

PROVIDING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1987.



**ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER**

**2019 SPRING UPDATE**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

That was an awesome winter! Not only was the snowfall way above average (we even hit the magical 100-inch snowpack mark!), but the season was a long one with the cold rain and snow starting in October.

This winter was also, for another year in a row, the busiest that we have ever had! We officially did 3,264 activities over the course of the winter, more than any other season in our thirty-two-year history. More importantly, we continue to receive rave reviews about the positive and enduring impact our program is having on our participants. As part of our strategic plan, we wanted to be busting at the seams and having as big of an impact on as many participants as possible before we move into our new building, and we did just that!

The completion of the Kelsey Wright Building is right around the corner, and the timing could not be any better for the reasons above. We are anticipating our transition into the new building in mid-June, with our grand opening celebration on July 2nd! This is a project that the Adaptive Sports Center has been working on for over four years and I am very proud to note that, thanks to our very active board, staff, volunteers, and supporters, we have executed on all of our major milestones for the project.

Another point of pride is that the building is named after someone who epitomizes the spirit of what the ASC is all about. Kelsey Louise Wright was one of our original and longest tenured participants. She had a mitochondrial disorder and although she was sharp as tack, she also had a body that did not respond to her commands. Because of this, she had little control over her musculature and her speech pattern was difficult to understand. Despite these difficulties, Kelsey did not let her disability hold her back; living life with courage, humor and perseverance. Kelsey and her family experienced first-hand the positive, enduring impact that ASC has on its participants and we are so proud to continue her legacy in this one-of-a kind facility!

The big winter has set the stage for a gorgeous summer, and we are ready for the sunshine, flowing rivers, campfires, wildflowers, and the hundreds of participants we will welcome to our new home! I hope that you are able to see our new facility in action.

Happy Spring!

Christopher K. Hensley  
Executive Director, Adaptive Sports Center

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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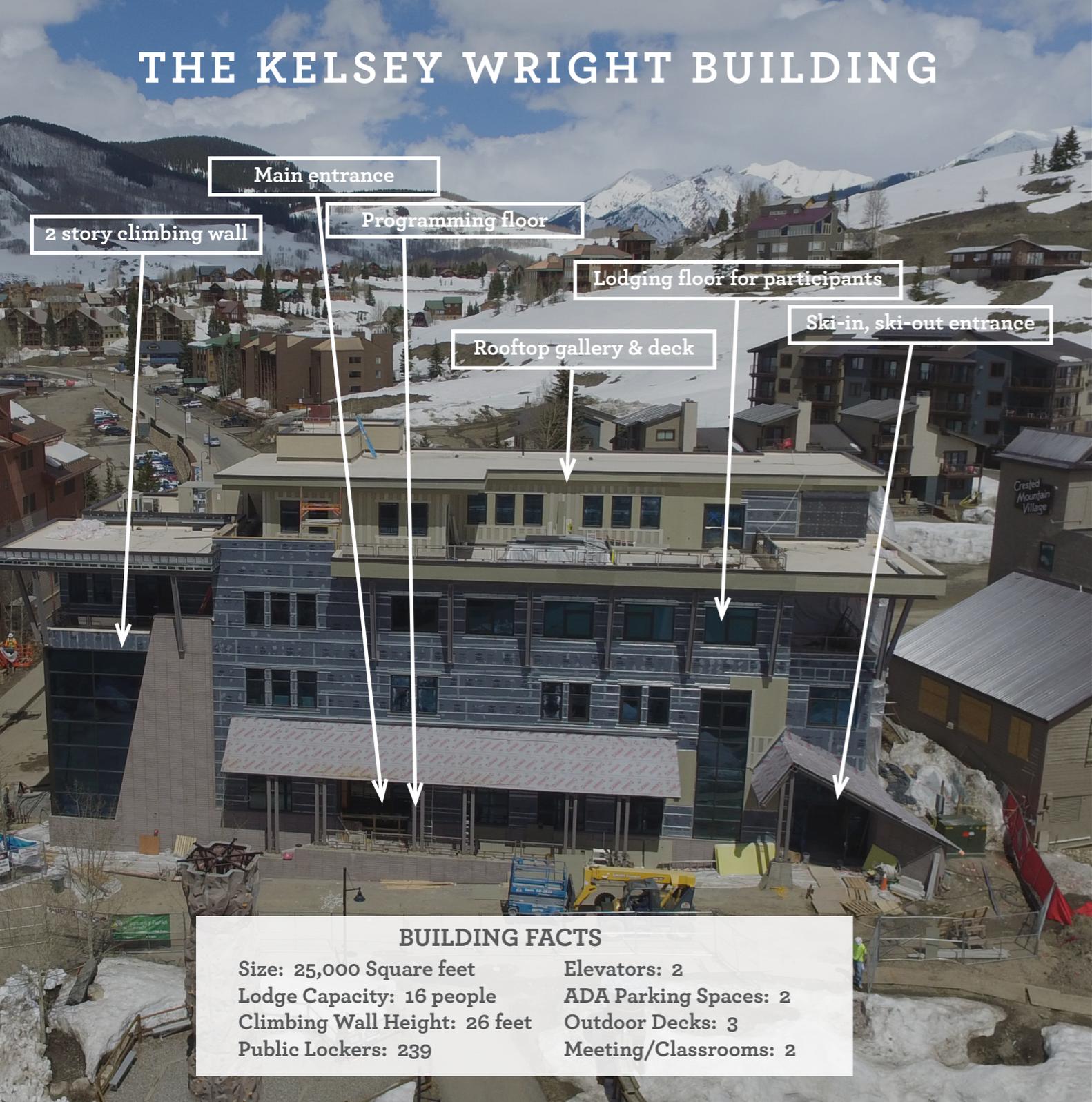
### Board Members

- Bob Colvey
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EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO EXPERIENCE  
**FREEDOM & ADVENTURE**  
IN CRESTED BUTTE, AND BEYOND



# THE KELSEY WRIGHT BUILDING



Main entrance

2 story climbing wall

Programming floor

Lodging floor for participants

Rooftop gallery & deck

Ski-in, ski-out entrance

## BUILDING FACTS

Size: 25,000 Square feet

Lodge Capacity: 16 people

Climbing Wall Height: 26 feet

Public Lockers: 239

Elevators: 2

ADA Parking Spaces: 3

Outdoor Decks: 3

Meeting/Classrooms: 2

# GRAND OPENING - JULY 2, 2019

We are thrilled to report that construction on the Kelsey Wright Building is on-schedule, and we will open our doors to our first participants this summer! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our **Grand Opening Celebration July 2, 2019 from 4 - 7pm.**



The climbing wall creates a new opportunity for activities for both winter and summer participants.



The ski-in, ski-out entrance allows participants to head straight out onto the snow without having to transfer to and from a wheelchair.



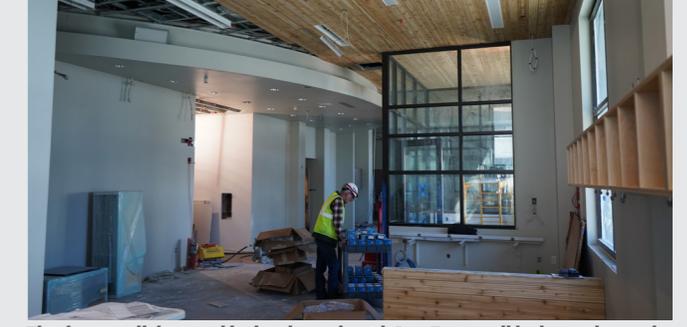
The view from the rooftop deck outside of the event gallery.



The lockers, located in the basement, are available for seasonal rentals.



The second-floor kitchen and dining area will be a popular place for groups during the lunch hours.



The donor wall designed by local metalsmith Ben Eaton will be located near the main entrance and reception.

# SUMMER FORECAST

20

Group Visits  
For Summer 2019

3,100

Participant Lessons  
For Summer 2019

8

Groups of Veterans For  
Summer 2019

## JUNE

Ride the Rockies  
Adults with visual impairments and veterans  
June 8 - 16

Roger Pepper Adventure Camp  
Teen burn survivors  
June 16 - 22

DC Firefighter Burn Foundation  
Adult burn survivors  
June 23 - 29

Family Camp  
Individuals with orthopedic challenges  
June 30 - July 3

## JULY

Johns Hopkins  
Adult burn survivors  
July 7 - 13

Serendipity  
Children with learning differences  
July 7 - 13

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children  
Children with orthopedic challenges  
July 14 - 20

International Neurorehabilitation Institute  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
July 21 - 27

Summer Ladies Session  
July 25 - 29

## AUGUST

Expedition School  
Teens with visual impairments  
August 6 - 12

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Veterans with spinal cord injuries  
August 17 - 26

Adaptive Mountain Biking World  
Championships  
August 23 - 25

Fort Carson  
Veterans with disabilities  
August 26 - 31

## SEPTEMBER

Wounded Warrior Project  
Veterans with disabilities  
September 3 - 7

Operation B.A.S.H.  
Veterans with visual impairments  
September 8 - 14

Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
September 8 - 14

Brooke Army Medical Center  
Warfighter Sports Week  
Veterans with disabilities  
September 15 - 21

Colorado Springs Park and Recreation  
Adults with disabilities  
September 22 - 28

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
September 22 - 28

Fort Carson  
Veterans with disabilities  
September 30 - October 5

## OCTOBER

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Women's  
Retreat  
Veterans with disabilities  
October 3 - 6

Peace of Adventure  
People with visual impairments and veterans  
October 6 - 12



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT ALLISON MASSARI

Allison Massari travels the country speaking to large organizations, including many Fortune 500 companies, about courage, kindness, and resilience. Her life's mission is to inspire others to overcome challenges, and to help alleviate human suffering. She founded the Roger Pepper Adventure Camps for Teenage Burn Survivors in 1999, and in twenty years it has empowered hundreds of young people recovering from life-changing burns.

Allison named the camps after Roger Pepper, the man who saved her life when she was in a horrific car crash in 1998. More than half of Allison's body was severely burned, and during her difficult recovery, Allison discovered skiing as a healing tool.

"Seven months after my accident, I was in rehab in Vail and my physical therapist took me skiing," Allison says. "That was the first moment since the accident that I felt fully alive. As I soared down the mountain, the beauty of life surged in me, and I realized that I did not have to live a diminished life. That was my inspiration for the Roger Pepper Adventure camps."

Vail happened to have a camp scheduled for teenage burn survivors, so Allison reached out and learned that the camp was being canceled.

"For some mysterious reason, I immediately felt a sense of responsibility. I begged the



director not to cancel the camp. She said if I could find the kids and the money, we could do it," Allison says.

She worked to raise money for the camp and a connection at Shriners Hospital helped her find participants.



Roger Pepper Adventure Camp participants and instructors in Summer 2018.

"I'll never forget the day when a man named Rich Maloof generously gave the first donation - \$10,000. The act of his generosity spread through the grapevine, and soon after, everyone started sending money - \$25 at a time... It still fills my heart so much to know that the seeds of this program began with the people in my hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida - my friends."

"The first camp in Vail, CO was an overwhelming success. ASC Executive Director Chris Hensley heard about it and reached out to me. He told me they hoped to essentially "adopt" my camp. He invited me to come

visit, and tour the facility and meet everyone. I was absolutely blown away by the people, the staff, the warmth, the professionalism, the facilities, and then, of course, the beauty of Crested Butte. My answer was a resounding YES!"

The camps have flourished and expanded to both winter and summer over the years. Massari has tirelessly worked to fundraise for the camps. Her annual appeal to donors consistently brings in more than \$50,000 to keep the camps going strong.

"If only you could see their faces light up when they are flying down the mountain, or seeing snow for the first time,

or finally not feeling so alone - surrounded by people who understand their experiences and truly care for them. The staff at ASC are phenomenal; they genuinely care."

Massari says she has a special place in her heart for the age group her camps serve.

"I know that it's hard enough just being a teenager. When you add something like a burn injury to that growth process, the challenges become even more daunting - physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Teenagers are so incredibly open, and vulnerable, and they are so ready to be loved and to heal if they have the right tools. And, they are SO grateful!"

"These experiences are priceless and so important to the confidence, hope, and sense of connection that all young people need in order to shine in this world."

"As one camper said, 'This camp helped me love who I am, others, and it taught me many new things.' What more could we ask to give them?"



Operation B.A.S.H. (Blind Awesome Skiing Heroes) brought a group of veterans with visual impairments to Crested Butte this winter.



ASC instructors and Wounded Warrior Project participants rock the ski-bikes at the top of Prospect.



A group of local athletes from the Gunnison Valley headed to Copper Mountain to compete at the Special Olympics and came back with lots of hardware!



Kirsten Atkins and a member of the Moving Mountains group from the San Luis Valley pose near the Magic Carpet.



A group of veterans from Fort Carson, Colorado, fat-biking near Riverbend.



The D.C. Firefighter Burn Foundation spent a sometimes rowdy and always adventurous week skiing and ice climbing.



The Kennedy Krieger Institute brought a group of participants with spinal cord injuries from the Baltimore area to CB to push their boundaries.

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT  
**CINDY OHARA**



**Cindy skis toward the base area at Crested Butte Mountain Resort.**

Cindy Ohara flashes her signature enthusiastic smile as she skis down the slopes at Crested Butte Mountain Resort with her instructor, Dayna. She's using a slider to help with

balance, and she's loving it.

"This really opens my eyes again to what life is all about," says Cindy, who lives in Los Angeles. "This whole experience lightens

up my life and gives me a lot treasured memories."

Cindy visited Crested Butte this winter with the Los Angeles VA, which brought six veterans

and two staff members to the Adaptive Sports Center for a week of skiing and snowshoeing.

Cindy spent more than twenty-one years in the military before she suffered a traumatic brain injury. She served as an electronics maintenance technician in the Navy before joining the Army Reserve and working in intelligence.

Cindy has been participating with the ASC for nearly ten years, and she says she keeps coming back because of the people. "It's such an open, friendly place," she says. "They welcome you with open arms, it's like a family and they treat you like you're part of their family."

Before her injury, Cindy was very active. She hiked from rim to rim in the Grand Canyon, ran half-marathons, and had tried skydiving and bungee jumping.

"Recreation therapy helped restore the confidence in



myself and reminded me of the pleasure I can get out of life," she says. "It's such a contrast to being in doctor's offices and hospitals over and over. It really opens my world up because I spend a lot of time at home."

Before heading back to the Gothic Lodge for the night with her fellow veterans, Cindy

beamed again when asked if there was anything else she'd like people to know about her.

"Yes," she said. "I want to thank the amazing donors who give to Adaptive. Their support makes so many impossible things possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

CELEBRATE

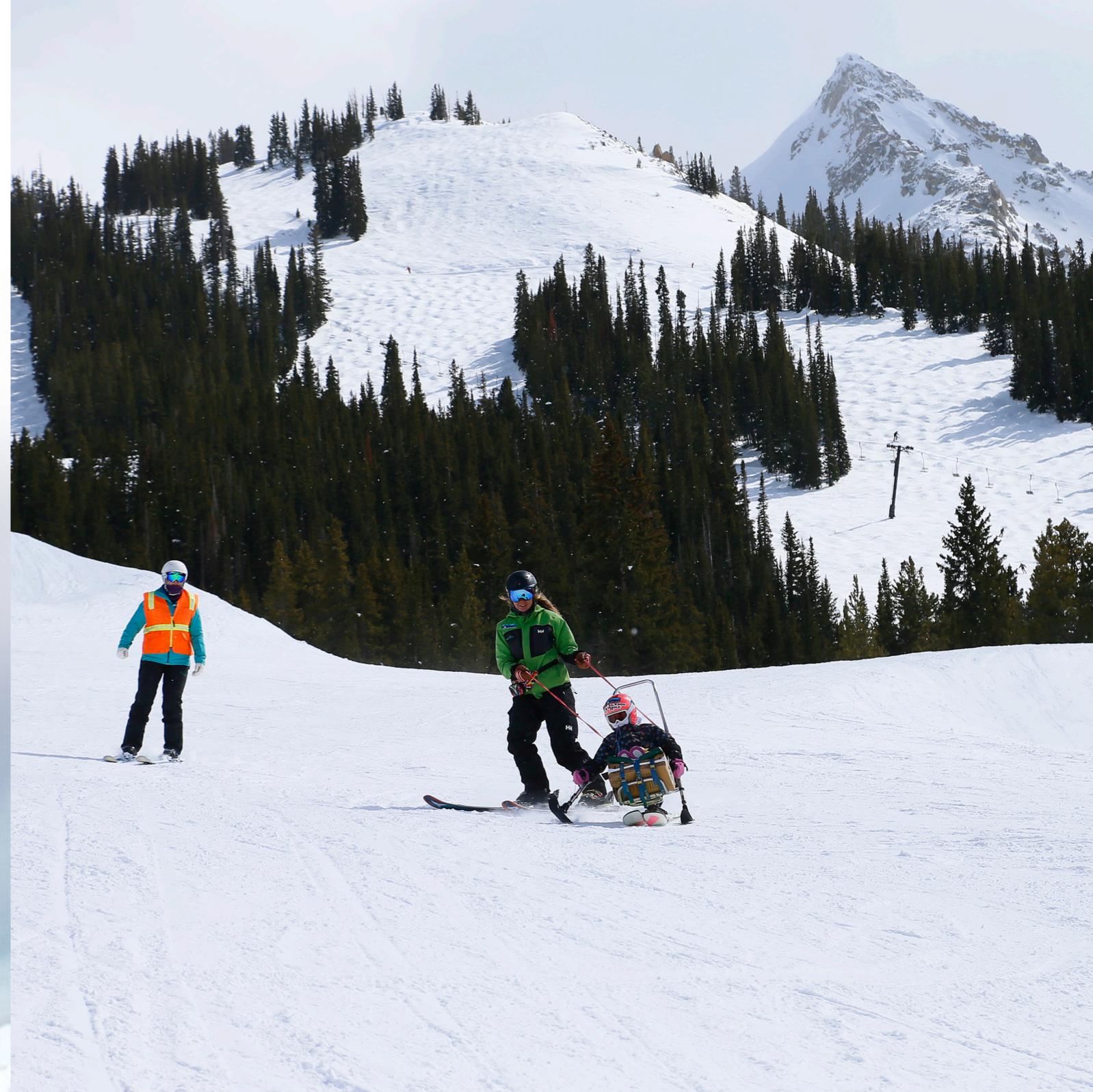


# FREEDOM & ADVENTURE

No matter where you plan to celebrate Independence Day, you can show your love of Crested Butte and support the mission of the Adaptive Sports Center with our inaugural 4th of July shirt. Available for pre-order in both kids and adult sizes, by purchasing this shirt for your family you help people from around the world experience the freedom of adventure. We hope you'll wear your shirt with pride, knowing you are supporting our mission.

Shirts will ship in mid June.

ORDER BY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> AT [ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG](https://www.adaptivesports.org)





THE ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER ENHANCES  
THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL  
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES. THE  
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS THE ASC PROVIDES  
ARE INCLUSIVE TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,  
EMPOWER OUR PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR  
DAILY LIVES AND HAVE A POSITIVE  
ENDURING EFFECT ON SELF-EFFICACY,  
HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE AND  
OVERALL WELL-BEING.



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