

The Far West Ski Association's Athletic Scholarship Program

The Far West Ski Association's Athletic Scholarship Program is into its fifth year. The program was established in 2004 as a means of giving back to our sport by making a positive contribution to junior racing. United States Ski Association licensed junior racers in the J-1, J-2, and J-3 classes in states represented by FWSA affiliated councils are eligible for a scholarship. This year, junior racers in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, Idaho and Utah will be eligible. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, competitive accomplishments, academics, and citizenship.

National ranking in competitive skiing can cost in excess of \$10,000 per season; a financial challenge to even upper middle class families. In 2008, seven junior racers, 2 women and 5 men, from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington received scholarships of \$600 to \$1000. This year, announcements were sent to over 40 ski teams/foundations including for the first time teams in Idaho and Utah. Approximately 1183 racers (686 boys and 497 girls) in these states are eligible. The need is great and we anticipate that the number of applications will more than double.

This year we've set a goal of \$9000 which will permit us to serve up to ten racers. The raffle for a Karbon ski outfit raised \$3000 in January. We recently made an arrangement whereby the scholarship committee will award the Erin Nicole grant on behalf of Portland's Skiyenti Ski Club, and we also want to thank the Far West Racing Association for their continued support. Thanks to our sponsors we have many great prizes for our convention auctions and raffle:

Auction: the Whitefish Mountain Resort has provided a five day ski and stay package (five nights lodging and five day lift tickets) for two; a chance to experience 2353 vertical feet with over 90 runs and exciting bowl and tree skiing. Check out the mountain at www.skiwhitefish.com.

Silent auction: three nights lodging (room and tax) for two at Grouse Mountain Lodge (www.grousemountainlodge.com) valid for one year from the date of issue. Package includes daily breakfast vouchers and a voucher for the Montana Adventure Company valued at \$130 that can be used for one day of skiing, a round of golf at Whitefish Lake Golf Course or a massage Remedies Day Spa.

Raffle: Canada Mountain Holidays has provided a three-day summer Heli-Hiking trip for two. One of "50 Tours of a Lifetime" featured in National Geographic's *Traveler* magazine, package includes 2.5 days of Heli-Hiking, all helo flights, accommodations, meals and guiding. Go to www.cmhhike.com to fully appreciate this hiking opportunity.

FWSA councils and others have donated many exciting basket gifts and a three day ski and lodging package from the Ogden Community Visitor's Bureau (includes lift tickets for Powder Mountain and Snow Basin, breakfast and ski shuttle) as consolation prizes for the raffle.

This year we have a new and special arrangement that will appeal to contributors. Far West Ski Foundation, an IRS 501(c)3 charitable foundation, has been incorporated into the FWSA. The foundation qualifies contributions to the scholarship program as income tax charitable deductions.

