



Mountain Access

From Never-Evers to Powder Hounds...
there's an Adaptive Ski Camp for All

Contributions from Andrea John Kennedy & Sarah Aller

Powder skiing is far different than any other type of skiing. It's about floating on top of the snow, leaning back, and forgetting about "linking turns." It's no wonder that there is a niche of skiers out there who call themselves "Powder Hounds." These are the skiers who, after a hefty snowfall, are "pressing glass" at the Gondola door vying for the first ride up the hill in pursuit of "fresh tracks" and "face shots".

Powder skiing is all about the snow, and very little about the equipment. For monoskiing and three-tracking, it's no different. Balance is key, good form is a must, and turning is optional. The snow slows you down, and if you do fall, the risk of injury is faint.

For those who lust for this type of skiing, there are specialty camps catering to the unique group of skiers and riders with disabilities that, with the help of Mother Nature, is largely focused on powder skiing. Co-hosted by Adaptive Adventures and Access Anything at Colorado's Steamboat, three days of instructional sessions are put to the test in the backcountry.

The All-Mountain Camp skiers traverse into the backcountry on Snow Cats, with expert guides, in search of one thing: untracked fresh powder, virtually unlimited and somewhat daunting! For more information, visit www.accessanything.net.

Powder Hounds aside, there are plenty of other unique camps as well. Adaptive Adventures helps other organizations

across the country create ski camps, like the Annual Expand Your Horizons Camp in Telluride, hosted by Telluride Adaptive Sports, and the Annual Great Lakes Monoski Madness Camp, hosted by Courage Duluth.

Throughout the ski season, Adaptive Adventures offers resources to a number of specialty ski events by providing instructors, volunteers and equipment. "There's a growing demand from adaptive skiers across the country, including men and women of the armed forces, and children," says Matt Feeney, Adaptive's ski school director.

Feeney co-founded Adaptive Adventures in 1999 with Joel Berman, the organization's executive director. Both men know first-hand the importance of increasing awareness and participation in disabled sports and outdoor recreational events. "Matt and I are able to put together a camp for adaptive athletes through the eyes, mindset, and experiences of individuals living with physical challenges. This makes our camps one-of-a-kind experiences," Berman enthuses.

"Many ski areas offer wonderful beginning programs in adaptive skiing, but we try to take the skiing experience to the next level by creating a truly unique experience for participants, volunteers and the community," notes Feeney. Berman agrees: "At Adaptive Adventures, we believe freedom comes through mobility, and skiing is a sport that makes this a reality." To learn more, visit www.AdaptiveAdventures.org or call (866) 679-2770.