

SPRING UPDATE

2023

EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO



ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Adventure Seekers and Supporters,

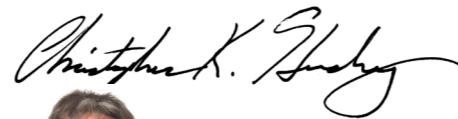
After 25 years as the Executive Director of the Adaptive Sport Center, I was given the unique privilege of taking a 9-month sabbatical. The sabbatical allowed me time to recharge, space to reflect on the past, and a period to contemplate the future of the organization. Perhaps more importantly, it gave the rest of our entire team the opportunity to take on new responsibilities. I returned to the helm in September and was proud to see how the staff stepped up and handled the business of the organization. They not only did a great job of continuing to run an exceptional program despite the lingering effects of Covid, but also executed on new initiatives to further the mission.

One of those initiatives was to reduce our activity rate, increasing our commitment to make our programs accessible to as many people as possible regardless of their disability and socioeconomic status. We reduced our daily rate from \$210 to \$125 and I am beyond excited to share that we are doing it again. This summer, with our Access for All pricing, any person with a disability can access all of our programs for \$95 a day and, as always, scholarships will continue to be available if needed!

Advocating for equal access to outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities is core to our mission. We recognize that cost is a common barrier to participation. All of our participants have access to state-of-the-art, expensive equipment such as sit-skis and hand cycles and get personal attention by a professional instructor. Many participants have to take lessons on an indefinite basis due to their

needs. These special considerations increase the cost of participation in enjoying the great outdoors. Our Access for All pricing helps to level the playing field. Our new rate is one of the lowest in the adaptive sports industry and we have thousands of supporters to thank for making this possible. THANK YOU!

I returned last fall, in time for an epic winter. Most of us were very sore from all of the incredible powder days and coinciding shoveling that happened throughout the winter. The resulting snowpack is going to provide for a fantastic summer, right around the corner. Once it hits, the rivers and wildflowers are going to be unbelievable! We have put away our winter gear and have polished up all of our summer equipment with the anticipation of a great season to come. Our summer registration is currently open and programming officially starts on June 3rd. We cannot wait to see you all out here!



Christopher K. Hensley
Executive Director
Adaptive Sports Center

MISSION MOMENTS

The Adaptive Sports Center's experienced instructors and state-of-the-art adaptive equipment are imperative to our mission. Dr. Amy Wilson, Chief Medical Officer for Baylor Scott & White, recently wrote about her group's experience in Crested Butte this winter.

"I feel much was accomplished with our time there, and many barriers were overcome. You helped some in our group reach a 'bucket list' item in their life. Real time problem solving and modifications were a game changer and literally shaved precious time from the learning curve for several patients. Your overall caring, approach, and hospitality to our group was remarkable and appreciated."



WINTER 2022-2023 REWIND

VISITING GROUPS & CAMPS

We are honored to have hosted the following groups from across the nation for week-long trips. These opportunities provide peer-to-peer support and adventures that promote independence and well-being.

DECEMBER

Operation BASH
Veterans with visual impairments

Move Mountains
Youth at-risk

JANUARY

Expedition School
Young adults with visual impairments

DC Burn Foundation
Adult burn survivors

Texas Shredders
Adults with physical disabilities including spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, hemiparesis, etc.

Fort Carson
Soldiers and veterans with disabilities

FEBRUARY

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
Veterans with disabilities

Craig Hospital
Adults with spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries

National Rehabilitation Institute
Adults in rehabilitation for significant orthopedic injuries

Mountain Mobility
Youth with visual impairments

Powered to Move
Adults with spinal cord injuries and other neurological disabilities

Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association
Adults with developmental disabilities

MARCH

Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind
Youth with visual and hearing impairments

Baylor Scott & White Health
Adults with spinal cord injuries and amputations

Ladies Session
Women with disabilities

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Youth with visual and hearing impairments

International Neurorehabilitation Institute
Adults with multiple sclerosis and other neurological disabilities

Roger Pepper Adventure Camps
Teenage burn survivors

WINTER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Six Points, Gunnison and Crested Butte Community Kids and Ski for PE, and Colorado Special Olympics.

96

Winter Program
Volunteers

3,974

Volunteer
Hours



VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all the amazing folks who humble us every season with their gift of time and talents. Thank you.

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

The individuals and families who visit the ASC are just as varied as the groups we serve. Our program encourages together time for families and provides exceptional fun for everyone!

VETERANS

The Adaptive Sports Center's Operation Rise and Conquer program offers a \$50 discounted rate for veterans & first responders with disabilities, along with their families. We also host several ORC groups for veterans with visual impairments and other physical disabilities and firefighters who are burn survivors.

SUMMER 2023 PREVIEW

JUNE

Roger Pepper Adventure Camp
Teenage burn survivors

Ride the Rockies
Adults, including veterans, with disabilities

DC Adults
Adult burn survivors

Operation BASH #1
Veterans with visual impairments

Move Mountains
Youth at-risk

Servicemembers Undertaking Disabled Sports (SUDS)
Veterans with amputations

JULY

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital
Youth with cerebral palsy

Mountain Mobility
Youth with visual impairments

International Neurorehabilitation Institute
Adults with multiple sclerosis and other neurological disabilities

Fort Carson
Military members in the Solider Recovery Unit (SRU)

Ladies Session
Women with disabilities

Expedition School
Young adults with visual impairments

AUGUST

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Veterans with paralysis

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Adults with spinal cord injuries

National Rehabilitation Hospital
Adults with spinal cord injuries

SEPTEMBER

Craig Hospital
Adults with spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries

Operation BASH #2
Veterans with visual impairments

First Descents
Young adults impacted by cancer and other serious health conditions

Wounded Warrior Project
Veterans with disabilities

Brook Army Medical Center
Veterans with disabilities

DC Firefighters Burn Foundation
Firefighters who are burn survivors

Chapel Haven
Adults with cognitive disabilities

SUMMER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Six Points, Gunnison and Crested Butte Community Kids, and Colorado Special Olympics.





1. (left) Jeff and Johnny (right) on the podium at the 2023 Special Olympics 2. (left to right) Kelsey, Jack, Patrick, and Ivory with SRA Lab pose at the top of Painter Boy 3. (left) Ethan with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, learning the ropes from Regina 4. (left to right) Heather, Julie, and Bobby of the Texas Shredders 5. Cyrus with Craig Hospital mastering his carving skills on tether 6. Big smiles all around at Ladies Session 7. Joseph, Justyne, and Keith with Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana riding up the Red Lady chair lift 8. Roger Pepper Adventure Camp participants and staff on an unbelievable powder day 9. Ellie at the top of Silver Queen Road on her way to the North Face Lift 10. Diana with Baylor Hospital carving down the mountain while 3-tracking 11. Regina and Jeremiah with Powered to Move shredding down Mineral Point.



DANA ENJOYS A FRONT ROW SEAT TO WATCH HER KIDS BLOSSOM

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DANA WILLIAMS


Dana Williams, from San Antonio, Texas, pitched her family on a one-month ski trip to Crested Butte. In her words, she wanted to consolidate all the ski trips they would take in the near future into one big trip. Little did she know at the time, that one-month visit would extend to five months and would lead to a very busy volunteering schedule at the Adaptive Sports Center.

Dana sells PA systems to schools, government agencies, and individuals, and has flexibility to work from anywhere. When you meet her, it's clear just how wonderful she is at her job. She is quick with a smile, very personable, and absolutely loves helping others. Her husband Russ is a real estate investor who also has the ability to work remotely.

Before their big trip, Dana's son Alex, age 11, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. That diagnosis came with lifestyle changes, regular blood sugar monitoring, and insulin needs that were new to the family. When planning a family vacation that included physical activity, Dana wanted to ensure that Alex safely had fun while also feeling as normal as possible. A family friend told Dana about the Adaptive Sports Center and recommended she reach out for support getting Alex on skis.

Dana said, "I wasn't aware that the Adaptive Sports Center would be an option for us, but we learned that they serve people of all abilities and help a wide variety of people experience outdoor adventure."

Alex began lessons through the Adaptive Sports Center and Dana was amazed by his quick progress. She was also delighted that her daughter Eva, age 9, was able to ride alongside him for several sessions.


You always feel like you are making a difference when you are there, even in the smallest of ways.



Dana Williams



Allowing them to ski together made it feel like a true family vacation. Plus, Alex was trying skills on the mountain that exceeded his whole family's expectations.

"It was nice to see him be challenged and pushed through something," said Dana.

Just as her kids were trying new things, Dana jumped into new volunteer roles with the Adaptive Sports Center. Her first task was helping plan the ASC Holiday party. From there she helped wherever she was needed. She served meals for ASC groups, made lunch for instructors, greeted participants and dug into office work. In each role her appreciation for the community around the ASC grew.

"Everyone at the ASC goes out of their way to introduce themselves and make it known how genuinely grateful they are for the contributions of their volunteers. You always feel like you are making a difference when you are there, even in the smallest of ways," said Dana. "I would say I received far more in return during my time there. It was a truly enjoyable and fulfilling experience."

While volunteering, Dana was always looking for ways to pitch in. After noticing Chris Hensley standing on a ladder and speaking loudly to address the group at the Holiday party, she realized the ASC may benefit from a portable PA system. She approached her manufacturer, Anchor Audio, Inc., and they graciously donated a battery powered sound system to be used for parties and outdoor

fundraising events like Bridges of the Butte.

Throughout her volunteer experience, Dana enjoyed being around the Kelsey Wright Building to watch her kids grow and challenge themselves on the mountain.

"One of my favorite memories from that time was watching my kids blossom and connect with different instructors. The confidence Alex and Eva built and the new skill sets they learned were incredible. Plus all the instructors were fabulous," Dana said. "Each day my kids would say, 'That instructor is my favorite,' and the next day, 'Oh they are my favorite.'"

Dana will continue volunteering for the ASC from San Antonio and is serving on the Bridges of the Butte committee. She and her family are coming back in August for 10 days, though the Adaptive Sports community wouldn't mind if her family extended their trip again.

Allison Butcher, the ASC Development Director, said, "Dana and her family jumped right in at Adaptive. She is a joy to be around and we adore her entire family. She is willing to help out wherever we need her and we look forward to continuing to work with her on Bridges of the Butte."

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 10

BRIDGES *of the* BUTTE

THE MOST FUN YOU'LL HAVE ON WHEELS

This summer marks the 19th year of Bridges of the Butte. Over the course of two weeks, you, our loyal supporters, can pedal your 'buttes' off and support the ASC! Funds raised during Bridges of the Butte help to provide affordable lessons, state-of-the-art equipment, and highly-trained instructors in many disciplines and disability adaptations.

PARTICIPATE FROM ANYWHERE!

August 27 - September 10

Show your love from near and far by participating in our annual fundraiser! Starting on August 27th, compete in challenges for fun prizes, share your personal fundraising webpage (free with registration), and ride for good from wherever you are!

JOIN US IN CRESTED BUTTE FOR THE TOWNIE TOUR!

SEPTEMBER 10 — Ride from Noon-4pm, After-Party 4-6pm

There's no disputing that everyone at the Adaptive Sports Center has more fun in the outdoors. Help us celebrate that fun-loving attitude by riding a course that meanders through town and over all of its bridges! Join us at the After-Party for fun prizes, great music and incredible food and drinks!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

BANK OF THE WEST

A trade name used by BMO Harris Bank N.A.

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FUNDRAISING WEBSITE AND LEARN MORE AT
ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG/BRIDGES**





DR. LUCY MILLER CHOOSES ADVENTURE IN RETIREMENT

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

For more than 45 years, Dr. Lucy Miller dedicated her life to studying, analyzing and explaining sensory processing disorders to scientists, professionals and parents. She has published two widely distributed books and founded the STAR Institute, which is among the first comprehensive sensory processing disorder research programs. Her name is synonymous with research, education and treatment.

Lucy was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson’s disease 20 years ago. When it came time to retire after an enriching and ground-breaking career, Lucy was unsure of her next step. She said, “I retired and it was hard for me to pick up where I left off and find something productive to do.” Being a patient and personally receiving medical advice was a new experience for her.

“I am used to being on the other side of the table offering medical insight but not the side where you are the client. It’s a flip for me and it’s hard. I didn’t want to deal with Parkinson’s back when I was diagnosed. I didn’t do a lot of reading about it. But now I have to deal with it,” said Lucy.

Lucy saw information for the Adaptive Sports Center so she decided to sign up for a ski lesson. That is where she met Maura Roche, an instructor who quickly turned into a friend, trainer, mountain guide, and a catalyst for new experiences.

Lucy describes the first time she got back on skis in 30 years with the Adaptive Sports Center as a very “successful and social” experience.

“I wasn’t sure I would be able to ski due to the Parkinson’s and my eye problems, but from the first slide of my skis, I felt capable and successful,” she said. “It was a very freeing and peaceful feeling -especially on the bluebird sunny ski days. I appreciated waving to people I knew on the chair lift and going fast down the hill.”

Lucy enjoyed six ski days on the mountain this year and credits her time with the Adaptive Sports Center for helping her find joy, community and a renewed excitement for adventure. Quilting and reading were old hobbies she picked back up again.

“I am reading more now than before I started my sessions with Adaptive because I feel more capable,” said Lucy.

Lucy’s instructors worked with her to set goals for each session and were thrilled to hear that her return to skiing helped reignite other passions in her life. They noticed Lucy’s confidence and positive momentum grew after each chair lift ride up and ski run down the hill.

“Everyone at the Adaptive Sports Center wants you to succeed. It doesn’t matter if you are in a wheelchair or using a cane, they want you to succeed. It’s so helpful that each person gets an individualized program at ASC,” said Lucy. “It’s going to be a great summer. Now I get to try rafting and other things I wasn’t sure I’d ever try.”

In addition to participating in ASC programs, Lucy is now working on a committee to build awareness in the Parkinson’s and multiple sclerosis communities for outdoor sessions. The committee encourages people with neuromotor disorders to enjoy swimming, climbing, or any outdoor adventure safely and with individual abilities in mind. She wants more people to feel the delight of discovering a new hobby, building a supportive community and reigniting old passions just like she has.

When reflecting on her winter sessions and working with a wonderful instructor like Maura, Lucy said, “It’s been great to work with Maura. She helps people feel good about themselves. She got me on my feet again and gave me the courage to try.”



“It’s going to be a great summer. Now I get to try rafting and other things I wasn’t sure I’d ever try!”
Lucy Miller

ACCESS FOR ALL PRICING

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS

Advocating for equal access to outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities is core to our mission. Since our inception in 1987, we have accomplished this by offering adaptive adventures at a reduced cost.

\$95 FULL DAY LESSONS

Thanks to financial support from incredible donors and participants alike, we are further reducing our existing subsidized full-day rate to \$95. We recognize that the cost to enjoy the great outdoors is commonly a barrier to participation, considering the added requirement of specialized equipment and professional instruction. If additional financial assistance is needed, we have an amazing scholarship fund.

HELP SUSTAIN ACCESS FOR ALL PRICING

A typical full-day adaptive lesson costs the ASC roughly \$600. Thanks to the generosity of many, we are able to charge \$95 to provide this service. Those that are able to contribute beyond the lesson fee, can “pay it forward” by adding a tax-deductible donation to their payment.

All donations made to the Adaptive Sports Center help sustain Access for All pricing. This pricing model welcomes people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and is critical to our mission. If you'd like to help us continue our Access for All pricing, please visit our website to learn more and contribute!

AdaptiveSports.org/access-for-all



SUMMER EVENTS



CRESTED BUTTE OPEN GALA AND GOLF TOURNAMENT PRESENTED BY CAROLYN & DAVID MILLER, KATY AND KYLE MILLER, MEREDITH & KYLE BEBEE

August 6 & 7, 2023

The Crested Butte and Gunnison communities undoubtedly love traditions and the CB Open is a 28-year tradition still going strong. The proceeds we raise during this event directly impact the lives of approximately 1,000 people annually, and the ripple affects hundreds more.

If you can't attend, you can still participate in the Silent Auction and help support the program, by bidding on some fantastic items. Learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/cbo

ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 18- 20, 2023

Riders from around the country gather for three days of riding and racing. Cheer on the racers during this, multi-discipline race with recreational and advanced categories. Learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/worlds

BRIDGES OF THE BUTTE TOWNIE TOUR

August 27 - September 10, 2023

Participate from anywhere or join us in Crested Butte for the 19th Annual Townie Tour! Sign up for your fundraising website and learn more at AdaptiveSports.org/bridges



“Our commitment to Access for All pricing helps make adaptive sports accessible to more people. No matter what, we want to get everyone out to experience our programs.”

Chris Read, Program Director



Volunteers make these great events successful! If you are interested in helping, please contact Gabe Walker at gabe@adaptivesports.org





REGISTER NOW! SUMMER PROGRAMMING STARTS JUNE 3RD!

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