

SKYLANDS SKI CLUB
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RACE DAY VOLUNTEERS

There are many volunteers needed on race days to pull off a successful race. Being a volunteer is a great way to get out, meet the other parents, get to know the other racers, and get involved with the team. The following is a brief description of each of the volunteer positions that are needed on race day and what each position entails. There will be sign up sheets posted in the race room, and we are encouraging volunteers to sign up well in advance of the race so we are not running around begging on race mornings. You must volunteer for two races to qualify for your membership fee credit, so make sure to sign up. If you have any questions regarding the volunteer positions, please contact: Each volunteer position results in a twenty dollar credit up to a maximum of forty dollars per year. Occasionally members are willing to volunteer more than twice in a season and we always say the more the merrier

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GATE KEEPERS

Also known as a Gate Judge is one of the most important positions on the mountain, and one of the easiest to learn. It provides a great introduction to Alpine racing, plus you get to see all of the racers. Gate keepers are responsible for closely observing each racer and documenting incorrect gate passage for an assigned series of gates. There is a USSA instructional video on gate keeping that all first time gatekeepers should watch. This will be available for viewing in the race room.

You should check in the race registration room at least an hour before race time and sign in with the Gate keeping Coordinator You will be given a clipboard, several score cards, several stubby pencils, and a snazzy yellow bib. A bag lunch is provided by Skylands Ski Club and will be distributed at the bottom of the race hill. If you do not have a season pass, you will be given a lift ticket for the day. At that time you should also let them know if you plan to ski down the race trail (Zero G). If so, you will be assigned an upper post, and if not, you will be assigned a lower post that will require you hike up from the base.

About 45 minutes before the race, you and all the other gatekeepers will meet by the cabriole to have a meeting to review your gate keeping responsibilities. This will be a refresher course on proper gate passage, and how to mark your cards. The Head Gatekeeper (Elena Escobar) will assign you to your posts at the top, middle or bottom of the mountain. You will then either take the lift up and ski down to, or hike up to your assigned positions. Once you are on the mountain, the Head Gatekeeper will ski to you and assign you the exact gate numbers that you are responsible for watching (usually 2 to

Race Day Volunteers

4) and recommend a spot alongside the trail that you can closely see your assigned gates. Make yourself comfortable and set up your gate number diagrams on your score cards.

As each racer comes by your post, you must determine if they correctly pass each of your assigned gates. If they do, you do nothing. If they do miss a gate, you must communicate to the racer by yelling “BACK”. You continue to yell “BACK” until they reach the gate they missed or incorrectly passed. Once both boots and ski tips break the plain of the missed gate you should yell “GO”. “BACK” and “GO” are the only two words you are allowed to use to communicate with the racer. If the racer goes back and correctly passes the missed gate, you make no notes on your score card. Faults that must be recorded on your cards are ones where the racer does not correct a missed gate, either because they do not know they missed a gate, or they give up and ski off of the course. A racer is disqualified if they do not correct a missed gate. All faults recorded on your score cards should have the racer’s bib number, gate number of the fault, and a diagram of the fault.

At the end of the first run, you must wait at your assigned post until the Head Gatekeeper skis to you to collect your cards. You then go to the bottom of the course and wait until the Head Gatekeeper or Referee releases you to go eat your lunch. (The Race Officials may have questions on your score cards and ask for an explanation). You will then be instructed what time to meet and where to meet for the second run. It is extremely important that you are NOT late meeting with the Head Gatekeeper for the second run.

REGISTRATION AND SCORE KEEPERS

The morning registration period requires 5 volunteers. Three (3) volunteers are needed at the desk to check in skiers and make sure they have passes and USSA cards. Once they check in they can get their bib at another desk manned by two (2) volunteers. During the second run 1 bib collector is needed to collect bibs as the racers finish their run. Two (2) scorekeepers are needed for each race. One scorekeeper records the times on the large scorecard outside the finish building, while the other scorekeeper relays the times to this person to record. They often switch positions so each parent can watch their own child race. In the morning, when registration is closed and the rosters are finalized, the scorekeepers have to transfer the names on the rosters onto the big boards for the race.

BACKUP TIMERS (need USSA Cards)

The official times are kept electronically, but each race has a back-up timer with a handheld piece of equipment that manually records a racer when they start out of the gate at the top of the mountain, and one when they cross over the finish line at the bottom. You are right there, part of the action, watching every skier.

Race Day Volunteers

COAT RUNNERS

Coat runners are needed to run the racers' coats from the top of the mountain down to the base. They must be able to ski with a loaded bag full of coats.

MOUNTAIN TOP RACER ORGANIZER

One person is needed to keep all the racers in line at the top of the mountain to get them in the proper bib order so no one misses their start. The racers need to keep moving around to keep their muscles warm so this person needs to inform them when they need to get assembled in line. This person should have a loud voice and not be afraid to use it.

LUNCH MAKERS

Bag lunches are provided for each gatekeeper to bring out on the mountain with them. We need volunteers to shop for the food, make the sandwiches and assemble the bag lunches. All shopping receipts are reimbursed by the ski club. Each race requires approximately 40 bag lunches.

That's it. We look forward to your help!