

BLACK HILLS SKI TEAM

2017-18 SEASON

BHSkiTeam.com

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St. Onge, SD 57779

PROGRAMS:

1. Developmental Race Program. This is for kids who are new to racing or who intend not to do any traveling to USSA races in Montana. They can still participate in all local Terry Peak races, including our own USSA race in March. This program costs \$500.
2. Traveling Race Program. This is typically for kids with at least one year of experience in the Developmental Program. It is for kids who plan to travel to ANY away race in Montana this season. Racers must also cover their travel expenses, lodging, lift tickets and race fees associated with these events. Additional preseason training is available for this group only. This program costs \$650.

REGISTRATION: Deadline is December 1. A late fee of \$50 will be assessed to anyone who has not paid in full by the end of the first practice.

USSA: All racers regardless of program, will need a USSA membership for the 2017-18 season. If you haven't already registered, go to www.my.ussa.org to become a member and pay for your membership. When registering on this website, Black Hills Ski Team is listed as part of the Northern Division and in WYOMING. We recommend everyone get an "alpine competitor" license, which gives the racer the opportunity to participate in our USSA race in March. Otherwise, a general license is adequate. No racer can participate in BHST activities until their USSA membership is complete.

TRAINING: Practices will be the same this year as last year. We will generally have evening practices on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30-7:30, and on Sundays from 9:00-3:00. Our first practices will be in mid-December, snow permitting, and then resume after Christmas break. The season will last through mid-March. We will keep a Google calendar updated on our website, www.BHSkiTeam.com.

CAMPS: We will likely have an opportunity for our Traveling racers to participate in a race camp at Copper Mountain, Colorado during the week of November 18-26. If interested, contact Rick McGrath. There was little interest in a pre-Christmas camp last year, so we do not have one planned at this time. If interest level changes, however, we could reconsider.

GEAR:

- **Helmets.** All racers need helmets with hard-sided ears. U14 and older skiers need FIS certified helmets for all USSA Giant Slalom and Super G races.
- **Skis.** Most new or very young racers need only 1 pair of all-mountain skis. Traveling racers should have separate GS and SL racing skis. Regular ski tuning and waxing is recommended. If you want to get skis tuned and/or waxed professionally, consider using one of our sponsors, Ed's Garage in Spearfish or Peak Sports in Rapid City.
- **Speedsuits.** These are typically worn at USSA races, and all Traveling Team racers have them. They are not needed for Developmental Team Racers.

- **Armor.** Chin guards, shin guards, arm guards and pole guards are only needed for Traveling racers or experienced Developmental racers. Some travelers also wear back protectors for GS and Super G events.

We will have a ski swap this December 9 in Spearfish. This is a great opportunity to get racing gear at very reduced prices and to sell the gear your kids have outgrown. We will have all-mountain skis, racing skis, boots, poles, speedsuits, pants, helmets, shin guards, etc.

COACHING: The core coaching crew will be similar to last year (Rick, Chad, Dave, Shannon). Courtney will not be coaching this season, but will help when she can. Probably we will have some others returning too. We are planning to offer another BHST internship for a new coaching intern this season. All coaches have USSA Level 100 training at a minimum. Paul Mannelin from Big Sky, who did our Level 100 training last year at Terry Peak, is not available this season. Any coaches who need Level 100 training will likely have to travel to Montana or Colorado.

EQUIPMENT:

We need roughly \$15,000-\$20,000 worth of new gates, safety netting and other equipment this season. BHST was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation to help the team purchase more safety netting.

TEAM COATS: All racers are required to wear a team coat at practices and races. Team members can either rent or purchase coats. Renting costs \$50 per season (with a \$150 security deposit). Purchasing costs \$200. If your coat from last year is too small and is still in excellent condition, it is possible to trade for a larger size.

TEAM CLOTHING: We have partnered with Alpine Impressions to make a variety of clothing items with our team logo. Options include our original team hoodie, an all-cotton hoodie, short and long sleeved cotton T-shirts, a baseball hat and a knit beanie. Please mail the order form (available on our website) and check to Betsy Saylor, 384 Rim Rock Rd, Spearfish, SD 57783 by end of November. Our team order will be placed on DECEMBER 1 to ensure delivery by Christmas.

FUNDRAISING. We had an excellent fundraising year last year and need to continue that success this season. We'd like all families to help with fundraising in some way. We are planning on similar fundraisers this season, including the annual ski swap (December 9 in Spearfish), movie night, Skijoring, and raffle tickets. Our season goal is \$20,000. BHST is a 501c3 public charity, which means donations are generally tax-deductible. Please pick up a BHST sponsorship packet to help solicit corporate donations.

USSA YSL CHAMPIONSHIP RACE: BHST has been selected to host the final championship race of the USSA Northern Division YSL season. This will be held on March 8, 9, 10 and 11 at Terry Peak. This is the biggest event on the USSA Northern Division calendar and will probably involve over 200 racers. If possible, we'd like every family to save these dates and help the team with planning, organizing, and hosting. All BHST racers must have a USSA "alpine competitors" license to participate. Usually all of our team members participate in our home USSA race.