

CADS Calgary Ski/Snowboard School Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Information

Hello and welcome back! We are all looking forward to another great season on snow. This year the CADS Calgary Adaptive Ski/Snowboard School will be doing things a little differently than we have in the past so we just want everyone to know what we have planned for our program.

About Our Volunteer Base...

As you may or may not realize the volunteer opportunities in Calgary are limitless and as a result, we are feeling the pinch in the area of volunteers. In past years, we have been able to muddle through with the bare minimum of volunteers to facilitate our program, but unfortunately, we feel that this has led to us not being able to deliver the full caliber of program we want the CADS Calgary Adaptive Ski/Snowboard School experience to be.

Keeping this in mind during registration, please understand that each group has determined the number of students that they can “safely” accommodate in their programs and supply appropriately trained volunteers for. Also, please realize that with the number of students who sign up for our program every year (over 175 last year) we may have situations where we are unable to supply a volunteer instructor for some students wishing to take part. This is not because we do not want to accommodate a student in the program, but simply that we are not able to provide an adequately trained volunteer to work with them. Students’ needs change over the years as do those of our volunteers; participation one year does not guarantee participation forever.

Consideration of Student Needs

Please remember that this is a Ski/Snowboard School. Our commitment is to teach people with adaptive needs to ski/snowboard. Not everyone learns as quickly as others and not everyone wants to learn to ski/snowboard.

With this being said, our goal, as the Ski/Snowboard School Directors and Program Supervisors, is to empower our volunteers to do the best job possible. We have redesigned our training program, re-evaluated our training needs and addressed concerns brought forward by our volunteers and Supervisors. We will examine the needs of our students versus the abilities of our volunteers prior to matching students with volunteers for the season. There is the possibility that once we finish this matching process, there may not be a suitable volunteer for your child. If this is the case, you will receive a full refund of fees paid, less the CADS Membership Fee (\$40).

We understand and appreciate that your children, and you as parents, support and enjoy our program. However, our Ski/Snowboard School must consider the needs of a changing volunteer and student base, and these needs must be addressed both for the safety and well being of your children and our volunteers.

Participant Agreement and Student Guidelines

Participants (Parent/Guardian and Student) are required to sign a Participant Agreement, which outlines expectations for the upcoming season. If you have any questions regarding the Participant

Agreement, please talk with either your Group Supervisor or one of the Ski/Snowboard School Directors.

This year, we will continue to emphasize "learn to ski/snowboard" and "ski/snowboard improvement". To facilitate the greatest amount of learning for the greatest number of students, the following guidelines are in place for our instructors and supervisors:

- If a student becomes uncooperative or disruptive on the hill during their lesson, they will be brought back into the lodge for the parent or caregiver to look after them and they will not participate for the rest of the evening. When this type of behaviour occurs, it is difficult for our volunteer instructors to deal with, especially in a group lesson setting. These problems often result in other students losing their evening of instruction because the instructor needs to deal with one student who does not want to participate. Multiple events of this type will result in a frank discussion involving the volunteer, program supervisor, parent, student and ski/snowboard school directors at which time we will ascertain continuation in the program. We hope that parents and guardians understand that not everyone wants to, or is able to, learn to ski/snowboard and given the demands on our program, we can no longer accommodate those students who do not want to actively participate in a cooperative and safe manner.
- Our volunteers try their best when it comes to teaching skiing and snowboarding. Many of our volunteers have a vast knowledge of skiing or snowboarding teaching and coaching, which we endeavour each year to improve and advance through clinics, courses and certification. Please allow them to do their job. If you feel there is a different approach that would enable them to work better with your child, let them know, but please have these discussions with the Instructors inside *before* the lesson begins, not outside once the lesson has begun. Should there be a situation that arises that you feel is not working or is inappropriate, please discuss this with the Program Supervisor or the Ski/Snowboard School Directors directly and we will discuss your concerns with the volunteer.

Help us understand your child's needs. When you meet your child's instructor at the beginning of the program, please take a minute to introduce yourself and let them know where you will be during the course of the evening (should they need you), and explain to them the abilities and limitations of your child (ie. do they have a learning disability, vision problems, muscle weakness on one side, etc.). Some volunteers are new or young and do not yet feel comfortable asking questions. By taking a little time and getting to know each other, the season will be more enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We are looking forward to a great season!

- CADS Calgary Adaptive Ski/Snowboard School Directors, Program Supervisors and Volunteers