

September 24, 2009

Hello,

Thank you for your inquiry about the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team (MAST). Mpls Alpine is the downhill ski team of the Minneapolis Public Schools. The team is open to Minneapolis students in grades seven through twelve. Athletes of all skill levels are welcome. Most of our student-athletes are new to the sport of ski racing when they first join our team.

The attached documents will give you more information about our team, as well as some information about upcoming swaps and a Mpls Alpine Ski Team BBQ and Swap at Beard's Plaisance on Sunday, September 27. Please know that you are most welcome to attend.

In addition, you are invited to attend an informational meeting for parents and students on **Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7PM in the Media Center at Southwest High School**. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the team and the upcoming season, to talk to the coaches and other parents and athletes, and to become a registered member of the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team.

MAST is a self-funding, non-profit corporation dedicated to giving Minneapolis students the opportunity to develop their skiing and racing skills, to put those skills to the test in competition against other high school ski teams in Minnesota, and mostly, to encourage the enjoyment of skiing, a sport they can pursue well into the later years of life.

As you look into our team more closely, you may conclude that our program is too intense. I would like to assure you that our student-athletes are students first, athletes second. Athletes are encouraged to take responsibility for their academic and training needs and create a schedule that works for him or her, which includes taking off a practice or missing a race.

Our coaching staff consists of eleven paid and volunteer coaches. Our greatest satisfaction comes not from the number of wins our team secures in the course of a season, but in how much each athlete develops as a skier and human being. You will find that the coaches are dedicated to the improvement of every student-athlete on the team and are always willing to help you achieve your competitive goals.

The season officially begins on Monday, November 9, 2009, and concludes with the Minnesota State Alpine Championships on February 11, 2010. Practices are held at Hyland Ski Area in Bloomington. We also offer an early season mini-camp over Thanksgiving break at Welch Village Ski Area and a mid-season camp at Giants Ridge. Competitions are held at Hyland and other ski areas around the State. The top athletes from South, Southwest, and Washburn are selected to compete in the Sectional Championships of the Minnesota State High School League. At Sectionals, athletes can qualify to compete in the Minnesota State Alpine Championships in mid-February at Giants Ridge.

We invite you to learn more about the team by visiting our website.

www.mplsalpineski.org

You will find information about costs, schedules, the equipment you need, registration, as well as pictures from previous seasons.

Please note that the MAST Registration Form is attached. I encourage you to complete the form and mail it to me at my home address, even if you are still uncertain of your plans. I will then have the contact information I need to adequately communicate with you during these next eight weeks.

Finally, I encourage you to give me a call. I would be happy to answer your specific questions and help you discern whether our team is a good fit for your extra-curricular goals.

Best wishes,

Mark Conway
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