



# PARENTING FOR SUCCESS

## Winter Sport Parent Information

### SSWSC ON A BUDGET



Training camps in the summer, early season and spring are another big expense. SSWSC offers summer camps for alpine, snowboard, cross country, jumping/nordic combined, moguls and freeskiing, generally for athletes older than 10. Daily cost for these camps can be quite expensive. However, the 24/7 immersion into their activity that these camps offer can have lasting impact. That said, a good rule of thumb is that until the athlete is mature enough to earn some money to contribute toward camp, going to ski or snowboard camp is probably a want rather than a need. However, take advantage of late season skiing and riding in Colorado for more volume, especially if not going to camp.

Another want rather than a need is expensive ski and board waxes. Basic hydrocarbon wax for young athletes is all they need, with the difference in times negligible at their size.

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There are no two ways about it, skiing and snowboarding can make a big dent in the bank account. But when finances are tight, there are smart things to spend on and many other purchases that don't get much return on investment. For families just starting out on the journey, making smart decisions early can make it easier to support the greater expenses that come with the bigger commitment to the sport into the high school years and beyond. Here are some suggestions to get the most for your money.

**EQUIPMENT:** Our sports require a lot of gear. The most important gear goes on the kids' feet and their head. Well fitted boots are a must. As kids' feet are growing, boots will likely be an annual investment. Do not size up to try to get extra life out of a pair of boots. It would be better to buy used. Christy Sports and Powder Tools are examples of SSWSC partners who have quality, coach-approved boots and skis for seasonal rental packages. Check with your coaches or program director for details. The other critical investment is the helmet. Beware of used helmets, you typically will not be able to see damage in the internal structure of the helmet from crashes or drops on the locker room floor. Proper fit is a must for comfort and protection. U14 and older alpine skiers and nordic jumpers on the bigger hills must have a helmet with a FIS-approved sticker for competitions, so plan ahead for these purchases. For skis, snowboards, speed suits and body armor, there are many good used options, check the [SSWSC classifieds](#). In fact, SSWSC has free season-long loaner speed suits in many sizes!

**COMPETITIONS:** Avoid the push to over-compete. At the older ages, athletes may have many competition options, almost every week. Start the season with a smart plan based on the athlete's goals and stick to the plan. Our coaches can suggest the most important events, and don't fret over skipping the others. At events, many host sites need volunteers in exchange for lift tickets. Skip the cafeteria and pack in a healthy lunch. Make your lodging reservations early and pair up with another family or two on a condo to share cost and plan to cook in.

**PROGRAM FEES:** There are many scholarships available with application windows in the fall and early winter. If you're concerned about the cost of your athlete's program, [apply for a scholarship](#). Better to enroll your child in the program they really want to do with the help of a scholarship than to hold them out. These scholarships are in addition to the EZ Scholarship to address your specific situation.

Whatever decisions you make budget-wise, think longer term. Certain purchases might save your child a few tenths of a second in the race, but won't make a difference in their development. There are plenty that have all the gear and go to all the competitions, but the advantage they have is less than most would think. When on a budget, take advantage of every opportunity you have while remembering that your child doesn't need all of the latest and greatest to achieve their goals.