

Black Hills Ski Team Frequently Asked Questions

Registration.

What ages can join the ski team?

Our youth athletes range from 6 to 19 years old.

What skill level does my child have to be to join the ski team?

We ask that your child can:

- independently load and unload from a chair lift.
- navigate/feel comfortable on blue (intermediate) terrain.
- ski with poles.
- put on his or her own boots and skis.

Is the program geared toward competitive ski racing; do the athletes train on racing gates all day?

The Black Hills Ski Team offers two paths. The first path is the Development Team. The Development Athletes will be learning skills to become strong all-mountain skiers.

The second path is the Race Team. The Race Athletes work on skills for competitive racing. Black Hills Ski Team will offer Race Athletes away races at participating ski mountains within our division, Northern Division.

The Black Hills Ski Team club will offer races at our home mountain, Terry Peak, to all athletes (Development and Racers). You will receive a schedule of Terry Peak Club Races and club-sponsored Northern Division away races.

How do I register my child for the Black Hills Area Ski Team?

All athletes need to complete the following by December 10th:

- 2022-2023 Registration Form
- Registration Form Parent info 2022-23 (pdf)
- BHST Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability (pdf)
- BHST-Code-of-Conduct 2022-23 (pdf)
- BHST-Concussion-Policy-2022-23 (pdf)

*Your athlete will need a **current membership** from [US Ski and Snowboard](#). *You can choose an Alpine Competitor membership if your athlete will be on the Race Team or an Alpine General – Non-Competitor if your athlete will be on the Development Team.*

Your athlete will also need to have a **season pass to [Terry Peak Ski area](#).

Practices/Training.

When are the practices/training dates?

Our season begins when Terry Peak has snow, typically in the middle of December. The team will take a break from training for the Christmas/New Year's vacation because Terry Peak gets very busy. Our season extends to the end of March.

We practice every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. under the lights on Stewart Slope. We also practice on Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will be all over the mountain on Sunday, so we start and end practice in front of Stewart Lodge. We take a break for lunch.

Does my child have to attend all the practices/training dates?

No, there is no pressure to attend practices. We offer a non-competitive atmosphere where attendance is when and how often it is convenient for the family. We ask that you let the coaches know if your athlete will attend via the TeamSnap app.

Will my child be able to “keep up” with the group?

Groups are made to serve the actual skill, motivation, and pacing level of each athlete's needs. The point is to challenge, but always with a balance of fun.

What steps does the Black Hills Ski Team program take to make sure the kids stay safe?

Ensuring proper skill development paired with the right terrain, and always with attention to the hazards inherent in skiing and riding is the frame of mind and core value of the program. Coaches continually train on building awareness and etiquette that kids learn to be safe and responsible skiers.

What if we arrive after the practice/training session start time?

Families that arrive late can find their group on the hill and *sometimes* may connect with the group by using the TeamSnap app.

During Sunday practices, there is a lunch break. Are the lunches supervised?

No, lunch will be the responsibility of the parents. Please make arrangements for your athletes as our coaches need time to eat as well.

What if the weather is bad?

The kids generally learn to shrug off “bad weather” and find fun as part of the spirit of learning to be all-mountain, all-conditions skiers. Though, when weather conditions compromise safety, practice will be cancelled – with notification in advance via the TeamSnap app whenever possible.

Do children still practice when it snows?

You bet!

How can I know how my child is progressing in the Teams program?

The Black Hills Ski Team supports a strong culture of parent-coach interaction. We understand the value of knowing how your child is doing, and therefore the program day is designed to have time on both the front and back end of the day when coaches are available to parents' questions and inquiries.

Gear.

Does my child have to have race skis in order to participate?

No, any general ski will do. The Development side of the program is designed to ensure that your child will learn how to manipulate whatever type of ski he or she is sliding on. If your child wants to be the Race Team, you can discuss what skis would suit your athlete with our head coach, Chad Sebade. You can reach him via email at sebadec@yahoo.com.

U14 Athletes and above competing at USSA sanctioned races will need equipment that meets the following specifications: http://www.bhskiteam.com/WP/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2019_ALP_Equipment.pdf

We recommend Cody at Peak Sports in Rapid City for help outfitting your athlete.

What other gear besides skis and ski poles does my athlete need to have to participate?

In addition to skis and poles, the most important thing your child will bring to practice will be a **helmet**. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A HELMET AT ALL TIMES. If your child plans on racing, it should be a helmet with hard-side ears. Cody with Peak Sports can help you find a helmet that is certified for racing.

Your child will need a **Black Hills Ski Team coat**. This is provided to your child for the season. You will return it at the end of the season. The coat rental fee is \$50.00 (which is the cost to clean it at the end of the season). There is a deposit of \$200 for the coat that will only be deposited if your athlete's coat is missing or damaged.

Your athlete will also need **goggles with clear lenses** for night practices.

*****PLEASE BRING YOUR TERRY PEAK SKI PASS TO ALL PRACTICES INCLUDING EVENING PRACTICES WHEN THE MOUNTAIN IS CLOSED. THIS IS YOUR TICKET TO RIDING THE CHAIR LIFTS.**

More Information.

How does the Black Hills Area Ski Team communicate with families?

We mostly use the TeamSnap app to send out information about practices/training sessions, news, updates, and opportunities. Please click on the [link to a tutorial](#) that explains how to download, register, and use the TeamSnap app. If you have downloaded TeamSnap for the Black Hills Ski Team previously, make certain that you are on the correct year (2022-2023) on your dashboard.

We also use a group email. If you are not receiving emails from us or would like to add a person to our list, please email bhst00@gmail.com.

What's the best part about the program for the kids?

The best part of the program are the relationships they build, the confidence they gain, and the life lessons they learn that they bring with them off the mountain.

What's your mission with the Black Hills Ski Team program?

The Black Hills Ski Team mission is to provide our youth athletes with a positive environment and balanced guidance that fosters self-confidence, embraces goals, and nurtures a lifelong love for the mountains and snow sports.

I am interested in sponsoring the Black Hills Ski Team. Who should I talk to about sponsorship opportunities?

It takes a lot of people to come together to help make the ski team a possibility for our area. Please see our [website](#) for more information about sponsorship opportunities. Also, reach out to our board at bhst00@gmail.com.

What if I didn't find the question I had here?

You can contact Black Hills Ski Team via our email at bhst00@gmail.com. Please also see our [website](#) for more information.