



Dear Ausblick Ski Race Team Families,

The 24th annual Ausblick Thanksgiving Race Camp will again be held at Copper Mountain, Colorado with an arrival on Saturday November 23rd thru the end of the skiing day on Friday November 29th. Copper Mountain is located about 1½ hours west of Denver on I-70. Open to all Ausblick Ski Race Team athletes who have completed at least 1 year of racing with the team, the Ausblick Thanksgiving Race Camp provides our athletes with an early season opportunity to train with great coaches in conditions and on terrain that we simply cannot replicate in the Midwest.

Skiing will start on Sunday November 24th and continue thru the end of training on Friday November 29th. Skiing may often start early due to racing lane space availability; each day's schedule will be communicated the night before (sometimes as late as 8 or 9 pm) by text or email once we have confirmed the following day's training lane space availability. Following skiing there will be 1-2 hour meetings for the athletes with their coach(es). For families new to the camp, please be aware that the schedule and training can be rigorous for everyone involved – and schedules can change quickly and at the last minute.

Our Ausblick coaches will lead the on-snow activities throughout the week. The athletes will be put into age and skill appropriate groups at the beginning of the week, and, while skiing primarily under the direction of one coach, will have exposure to several coaches throughout the camp.

Participation

The camp is open to all members of the Ausblick Ski Race Team who have completed at least one year of racing with the team. Skiers must be fully capable of getting on a lift by themselves and skiing in a group of 6-10 other similar skiers and a coach at high altitude on their own. The schedule and training can be demanding. If you have questions regarding the suitability of the camp for your young athletes, please contact us, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the Ausblick Ski Race Team. Any problems in this regard will result in disciplinary measures.

Those who want to participate will have until **Monday October 21st, 2024**, to return the Registration Form as well as a check for the full amount of the camp. Checks need to be made out to the "Ausblick Race Ski Team," and mailed to our address as listed on the Registration Form.

Lodging :

Athlete's will be on snow from Sunday November 24th through Friday November 29th. As in past years, most of our families arrive on the Saturday (November 23rd) before on-snow activities begin. We do hold an athlete/parent meeting with the coaches on Saturday evening in Center Village where lift passes will be handed out, and information will be provided about what to expect throughout the week. Every year, a few families arrive or depart Copper mid-week. Mid-week arrivals or departures are acceptable this year as well – please be sure to indicate your arrival and departure dates on your Thanksgiving Camp registration form so we know how many athletes to expect in attendance each day.

Each family participating in this year's Thanksgiving Camp is responsible for reserving and paying for their own lodging. We encourage families to book lodging in Copper's Center Village as it is most convenient to shops, restaurants and the lift (American Flyer) athletes will use throughout camp. Also, most, if not all, of the coaches video sessions will take place somewhere in Center Village. While lodging in Center Village is highly recommended, it is not required. Copper also offers lodging in their East and West Villages.

While you are welcome to book lodging using property management companies such as VRBO, Airbnb, SkyRun Vacation Rentals, Vacasa, Evolve, Copper Vacations, etc., you do have the option to book directly through Copper Mountain Resort, which has it's perks. To ensure we are getting the best rates available, Copper Mountain has



provided us with a discount code to be used when securing reservations. You will also have access to purchase non-racer lift tickets at a “Friends and Family” discounted rate upon booking (see below). **Of note, if booking directly through Copper, please make sure you request the specific village (Center, East or West) you want to stay in.** They offer Bronze, Silver and Gold Quality lodging. In past years, most (if not all) families chose “Gold” level lodging.

To reserve your lodging directly through Copper Mountain Resort, please:

1. Contact Copper Mountain Resort lodging at (866) 837-2996.
2. Inform them that you are with the 2024 Ausblick Thanksgiving Race Camp.
3. Provide them discount code: **6551 Fall Racing & Training.**

All camp participants should be sure to verify the accuracy of your check-in and check-out dates on the lodging confirmation you receive from Copper Mountain.

Food/Drink/Meals

Athletes should plan to bring a water bottle to training each day. We want to ensure everyone is staying well hydrated at these altitudes. There will be places on the hill they can refill them.

Depending on lane times, your athletes may be on the hill for lunch. Athletes are responsible for their own snacks/meals throughout training. Since the hill will be open to the public, we do expect on-mountain dining options to be open for athletes to purchase food, drinks and snacks, but, this can be costly. You can choose to send your athlete with money to purchase food, or, as many families do, send your athlete with a bag lunch and snacks.

Camp Fees

The Athlete Fee per racer will be **\$600 plus** the applicable Lift Pass Fee. The Athlete Fee includes all coaching, lane space, dry land training and meetings throughout the camp. Copper Mountain no longer offers a daily racer lift pass. Lift pass options are listed on the registration form. If your athlete holds an IKON pass, no additional lift pass is needed, you just need to provide your athletes IKON pass number. The lift passes will give athletes access to all open chairlifts throughout the mountain for the entire camp and allow athletes to board the chair lift before 9am if early training lanes have been reserved. The lift passes are valid to use at Copper for the entire 2024-25 season.

Friends & Family Lift Tickets

Copper Mountain currently plans to open to the public on November 11, but this could be delayed based on snow conditions. Non-racer lift tickets are offered at Copper Mountain’s current group rates (\$119/day 18 yrs +; \$84/day 5-17yrs) and are available to purchase in advance at the time you book your lodging through Copper Mountain Resort (no discount is offered on-site). If you do plan to purchase, make sure to inquire about refunds should the hill not be open to the public due to a delay in opening.

As stated in the Participation section of this letter, all registration and payments are due by **October 21st, 2024**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us by phone or email. Hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Angie and Matt Katzfuss

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