



48

2026-2027: Winter Volunteer Information

CHALLENGE ASPEN'S MISSION

Challenge Aspen is dedicated to impacting lives through year-round adaptive experiences for individuals faced with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Challenge Aspen creates life-changing opportunities by encouraging participation in activities designed to redefine limits, recognize abilities, and transfer newfound courage to everyday life.



WINTER PROGRAMS:



Individuals & Families:

- Adaptive Ski & Snowboard Lessons
- Winter Buddy Days

Community Programs:

- The Locals Program
- The Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club Partner Program
- School Partner Programs

Veterans (CAMO) Programs:

- Western Slope Socials
- Rocky Mountain Retreats
- Partner Programs

ON-SNOW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PRIVATE LESSONS

Volunteers will assist in private lessons with an Aspen Skiing Company adaptive-certified ski professional as their “second”, helping with equipment set-up, safety procedures, lift loads, and social-emotional needs of the participant!

GROUP LESSONS

Volunteers will be paired with one participant or a small group of participants and assist an Aspen Skiing Company adaptive-certified ski professional to provide a safe and meaningful ski lesson

BUDDY DAYS

Buddy days are for advanced participants only (level 7 or above), who do not need a lesson but would like a one-on-one guide experience. Volunteers do not teach during buddy days; they assist with participants' personal needs (i.e., helping put on equipment, VI guide, helping with terrain choice) and make sure the participant is having fun and being safe!

LOCAL'S PROGRAM

Local's Program is an 8-week on-snow program with special events. It runs both Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of January to the end of March (exact dates TBD). Volunteers are paired with one participant throughout the season and create a strong bond with them. Special events like Special Olympics National Competition are optional but recommended. Volunteers are paired with a local athlete and act as their buddy during local's race training. Volunteers do not teach during local days; they assist with participants' personal needs (i.e., helping put on equipment, VI guide, helping with terrain choice) and make sure the participant is having fun and being safe!

AVSC BUDDY

Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club (AVSC) is a local program run by Aspen Skiing Company that offers a broad range of Alpine Programs, from learn-to-race to highly competitive programs. Challenge Aspen provides buddies who work with local AVSC participants with disabilities. The Ski Company runs the program as a group lesson. Volunteers participate in the group lesson and support their participant as needed throughout the lesson. AVSC lessons take place at all four mountains throughout the season.

OFF-SNOW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Challenge Aspen office is open 7 days a week from 8 AM to 5 PM for the winter season. We try to schedule daily office volunteers, 7 days a week from 9 AM to 4 PM (full or half days), to answer phones, talk with participants & families/caretakers, organize retail, help with various projects, etc.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Challenge Aspen hosts multiple special events during the winter season. Including Sensory Santa at the Snowmass Collective, where we invite people with disabilities and their families to visit Santa without usual sensory triggers, like loud noises, lines, etc. We also host the “Limitless Mountain Challenge” which is an all-day on-mountain event, typically occurring at the end of March.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Help us in the equipment room with inventory, repairs, and tuning!

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Help us capture amazing on- and off-mountain moments!



VETERANS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGE ASPEN MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES

The CAMO division is designed for active-duty and retired military personnel with service-related disabilities to step out of their comfort zones, renew camaraderie with family and peers, and return home with new skills and a fresh, positive outlook on life.

CAMO hosts multiple on-snow retreats and Western Slope Socials. Retreats consist of 3-5 on-snow days; volunteers act as seconds to pros with equipment or as buddies to independent skiers. Western Slope Socials are 1-day on-snow events for local veterans; volunteers act as seconds or buddies.



STEPS TO VOLUNTEER

1.) FILL OUT REQUIRED PAPERWORK:

- Volunteer Registration Form
- Move United Waivers
- Volunteer Agreement & Jacket Contract
- Background Check

NEW VOLUNTEER?

RETURNING VOLUNTEER?

2.) COMPLETE NEW VOLUNTEER TRAININGS:

- SafeSport Online Training
- Attend New Volunteer Orientation (Full Day, In-Person)
- Attend New Volunteer Outdoor Basics Training (Full Day, In-Person)

2.) COMPLETE RETURNING VOLUNTEER TRAININGS:

- SafeSport Online Training Refresher Course
- Virtual Volunteer Refresher Course (2 Hours, Online)
- Attend one Returning Volunteer On-Snow Training

3.) SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

- Respond to the Volunteer Needs emails or contact the Volunteer Coordinator with your availability!

PASS OPPORTUNITIES

A limited number of season passes are available to volunteers who commit to a minimum number of days per season.

We give preference to our Locals Program volunteers and returning volunteers. New volunteers are eligible for an Alpine 2 Pass and will be eligible for a Premier Pass in their second year of volunteering.

While we don't have enough passes for every volunteer, Challenge Aspen is able to provide lift tickets for individuals on their volunteer days.

ALPINE 2 PASS:

- 2 day/week alpine pass; weeks are Monday- Sunday; volunteers are able to upgrade to a premier pass for an additional cost
- Granted to volunteers committed to 1 day per week for the 8-week Locals Program or 8 volunteer days total

CONDITIONAL PREMIER PASS:

- Unlimited alpine pass on all four Aspen-Snowmass Mountains; does not include an Ikon Base Pass
- Granted to volunteers committed to 2 days per week for the 8-week Locals Program, or 15 volunteer days total.

All volunteers must sign a contract before receiving their pass. Challenge Aspen can pause or cancel a ski pass if volunteer requirements aren't met.

Lastly, if your only motivation for volunteering is to get a ski pass, Challenge Aspen likely isn't the best fit for you.



FAQ's

Am I required to volunteer for a certain number of days?

You are not required to commit to a certain number of volunteer days unless you have received a ski pass from Challenge Aspen. The average number of volunteer days last winter season was about 5 days.

Do I need prior experience to volunteer?

You don't need previous experience working with people with disabilities to volunteer. We just ask for an open mind and the desire to learn! We recommend volunteers be a confident level 5 skier/snowboarder to volunteer on the mountain.

How old do I need to be to volunteer?

High school students can sign up to be "Junior Volunteers" and shadow Challenge Aspen's private lessons. Volunteers must be 15 by their first on-snow day. Please reach out to the Volunteer Coordinator if you'd like to discuss potential exceptions.

Does it cost anything to volunteer?

We ask volunteers to cover the cost of their background check every year. Challenge Aspen will cover the cost of your other trainings.

Can I receive community service hours and/or school credit?

Yes! If you need hours, we are able to sign off on those after your volunteer day is complete.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

You can reach out to Louisa, the Volunteer Coordinator, by emailing volunteer@challengeaspen.org or calling the office at 970-923-0578.

READY TO SIGN UP?

Volunteer Registration Form



CHALLENGE ASPEN