

Volunteer Guide

Everything you need for race day at Arizona Snowbowl

Race day only happens because families show up. We need about 40 volunteers per race day, on and off the hill, and almost every role can be learned the morning of. Thank you for making this season possible for our athletes.

START HERE

- Sign up for shifts at flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers
- Season event dates and locations are posted at flagstaffskiclub.org/calendar
- Gate judge and start/finish timing volunteers: watch your training video at flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers before your shift
- Sign in AND sign out with the Volunteer Coordinator to receive credit

Volunteer Requirements at a Glance

- Four volunteer credits per family, per season.
- Up to 2 credits may be earned away from FSST home races, at off-hill events (BrewHaHa) or USASA Grand Canyon Series events.
- Sign in with the day's Volunteer Coordinator – no sign-in no credit.
- Volunteers may not compete or forerun.
- Roles with direct athlete contact require US Ski & Snowboard, which includes a background check and SafeSport training.

Four Ways to Earn Credits

1. Race Day Crew

No US Ski & Snowboard membership required. Timing officials, gate judges, scoreboard operators, starters, finish arena staff, and lunch pickup & prep. Full descriptions begin on the next page.

2. Alpine Official Training

Coaches and parents can become certified officials by paying US Ski & Snowboard alpine official dues and attending RMD clinics. Roles include race secretary, referee, timing and calculation, and chief of race. Certified officials can work any US Ski & Snowboard race, not just ours.

RMD clinic and race calendar: [Rocky Mountain Division Alpine Calendar](#)

3. Off-Hill Events

Avalanche Sale, County Fair, Moguls & Malts, BrewHaHa are just some of the available shifts are posted at flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers.

Before Race Day

- Sign up online. If you do not have a season pass that lets you load the lift on your shift date, note that on your volunteer form so we can arrange a ticket.
- Watch your training video if your role has one. Gate judge and start/finish timing videos are at flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers.
- Watch your email. Specific start and shift times are set in advance of each event and sent to volunteers. Times and events change, so stay flexible and plan to be on-mountain early.
- Finalized event details and fact sheets typically go out about two weeks before a race. Dates and locations are already posted on the calendar.

Check the mountain forecast: [Snowbowl area weather](#)

Race Day

What to Bring

Most volunteer positions are on the racecourse. Pack a backpack with water, sunblock, a hat, sunglasses for when your helmet comes off, and hand warmers. We provide a bagged lunch with snacks, but extra food is never a bad idea.

How the Day Runs

1. Your athlete checks in, gets a bib, and meets with their coach.
2. You check in with the Volunteer Coordinator in front of the team clubhouses. You will get your position assignment for the day. Pick up your complimentary volunteer lunch now.
3. Get booted up and ready to load the lift. The racecourse is on the Phoenix run: take GCX Lift up, then Ridge side down to Phoenix. Finish line positions can also hike up.
4. Racing begins. Every athlete takes two runs with lunch in between. Eat on the hill or ski down and eat with your racer.

Race Day Position Descriptions

TRUE FOR EVERY ON-HILL POSITION

So we do not repeat it under every role:

- Training is provided race morning. Meet at the Ski Team Building to get your materials.
- You must be able to ski or snowboard to most positions. Some lower course spots can be reached by hiking.
- Expect to stand outside for extended periods in variable weather. Dress warmer than you think you need to.
- Return your supplies to the coaches building after the second run.
- Sign in and sign out with the Volunteer Coordinator.

GATE JUDGE *On hill*

WATCH THE TRAINING VIDEO BEFORE YOUR SHIFT: flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers

Gate judges watch competitors pass through their assigned gates and decide whether each racer passed correctly or committed a fault. The job is quick, consistent, well-documented decisions.

What you'll do

- Arrive in the morning for training with the Head Gate Judge and pick up your materials at the Ski Team Building.

- Observe every competitor through your assigned set of gates.
- Document your decisions, including a diagram of the fault, the competitor's bib number, and the gate number.
- Keep your fault cards organized and stay at your assigned area until the Head Gate Judge skis to you to collect them.

Also good to know

- Reviewing the training video before race day is what makes this role work. Gate judges need a clear understanding of race rules before they are on course.

STAGER *On hill, start corral*

The Stager stands in the start corral just before the starting gate, holds the start list, and calls bib numbers so athletes line up in the correct order. This matters most on the second run, when bib order changes.

What you'll do

- Arrive at the start area 30 minutes before the race begins.
- Keep several racers on-deck at all times to keep the race moving.
- Call out bib numbers and names clearly so racers get lined up.
- Tell the Start Referee right away if a racer is missing or has not shown up for their start.

Also good to know

- You need a strong voice for this one.

STARTER *On hill, start gate*

The Starter stands directly next to the starting line, signals each racer to begin, communicates with the timing shack, and resets the starting gate wand after every racer.

What you'll do

- Arrive at the start area 30 minutes before the race begins.
- Use the correct cadence to signal each racer to start.
- Close the wand after each racer passes through.
- Stay in communication with the timing shack.

Also good to know

- You will be stooping to close the wand after every racer, so this role is more physical than it sounds.

START / FINISH HAND TIMER *On hill*

WATCH THE TRAINING VIDEO BEFORE YOUR SHIFT: flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers

Stationed at either the start or the finish line with a stopwatch, the Hand Timer calls out each racer's time and bib number to the Recorder. Hand times verify the electronic times and replace them entirely if the computer fails.

What you'll do

- Time every racer with a stopwatch at your assigned line.
- Call the time and bib number clearly to your Recorder.
- Prioritize accuracy and consistency. These numbers are the backup for the whole race.

Also good to know

- Expect to stand or kneel for extended periods and to track bib numbers closely.

START / FINISH RECORDER *On hill*

WATCH THE TRAINING VIDEO BEFORE YOUR SHIFT: flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers

The Recorder works alongside the Hand Timer, writing down each racer's time and bib number as it is called out.

What you'll do

- Record the time and matching bib number for every racer.
- Prioritize accuracy and consistency. These numbers verify or replace the electronic times.

Also good to know

- Expect to stand or kneel for extended periods and to track bib numbers closely.

SCOREBOARD *Finish arena*

Scoreboard volunteers work in pairs to build and update the scoreboard in the finish area from the start list.

What you'll do

- Write all racers onto the provided large scoreboard sheet, organized by age class and racing order.
- Hang the scoreboard on the wooden frame in the finish area.
- Stay on the headset with the timing tower throughout the race. One volunteer receives times through the headset, the other writes them on the scoreboard.

Also good to know

- This position is in the finish arena, so no skiing required, but you are still outside all day.

LUNCH *Off hill, mostly the day before*

The Lunch Volunteer prepares and delivers 50 boxed lunches for course crew, coaches, and officials. Nearly all of the work happens the day before the race, with a quick drop-off on race morning.

What you'll do

- Day before, shopping: buy for 50+ lunches. Chips (variety packs preferred), fruit such as Cuties or apples, and cookies or another individually wrapped dessert.
- Night before, prep and pack: 50 paper-bag lunches, each with one sandwich, chips, fruit, and a cookie. Make 5 gluten-free, 5 vegetarian, and 40 standard sandwiches.
- Race morning, drop off: deliver all 50 bagged lunches to Race Admin at the Ski Team Building as early as possible.

LUNCH IS ALSO AN IN-KIND DONATION OPPORTUNITY

We would love for the cost of the lunches to be donated. FSST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and can provide an in-kind donation receipt for tax purposes. If covering the cost is not feasible, submit your receipts and the club will reimburse you.

Race Days at Arizona Snowbowl: What Families Need to Know

Registration

- Complete all forms and payments online in advance. Local races allow on-site registration, but all US Ski & Snowboard races require pre-registration.
- Athletes in sanctioned races must be active US Ski & Snowboard members.
- Parents are responsible for getting athletes to registration. Make sure your racer knows their schedule, lunch plan, and where to meet you after their runs.
- Bibs are picked up at the registration table on race day.

How Races Run

- A race schedule with inspection and start times is posted before the event.
- Races run in age and gender order, generally younger girls first, then boys.
- There is a morning race and an afternoon race. Between runs, athletes can watch teammates or take a lunch break.

After the Race

- Athletes collect their own gear from the top of the course after their final run.
- Athletes are not automatically regrouped with their coach after their last race. Parents should know where their child is until the awards ceremony.
- The team awards ceremony is at Agassiz Lodge after the race and course teardown. Athletes are encouraged to help with teardown and to stay and support their teammates.

Awards

- Local races: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd by age and gender category. Some races award by combined times.
- Sanctioned US Ski & Snowboard races: placements 1st through 10th.

Safety and Team Policies

SafeSport and MAAPP

FSST follows the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). These guidelines prevent abuse and misconduct through clear boundaries around one-on-one interactions, electronic communication, travel, and team activities. Following MAAPP is how we keep this a safe, respectful place for young athletes.

Full policy: [2022 MAAPP \(U.S. Center for SafeSport\)](#)

Team Shacks

Team shacks are for athletes only, except on race days, when they operate as a staging area.

Membership and Background Checks

Any volunteer role with direct athlete contact requires US Ski & Snowboard and/or USASA membership. Both include a background check and SafeSport training. This is for our athletes' safety and there are no exceptions.

Quick Links

Resource	Link
Volunteer sign-up and training videos	flagstaffskiclub.org/volunteers
Season calendar, dates and locations	flagstaffskiclub.org/calendar
Snowbowl area weather forecast	National Weather Service forecast
RMD alpine calendar and official clinics	US Ski & Snowboard RMD calendar
SafeSport MAAPP policy	2022 MAAPP full policy (PDF)

Thank you for helping us give our athletes a great season.