

Being a Volunteer Ski Partner

As ski partner volunteers, you form the backbone of the CADS organization and are the resource that makes possible the opportunity to ski, for people with a disability. We thank you for your commitment to this very worthwhile activity.

A disabled skier must overcome at least two challenges in order to have the same opportunity to ski as anyone else. One is the cost and the complexity of specialized adaptive equipment. CADS helps in this challenge by providing equipment and expertise in adaptive technology, at no cost. The second challenge is that, in many cases, full time assistance is required on the hill. That is where volunteer partners make the difference. The objectives of CADS-NCD are to provide a skiing program, which is a learning experience, fun and safe. As a ski partner, you play a vital role in meeting these objectives.

Supervisors will guide you along the way and provide instruction for both the skier and yourself to help you both improve. You are a team. Skiing better is challenging and rewarding. You are expected to reinforce the learning process by helping practice what has been taught. You are also responsible to do your best to ensure skier safety at all times. Finally, you are the person who can ensure that it is a fun experience. Your reward will be the smiles you see and the laughs you hear.

Have a positive, encouraging attitude at all times. Be courteous and sensitive to your skier's needs and desires. Show your skier respect and expect that respect to be returned to you. Follow the rules of the skier's code. Think safety, think fun, HAVE FUN!!

Operations

The Edelweiss Program consists of 8 ski days. *If you cannot attend on a given day, inform the Program Coordinator, Chris Holden, well in advance so that a replacement can be found (613-799-7020 or edelweissprogram@cad-ncd.ca).* Consistency is important so please make every effort to attend all ski days.

You must check in at the assignment board upon arrival at the hill, no later than 9:30am, so give yourself plenty of time to get organized.

At check in, look for your name on the assignment board and get your skier's name. Make sure your name is checked off and see if your skier has checked in. Get out of the way quickly to avoid congestion around the board. Identify your skier's supervisor on the posted lists and go to the supervisor's station in the lodge to collect the report card and make contact.

You are expected to get yourself and your skier onto the hill by 10:00am.

The report card contains all the information about your skier, including what equipment to use, who the supervisor is, and what hills to ski. It will also indicate progress as the program proceeds. If this is a new skier for you, find the supervisor indicated, review the information and develop a plan. The card also indicates parents or guardians who may be

with your skier. Again, if it is a new skier for you, introduce yourself or get your supervisor to make introductions. You are not responsible for dressing your skier, but make every attempt to get them going. Any time your skier enters the lodge, responsibility passes to the parent or guardian.

At the equipment rooms (located outside the round lodge door), find your skier's equipment (skis will be tagged) and get them into it. Ensure that all equipment is in good working order. If there is a problem, see the equipment technician. At any time during the day, if equipment problems develop, see the equipment technician. Do not attempt to repair any equipment yourself.

You may take an hour for lunch whenever it is convenient for you and your skier. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children during this period. Make sure the skier is with his/her parent or guardian. Let the parent or guardian know when you will be coming in. Please be prompt in getting back to the hill.

The ski day ends no later than 3:00pm. Ensure that equipment is returned to the equipment rooms and the skier is with his/her parent or guardian. Complete the skier's report card for the day and return it to the box at the assignment board. If your skier stops earlier, report to the assignment board so that you can be reassigned, if necessary.

Whenever possible, your supervisor will try to spend some time with you and your skier, to provide some instruction. It will be up to you to reinforce this instruction.

On the hill, if there is a problem, find your supervisor or the Program Coordinator to help you. If you can't find anyone on the hill, the administrator (check-in person) and the equipment technician at the base have radios and can contact someone. *In the event of an accident, stay with your skier.* Send someone for help from the ski patrol (they can be reached by radio from any lift shack). Send someone to inform a CADS person with a radio so that parents may be informed. After your skier is off the hill, come to the assignment board to complete an incident report form.

Depending on demand, ski improvement sessions will be offered to all ski partners at 3:00 pm each program day (one-hour) and will definitely be available on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm (two-hour). The sessions meet in front of the equipment rooms. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to improve your skiing, regardless of your current capability.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, don't be afraid to communicate them with the Program Coordinator or any of the supervisors.

Again, Thank you for your participation.

Chris "Cowboy" Holden

Program Coordinator – Edelweiss Program