



PARENTING FOR SUCCESS

Winter Sport Parent Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PROGRAM



Your child could add Wednesday night nordic jumps to experience the thrill of flying.

Some common considerations for parents when choosing a program were intentionally left off this list.

Enrolling in a particular sport because of the opportunity of college scholarships: With the exception of our alpine and cross country PG programs that are geared toward this elite level, there are too many factors in development for this to be a primary driver of program decisions at younger ages. Scholarships in ski racing are extremely competitive.

Pursuing a sport solely based on a body type or physical characteristics: While this can be a factor to consider, the athlete's motivation trumps their physical pre-disposition for a sport.

Picking a sport because my child is good at it: Again, the child's motivation factors greater than their skills at the junior ages. Athletes with great results when they are young do not always sustain those results as adolescents and young adults when the training and commitment are more intense.

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There are very few ski and snowboard clubs in the world that offer the diversity of programming available at the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club. This can be a huge benefit for your children in that all should be able to find their true winter sport passion. It also allows for multi-sport sampling during the season. But selecting among all the programs can be daunting for parents. Here are some considerations to help you make the right choices for your children.

- Listen to them. For your children to derive benefit from their programs, they must want to be involved. Empower them to make their own choices, then hold them accountable to their commitment. Johnny Spillane's father, Jim, says it well in this [brief clip from a USSA conference](#) several years ago. Great perspective from the father of a SSWSC athlete who went on to become a three-time Olympic medalist.
- Add days or higher level programs only when your kids are ready. Some sports have "plus" programs, offering additional training days. This is for the kids who desire an additional day of training. It is not based on ability. For most, the additional training accelerates their improvement. But if the child would rather spend an extra day with their friends, or their family, trying another sport or skiing or riding on their own, a plus program may slow their progress and lead to burnout. See point number one above.
- Try something new. The SSWSC offers the option to add a secondary program for one day a week. This crossover training may be just the ticket to keep your child engaged, learning valuable skills and gaining confidence that can transfer back to their primary sport. Simply check the program schedules in the program guide to see that the secondary program offers weekday training on a day your child would be available. This option is best suited for skiers and riders ages thirteen and younger.
- Make sound financial decisions. While program fees are expensive, in most cases they do not even cover the costs to operate our programs and the club relies on fundraising to fill the gap. We work hard to keep our programs accessible to all families, and offer scholarships for those who need assistance. If your child has the passion and shows the commitment to skiing or snowboarding, plan financially for the long-term and don't hesitate to [apply for financial aid](#) if it is needed.
- Consult with your child's coaches. If you're not sure which program is best for them and their goals, ask us for advice!

Once you've made a decision with your child, we are committed to working with you to make it a quality experience.