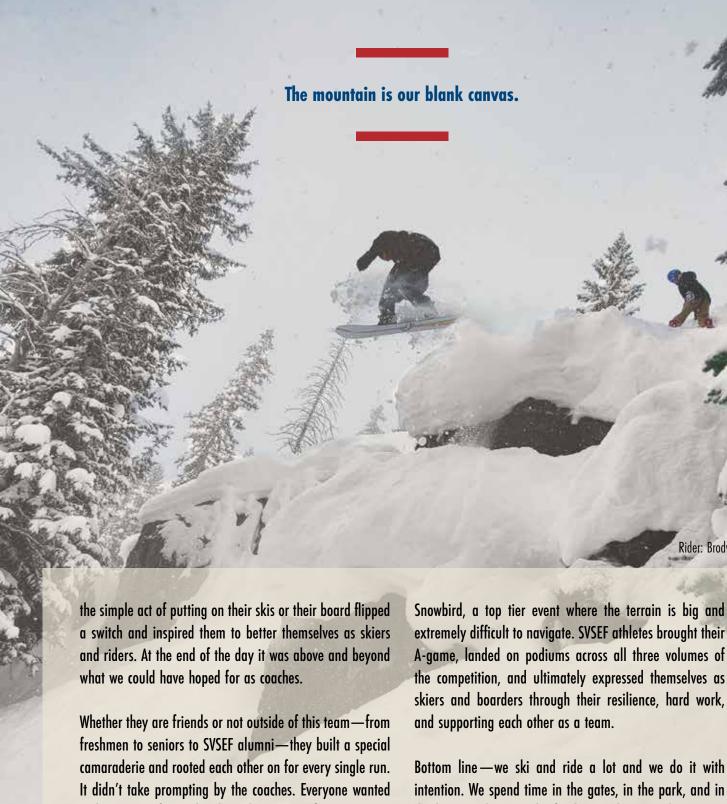
Big Mountain competitions are of course a main piece of what we do, but spending time focused on avalanche awareness and backcountry touring, and exposing the kids to future professional opportunities that stem from Big Mountain skiing, presents a much bigger window for these kids to peer through. Our intention is to help them find their place and their passion whether that means pursuing the highest level of competition on the Freeride World Tour, or becoming a cinematographer capturing the expanse of the backcountry, or something in between.

co-head coach

co-head coach

2020/21 was the fifth season for Big Mountain as a part of SVSEF, and the program has been through several iterations as we continue to work and build something new and uniquely our own. As a program for high-school-age students, we value having athletes come to the program with a diversity of backgrounds—from racing, to freestyle, snowboarding, and freeskiing.

Forecasting for competitions was tough last year with smaller regions established by the governing body and parameters put in place limiting where we could compete to earn points. It became our year to embrace this time to work on our comp skills, get where we could safely, and train hard at home. The athletes stayed super positive, and



to be present for each other. The nature of navigating a difficult season amidst a pandemic brought this team closer

together than ever. We built a family and great results came of it.

We were able to attend the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA) Junior Regionals in

Bottom line—we ski and ride a lot and we do it with intention. We spend time in the gates, in the park, and in the bumps—because the fundamentals never change. We draw athletes from the race program, park and pipe, Mini X, Mini World Cup, Snowboard, even Cross Country. We're always looking for strong, skilled, athletic skiers who have a good grasp on where their potential in skiing can take them—and a desire to grow their potential.



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Since Averell Harriman first imagined a ski resort in the West, opportunities for ski racers and snowsport enthusiasts alike have been enhanced through the profound generosity of our community, and the commitment to innovate, evolve, and strive for continuous improvement.

SVSEF: A HISTORY

BALD MOUNTAIN, "BALDY"

A whole new dimension to alpine skiing opened up when Sun Valley's innovative uphill transportation was introduced. Sun Valley became home to intercollegiate ski competitions and renown races like the Sun Valley International Open, which ultimately became known as the Harriman Cup.



DOLLAR MOUNTAIN

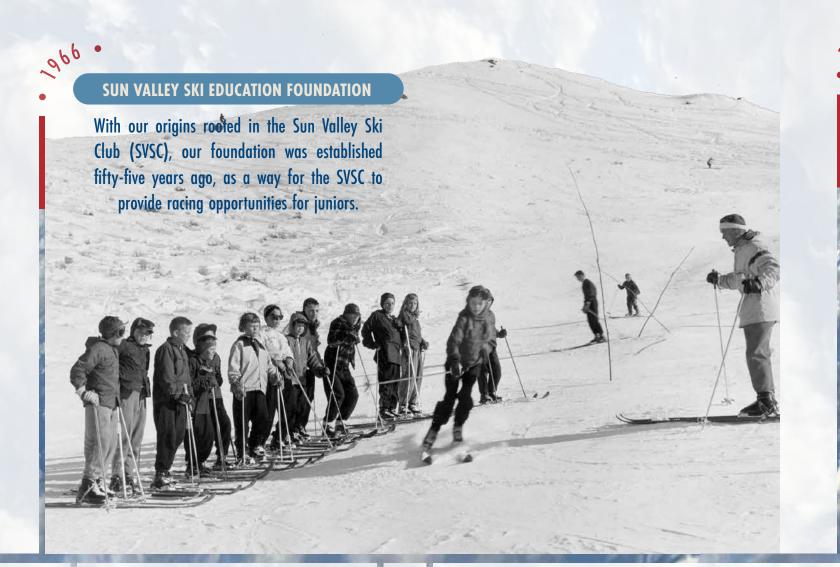
One of the first single chairlifts in the world finds its home on Dollar Mountain, as Sun Valley Resort welcomes its first visitors.



A community hub for local snow sports enthusiasts in the valley, Rotarun became the perfect classroom for those learning to ski or sharpening their racing skills. Many local kids including Olympic champion Picabo Street and Paralympic medalist Muffy Davis learned to ski on the 475-foot ski area in Hailey.

**ROTARUN SKI AREA** 





Freestyle program **Cross Country** starts **Olympic Development Gold Team starts** 



**Snowboard program starts** 





• Big Mountain program starts



Since remodeled in 2006, the SVSEF Lake Creek Ski Hut serves as the home base for our cross country athletes. Its setting amongst the area's over 130 kilometers of world-class groomed trails makes Sun Valley the Nation's only U.S. Nordic Olympic Training Site.

Cross

country

program

starts

**WARREN SHILLINGTON DONATES** LAKE CREEK PROPERTY TO SVSEF

Between 1990 and 1993, Phase I and II of the **Engl Training Center** began to take shape, and in 2013 a remodel brought the facility to its current state at the base of Bald Mountain. The 6,000-square-foot Engl Training Center serves as the main hub for the SVSEF gravity programs and administration. It features technologyinspired teaching capabilities, conference rooms to facilitate learning and engagement, training space to broaden the spectrum of athletic development, athlete lockers, and ski storage.

**SVSEF ACQUIRES THE ORIGINAL ALPINE HUT AT WARM SPRINGS** 



A year-round, indoor, anti-gravity training venue including a dry-slope tow-in ramp to an airbag, trampolines equipped with spotting rigs, half-pipe, and additional airbag pit.

SVSEF AIR BARN AT SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S DUMKE SAGEWILLOW CAMPUS



One of only four indoor rollerski treadmills in the country, and complete with physiological testing capabilities, this cross country training center is located adjacent to a 1.5-kilometer paved outdoor rollerski track for off-snow training.

**SVSEF SAGEWILLOW ROLLER SKI FACILITY** 

2017

#### **JULIA ARGYROS TRAINING CENTER**

A state-of-the-art 3,200-square-foot facility modeled after the USSA Center for Excellence in Park City, Utah, and designated a United States Ski & Snowboard High Performance Center.



#### **ROTARUN**

SVSEF and Rotarun, separate 501c3 organizations, begin working together to collectively further learn-to-ski and ride programs and advanced training opportunities for the youth of the Wood River Valley.



• Mini X program starts





A special gathering place to give the kids a sense of time and place within the Sun Valley ski and Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation history. From the world's first chairlift on Ruud mountain, to our current athletic stars competing professionally, sixteen canvas panels tell the 85-year history of the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation, Sun Valley Ski Club, and skiing in Sun Valley.

sysef athletes
enjoy access to a
large spectrum of
training venues
both on and off
the snow across
the Wood River
Valley, providing
opportunities to
train at a worldclass level in every
discipline.









BEN SCHUMACHER program director

Ski It All. That's our motto—alongside teaching these third to fifth graders to be exceptional stewards of the mountain and winter sports. From time spent in the terrain parks, the bumps course, and the alpine gates, to skiing off-piste and learning about mountain awareness and snow safety, we take inspiration from every program at SVSEF.

Ski it all!

Mini X is one of the newest programs to SVSEF, having been introduced for the 2018/19 season. It is through our collaboration with fellow program directors Tyler Conway, John Grigsby, and the Big Mountain staff, that we take that next step beyond Devo and provide a learning and training ground for the Freeski, Freestyle, and Big Mountain programs.

Our ability to introduce the kids to different venues, methods of training, and aspects of skiing, gives the kids on the Mini X team an opportunity to develop their own diverse skill set to where they can enjoy skiing anywhere, anytime. We balance on-the-snow practice time at Baldy, Dollar, and Rotarun, with sessions in the Air Barn\*, jumps into the Airbag, and days on the skiercross course. In doing so, we keep the kids engaged and dynamic in all aspects of the sport and ultimately see well-rounded progression both developmentally and physically.

It's so rewarding to see how the kids of Mini X continue to find their favorite places on the snow and take their skills in any direction they choose—and we continue to graduate athletes to the Freeski and Freestyle progression programs and also to the North Series team. Throughout the season, the Mini X team puts on events with the help of the other program directors in the bumps course (Freestyle), the terrain park (Freeski), and a Big Mountain comp. The kids love this opportunity to build each other up and showcase the skills we practice to their friends and families.

The 2020/21 season really came together to be the best year yet for Mini X. The combination of motivated kids and amazing coaches elevated the experience for everyone. There was a strong sense of gratitude and stoke across the entire team, and we're so thankful to those who bring the inspiration each and every day—Tyler, John, Andy, Banks, Connor, Alden, Phil, Scotty, Lindsay, and of course the wonderful coaches who lend their love of the sport and their passion for teaching those who are following in their footsteps.

I think the way we're guiding these kids through an appreciation of everything the mountain has to offer, while igniting their spirit for competition and fun, ties directly back to when SVSEF was founded. We're incredibly thankful for the vision Sun Valley Ski Club had back in 1966 to set a path for juniors to excel in the sport of skiing, and we're honored to be a part of building some of the best skiers on any mountain, anywhere.

\*SVSEF Air Barn at Sun Valley Community School's Dumke Family Sagewillow Campus.



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# **SUPPORTERS**

#### **OLYMPIC GOLD:** \$100.000 AND ABOVE

Z. Wayne Griffin, Jr.: Bessemer Giving Fund: Wayne and Cynnie Griffin Family Fund

#### WORLD CUP GOLD: \$25,000-\$99,999 Brit and Peter Palmedo

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Peter and Quin Curran

#### TO ALL WHO HELP MAKE WHAT WE DO FOR OUR ATHIFTES AND OUR COMMUNITY POSSIRIF — THANK YOU

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Anndel Kininmonth and Bruce Smith Annie and leff Kaiser

Annie Kniser Anonymous x 4

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Tohins Rinsom Tory and Sean O'Connor Tracy and John Lee William Morrison Wyman Youth Trust **7energy at Thunder Spring** Zions Bank

Ries Family

#### NATIONAL SILVER: \$500-\$999

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Tamar Dolaen and Sergio Bicas Tod Hamachek Torin's mom

Tricia and Michael Shauahnessy Wes Powell Zach Hyman

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Jonna Mendes and Will O'Toole Josie Brownell

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Jude Arvidson

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Sieael Family Stephen Gilman

Susan and Michael Johnston

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Susan Swig Susie and Jim Howard Thomas Hobbs Thomas Smith Victoria and Don Wiseman William Harrison

William Jackson

William McNichols

**WORLD CUP BRONZE:** \$100-\$249

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Joe Marini John Bailey John Collins John Grossman John Kendall John Rowland Jordan Fitzgerald Julianne and Michael Roos Julianne Ward

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Katherine and Buffalo Rixon Katherine Lyle Katherine Miner Kathleen Ames Kathleen O'Sullivan Kathleen Vandenburah Katie and Brian McBreen

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Hausmann Leif Elgethun

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Susan Dolgen Susan Kaminski Susan Raffetto Susan Robinson Susan Scirica Susan Tucker Susie and Troy Quesnel Suzi Zook

Tad Dugan Tanalewood Apartments

Tauna Nelson Teial Gandhi

The Barsness Law Firm Theo Young Thomas Archie Thomas O'Sullivan Thomas Shafer Tim Price Timothy Drumm

Timothy Sheldon Todd Steel Tom Shanklin (Shankdog)

Tommee May Toni Brown Tori and Mark Hanna

Tracev and Chip Koaelmann Travis Smart

Trea Bernt Vita Kremenchuk Wade Bradley Walter Gerald Wanda Garvey Wendy and Jim Jaquet Wesley Wills Whitney Engelmann William Gehrke William Kirby

William McCoubrev William Vorm Willie Resko

SVSEF has worked to ensure that the information in this annual report is accurate. Despite our efforts to avoid errors, they may occasionally occur. If you contributed to SVSEF duing the 2020-21 fiscal year and your name has been listed incorrectly or omitted, we sincerely apologize and hope you will contact our office at 208.726.4129.



Thank you to everyone, at every level, who contributed to the first annual Rotarun Rip-A-Thon. Our friends, families, and community embraced this four-day, athlete-led celebration and fundraiser, and the results were beyond our wildest dreams—thank you!

Jake Adia Jill Palm

Jake Adicoff by Sue Conner and Sam Adicoff
Jill Palm by Britta S Hubbard
by Winston Gallegos

Joan Davies Doer by Kathryn Gardner
John and Jane McGrew by Scott McGrew
John Davies by Joan Davies

John Hunter by Jamie Sattler
Lea Morrison by William Morrison
Marilyn Teitge by Miles Teitge

Nana Sample by Brandeis Coshowby

by Kyle Coshow

SVSEF Coaches by Ella Shaughnessy
Trish and David Wilson by Sue Woodyard
Victoria Rossin by Melissa Olsen

Bob Kershaw by Mari and Dave Clack
Felisa Vanoff by Nick Vanoff
Gene Timmons by Barbara Timmons

by Brixen Ehleringer
by Stacey Ehleringer

Howard Dean by Peggy Dean
James and Peggy Berman by Christopher Berman

Laura Flood by Anne Brunelle

Paul Carson by Chuck Ferries by Derry Barnhardt

by Patty Puz

by Peggy Dean
by Peter Foreman

Pete and Sally Jarvis by Mari and Dave Clack
Rufus Brown by Kia and Christian Brown

by Liz Brown

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Anne Warde
Armstrong-Root Opticians
BCRD

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Big Life Magazine

Board Bin Boozie

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Lefty's Bar & Grill LEKI

Lizzy's Fresh Coffee Michael Halstead

Michael Olenick
Panache
Peter Phillips

Red Barn Granola Regan Nelson Scott Curtis

Stanley Baking Co. and
Sawtooth Hotel
Summer Hadley
Sun Valley Company

Sun Valley Company
Sun Valley Fire Department
Sun Valley Mustard
Sun Valley Outfitters

Sun Valley Mustard
Sun Valley Outfitters
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Swire Coca-Cola, USA
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The Barn
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Traeger Grills
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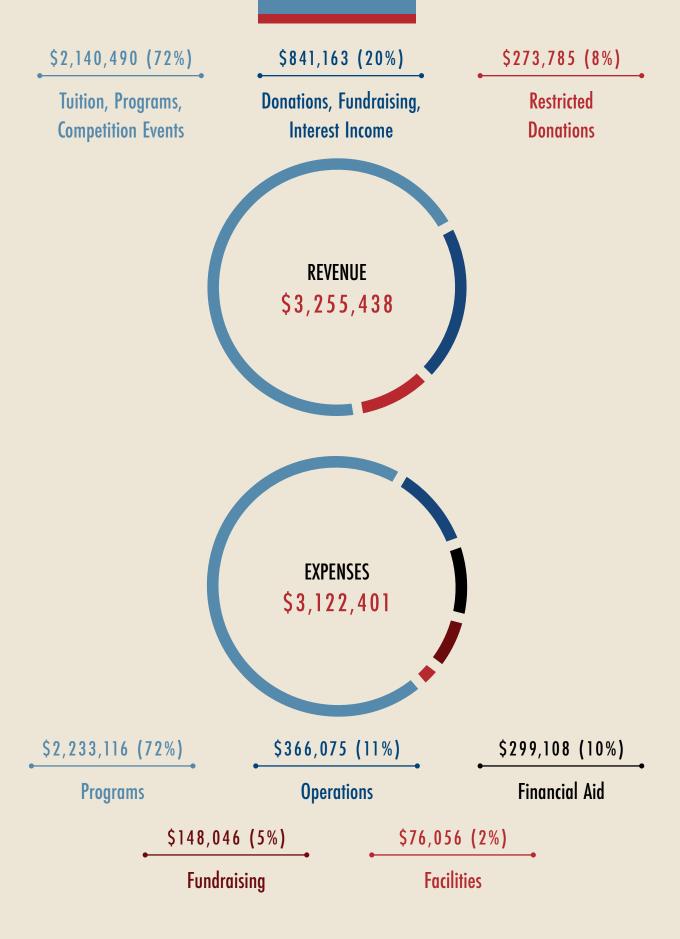
Zenergy at Thunder Spring

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Heather Black
Liz Brown
Andrew Cooley
Olin Glenne
Michael Halstead
Wally Limburg
Steve Porino
Clay Sammis (Alumni)
Anna Sonnerup



### **FINANCIALS**



#### **ENDOWMENT**

Long-range investment in the sustainability of SVSEF is a critical piece of continuing to grow and elevate the work we do in our community. SVSEF's athlete endowment fund has grown to nearly \$3.5 million with a goal to reach \$10 million by 2030. The whole of the endowment is invested and allocated to allow for conservative growth over time, and we do not tap into the corpus of the fund.

Up to five percent may be drawn annually from the athlete endowment, specifically to fund financial aid support. As SVSEF continues to expand our efforts around inclusivity and address the rising costs of snowsports and ski racing, the importance of growing our endowment is paramount.

As a part of the athlete endowment, the Ski Patrol Fund is one way SVSEF is able to express our gratitude to the members of the Sun Valley Ski Patrol for all they do for our families, kids, and the entire community. SVSEF's dedicated Ski Patrol Fund was established to help support the sons and daughters of the Sun Valley Ski Patrol so that they can be a part of SVSEF. Wintersport teams are not inexpensive to operate, and our mission has always been to ensure that kids from every corner of the community have the opportunity to be a part.

During the 2020/21 season, SVSEF allocated \$6,000 from the Ski Patrol Fund, with 13 patroller kids in the program. Our intent is to grant this allocation in perpetuity for present and future patrollers.



#### CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

SVSEF has seen significant interest in targeted giving over the past couple of years. A shift in our business model to elevate staff efficiencies and relieve pressure on fundraising for general operations costs is allowing us to allocate the funds we raise specifically towards improving the athlete and coach experience on a variety of levels.

One example is the Caleb Baukol Memorial Safety Fund. Launched in memoriam of the widely adored, local-legend Caleb Baukol, the fund is dedicated exclusively to risk mitigation, and aims to deliver the highest quality safety materials, training, and systems to SVSEF for the protection of our athletes. In 2020/21 this fund enabled us to install a radio repeater at the top of the Greyhawk chair and supply top-of-the-line radios to coaching staff, providing a system that is now among the leading radio communications systems in the country. Resources from the fund also provided Stop the Bleed kits and comprehensive training in immediate injury response for SVSEF coaches.

Ongoing upgrades to our training venues and facilities through capital investments help ensure our athletes can learn and train at the highest level and under the strictest safety standards. As we continue to advance our means of teaching air awareness, body positioning, and technique in line with the demands of snowsports year to year, additional capital investment efforts in 2020/21 included upgrades to the lighting and trampolines in the Air Barn\* and bringing online a new SkyTechSport ski simulator.

Imparting a sense of place and history is a key facet of how we instill our values in our athletes. The historical installation in the SVSEF Yurt at the base of Warm Springs in 2020/21 will serve as a constant and evolving reminder of who and where we come from, and the place each of us hold in the continuation of this Sun Valley skiing legacy.

SVSEF is committed to meeting and exceeding world-class standards for our athletes and coaches, and we will continue to pursue meaningful opportunities for targeted giving or specific purpose donations that can help pave the way.

\*SVSEF Air Barn at Sun Valley Community School's Dumke Family Sagewillow Campus

## **SVSEF** STAFF

#### **ADMIN**

Scott McGrew. **Executive Director** Amanda Porino Erika Rixon **Kelly Roberts** Lexi Black

#### **ALPINE**

Mimi Crocker

Will Brandenburg.

**Program Director** Adele Savaria **Alex Nelson** Amanda Stelling Arthur Adamiec Austin Savaria Biche Rudiaoz **Briggs Williams** Charlotte Gourlay Claudia Stern Dane Spencer Dave Kerwynn Dylan Murtha Galen Webster **Gladys Weidt Grace Pepin** Harlan Collins **Hunter Storey** 

Josie Brownell

Kaia Jensen

KJ Savaria

Lauren Street

Judith (Jude) Arvidson

Lizzy Vanderkloot Logan Sundberg Mackenzie Price Mari Nakamura **Matthew Murphy Nate Schwing** Nick Stenicka Pat Savaria Rilev Berman **Rob Webb** Ryan Dean Skip Merrick Steve Thompson Susanne Connor **Tanner Farrow** Tor Jensen **Trevor Wagner** Wes Powell

#### BALDY DEVO/ LASAR/ **ROTA-RIPPERS**

Brian Caulkins, Baldy Devo/LASAR **Program Director** 

Barb Dunn,

Rota-Rippers Head Coach

Alex Hegewald Avi Hill Benjamin Chidlaw Bryan Ries **Caitlin Farrell Cam Fraser** 

**Chad Pringle** Cole Wells David Reid **Hollis von Summer** Jan Hegewald Jill Parker John Hunter **Justin Weber** Maggie Schmidt Nicole Ramey Orlie Sather Jr. PJ Spalding **Remington Novak** Sanne Hilbrich Steve Brown Tina Cole

#### **BIG MOUNTAIN**

Alden Carter,

Jon French

Head Coach Banks Gilberti, Head Coach Lindsay Mann. Mountain Experience Director **Collin Collins** 

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

**Tanner Marcoullier** 

Rick Kapala, **Program Director Aaron Duphily** 

**Ashley Knox Austin Cobb Chris Mallory** Danny Sundali **Dave Glasscock David Vanderpool Emily Siegel Emily Williams** Haydn Halvorsen Ivana Radlova **Jack Harris** Jackson Lona Joney Otteson **Kelley Yeates** Kirsys Campbell Laurie Leman Lily Brunelle Martha Pendl Mary Rose Michael Sinnott Mike Lloyd Nate Scales **Paddy McIlvoy Paul Smith Peter Holmes Rob Landis** Sarah Armstrong Sloan Storey Susie Quesnel **Travis Jones** 

Willie Resko

Anja Jensen

**Anna Sonnerup** 

#### **FREESKI**

Tyler Conway, **Program Director Bob Mollineaux** Cassidy DuBois

Gabe Mondragon Gui Mattheis-Brown

#### FREESTYLE

John Grigsby, **Program Director** 

Alec Poster Chris Rybak Cora Kaiser Joshua Zuck **Kate Johnston** Luke Rizzo **Wyatt Wilson** 

#### MINI X

Benjamin Schumacher, **Program Director** 

Ben Parker Hanna Curran Jason Siegel **Justine Kaiser** Sarah Verst

#### **SNOWBOARD**

Andy Gilbert, **Program Director Charles Gordon Knight** Cora Kaiser Dave Boldwin JaNessa Gilbert Jean-Marie Bousauet

**Rick Millett** 

Ross Bird

Eric Madsen **Garrett Davila** 

#### **ROTA-RIPPERS VOLUNTEER COACHES**

Jean-Marie Bousquet John Lowe **Angus Gilbert** John Hunter Anne Kalik Joshua Astuhuaman Barbara Wentzel Kaz Thea **Bruce Martin** Kelly O'Neill Cara Feldstein Mary Oliver Cece Osborne **Matthew Crow Cindy Maher** Orlie Sather Phebe Ericksen **Connor Kelsev** Sam Adicoff Cynthia Raffety Damon Yerks Steve Deal Daniel Gariepy Susan Conner Wally Limberg Dave Boldwin David McCandless Wally Rothgeb

**Gregory Feldstein** Jackson Flynn





## A MESSAGE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Through a year like none other we've experienced in the history of SVSEF, thank you to all of our volunteers for always showing up and for making moments shine.

From our fundraising events, to races, competitions, and everything in between, you help elevate the experiences for all.

You are what helps define a great community.
We are grateful for your time, your treasure,
and your talent—thank you.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Sun Valley Community School University of Oregon





**ANHWEI KIRK** Sun Valley Community School University of Washington, School of Engineering

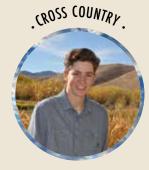


**CAMILLE FOX** Home School PG Year with SVSEF





**ADAIR MARTIN** Sun Valley Community School University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



**ALEX SHAFER Wood River High School Montana State University** 



(APU Nordic Ski Team)



**FALON HANNA** Sun Valley Community School Texas Christian University





**ISABELLA ROBERTS Wood River High School Boise State University** 



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

**JOSH BLACKBURN** Sun Valley Community School Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

. ALPINE .

KAIJA DYBDAHL Sun Valley Community School PG Year, then Montana State University, Honors College



**ANNEKA THOMPSON** Wood River High School Gap Year, then St. Lawrence University



**BJORN HALVORSEN Wood River High School** Alaska Pacific University



**LOLA STREET** Sun Valley Community School **University of Tennessee** 

. ALPINE .



**MARIT KAISER** Sun Valley Community School Colby College (Division 1 Alpine Ski Team)



**QUINN CLOSSER** Sun Valley Community School Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo College of Engineering

SNOWBOARD



(USCSA Ski Team)

Sun Valley Community School **Colgate University** 



RYDER SARCHETT Sun Valley Community School U.S. Ski Team



**SEBI RADL-JONES Wood River High School** Montana State University



**SYLAR MAGUIRE** Sage School Montana State University, School of Architecture

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

. ALPINE .



**SUNNY PRATT** Sun Valley Community School Gap Year

SNOWBOARD



**WALKER WOLDSTAD** Home School **Snowboard industry pursuits** in Park City

#### . ALPINE .



**WILLY DEWOLFE** Sun Valley Community School San Diego State University



## HOW TO **INVEST**

A gift in any amount to the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation is an investment in our mission to provide exceptional snowsport programs for the youth of the Wood River Valley. Your generosity helps enable each participant to reach their potential, while developing strong personal character through good sportsmanship, strong values, and individual goals.

**Donations to SVSEF may be** made at any time of year and are tax deductible.

Please join us in supporting our Annual Fund, or you may choose to designate your gift to a specific fund or program.

#### TARGETED GIVING

Donations can be made to impact a specific project or program: Alpine, **Big Mountain, Cross Country,** Freeski, Freestyle, Mini X, or Snowboard. Gifts may also be directed to our Financial Aid Fund, any of our Gold Programs, or to the Cooper-Taché First **Tracks Fund**—a scholarship program to bring the gift of skiing and snowboarding along with

professional instruction to children who would not otherwise be able to participate.

#### **ANNUAL FUND**

Donations to our Annual Fund help support SVSEF's general operating costs and day-to-day expenses to deliver our programming at the highest level across all disciplines. These include program equipment, facility expenses, vehicle maintenance, insurance (auto, liability, property, and Workman's Compensation), utilities, and coaching.

### **SVSEF ATHLETE ENDOWMENT**

Gifts to the SVSEF athlete

endowment are an investment in the long range success of SVSEF and all those who will benefit through what we deliver to our community. The endowment is currently valued at \$3.5 million with a goal to reach \$10 million by 2030.

#### **LEAVING TRACKS SOCIETY**

An opportunity to leave a lasting legacy through gift and estate planning.

#### ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

Our primary fundraisers are the annual Wild Game Dinner and the Bill Janss Pro-Am Classic, both which support our financial aid program.

Gifts are accepted via check, cash, credit card, stock, matching gifts, or sponsorship.

Donations may be made by mail, telephone, or online.

For more information about the many ways you can support SVSEF, please visit sysef.org/get-involved, call our office at 208.726.4129, or email Scott McGrew at scott@svsef.org.



**SVSEF** PO Box 203 Sun Valley, ID 83353



208.726.4129



Visit sysef.org Click "Donate Now" button

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