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***Allegheny Ski & Sports – Appalachian Telemark Association – Beaver Valley Ski Club – Circle E Ski Club – Der Sitzmark Ski Club – Erie Ski Club – Good Times Ski Club – Greater Johnstown Athletic Ski Club – Meadville Ski Club – Mon Valley Ski Club – PA Freestyle Pittsburgh Ski Club – Shenango Ski Club – Warren Ski Club – Westmoreland Ski Club –Youngstown Ski Club***

The WPSC Jim Kapp Scholarship Award

In 2019, the Council voted to create a Scholarship Award to advance snowsports within the Council. The Council’s intent with the monetary award scholarship program is to support and foster aspiring snowsports athletes.

The first WPSC Scholarship Award was given to Davian Altdorfer a member of PA Freestyle.

At the March 4, 2021 Council Meeting, the WPSC Scholarship Award was renamed in memory of Jim (Kapper) Kapp. It is now the WPSC Jim Kapp Scholarship Award.

Jim Kapp lost his battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) on Feb. 21, 2012 at age 59.

He was a professional ski instructor who had attained high levels of certification through the Professional Ski Instructors of America. He attained Level 3 Alpine, Level 3 Telemark, Level 1 Snowboard and he was Master Teacher certified. Jim resurrected the Western PA Ski Council, and was instrumental is its growth to 16 ski clubs. Jim served as WPSC president and as a representative for several ski clubs. He is a life member and past president/social director of the Westmoreland Ski Club. He most recently has been the treasurer for the Appalachian Telemark Association and produced for over 15 years, the two-day ski festival known as Telepalooza.

Jim taught hundreds of children and adults to swim and dive through the American Red Cross' after school learn-to-swim program, first at Woodland Hills High School, then at Gateway High School. Also, as a water safety instructor and a water safety instructor teacher, he taught other swim coaches at the University of Pittsburgh Aquatic School. Jim was the adventurous type. He enjoyed SCUBA diving (being a PADI master diver), sky diving, mountain biking and aggressive road bicycling. Jim pedaled his bicycle 150 miles from Pittsburgh to Erie for 12 consecutive years for the MS Society, raising funds to combat that neuromuscular disease. Jim also taught both Snowshoeing and Wildlife Tracking Through Snow at Community College of Allegheny County.

Kapper’s passion and enthusiasm with Council and snowsports was infectious.

It is so fitting that the award be named in Jim’s memory. He touched many lives in the snowsports community and industry, and he will continue to do so.

The 2021 recipient is Tyler Duda who received $500. He is a member of the PA Freesyle whose young athletes compete in USA competitions. A link regarding the award is on our website [www.wpaskicouncil.com](http://www.wpaskicouncil.com).