



WILD MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT TEAM-FREESTYLE PARENT HANDBOOK ~ 2021/22

Welcome to the Wild Mountain D-Team. This handbook is designed as a reference that will answer many of your questions regarding the D-Team program. Please take some time to review the information in this packet. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out the snow sports manager via nathan@wildmountain.com or 651.465.1103, or speak directly with Coach.

We hope that your winter with the D-Team will be a positive and enriching experience for your entire family. We'll see you on the hill!

D Team Philosophy:

The Development Team (D-Team) is designed to introduce young athletes to the joy of skiing and snowboarding while also challenging them through competition. Our primary focus is to develop strong skills in each athlete while providing a fun-filled experience for all. Our coaches work with each of the athletes to develop their technique, help set a competition strategy and work on long-term goal setting. This makes the D-Team a perfect platform for:

- Wild Cat graduates looking for more of a challenge
- Skiers and Snowboarders that love to rip and want to learn all disciplines of Freestyle
- Experienced freestylers who want to hone their skills in the park
- Accomplished shredders who want more coaching and slope timed to step up to the next level

It is a priority of the D-Team coaches to remain flexible, and to make sure all of our athletes have the opportunity to work on their skills in a fun and safe environment. We understand that everyone learns new skills in different ways and at different paces, and our coaches take this into consideration.

It is also important that the athletes are committed to practicing and competing. We trust that participants will listen to their coaches and work hard to improve each week. We also hope that each athlete genuinely enjoys the experience and looks forward to coming back each week.

The following are some frequently asked questions about specific topics.

Age Groups:

Question: What are the different age groups? And what is the cut-off date?

Answer: D-Team skiers practice and compete within their age group. The cutoff date is ***September 1st***. We'll use a skier who turned 10 on September 2nd as an example. For registration purposes this skier will be eligible to practice and compete as a 9 year old since their birthday is after September 1. A skier can always elect to move up and compete in the next older age class, however once they elect to move up they may not move back down.

The age groups are as follows:

Boys

Ages 8 (9) and under (Alpine)

Ages 10

Ages 11

Ages 12

Ages 13

Ages 14

Ages 15-18 (must be in high school)

Girls

Ages 10 and under

Ages 11 & 12

Ages 13 & 14

Ages 15-18 (must be in high school)

Practice Days

Question: What time should my child be ready for practice?

Answer: Our practices start promptly at 12:00pm on Sunday. To get the most out of D-Team, they must be at practice and ready to go ***on time***. Age groups will depart from the Snow sports pavillion @ 12:00pm to warm up and work on various skills.

Question: Where can I get ready and place my bag?

Answer: You are welcome to boot-up in the base lodge, but once complete all bags must be placed in vehicles, lockers or free cubbies. No bags should be left under tables or commons areas within the base lodge.

Question: What if my child is late for practice?

Answer: Please go to the lesson counter and a snow sports school team member will connect your child with their group.

Question: How are practices run at Wild Mountain?

Answer: Practices will be broken up into two segments; slopestyle and big air. The slopestyle and big air portions of practice will take place in the different terrain parks at Wild Mtn. Sometime coaches will work on skills to develop the athlete outside the park, it is important to our coaches to use the entire ski area and its terrain to create well rounded freestylers.

Question: When does my child eat lunch?

Answer: The D-Team does not break for lunch. If the weather is cold, they may take a quick warm-up break. It is a great reminder to put snacks in your athletes pocket for refueling while on the lift or inside for the warm up break. Just a quick reminder Wild Mountain does not allow cooking devices inside the chalet (crock pots or hot plates). Brown Bag areas are provided in the lower and upper commons area of the lodge

Equipment –

Question: Does my child need to wear a helmet during practice/competitions?

Answer: Yes, Helmets are required for all D-Team practices and competitions.

Cold Weather:

Question: What happens if we experience cold weather?

Answer: D-Team practices and competitions are not cancelled for weather-related circumstances. The only reason for a cancellation is due to the ski area closure. Wild Mtn does offer discounts or refunds due to weather cancelations. On days of extreme weather, we will take frequent breaks and monitor for cold weather related health concerns.

Conduct:

Question: What is expected of my child when it comes to conduct?

Answer: As a member of the D-Team you are representing not only yourselves, but your coaches and Wild Mountain. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times, and understand the public's right to be on the same hills on which we train. Wild Mountain D-Team is expected to display good sportsmanship at all times.

Competition Days:

Question: When do we register for a competition and what is the schedule like for the day?

Answer: Competition days are exciting for everyone, try to arrive at the ski area with plenty of time for your child to get registered, dressed, and do some warmup laps. We suggest that you arrive at the area no later than 8:30am. Also encourage your child to eat a good breakfast and continue to eat healthy foods throughout the day.

Registration:

Question: What happens at registration and where do we register?

Answer: You need to find the registration table in the lodge prior to each competition. There are generally separate stations for each age group. Here you will receive a bib number that must be displayed throughout the day so that officials can see it. While registering, try to get a feel for where your bib number lies in the running order so you know approximately when to be at the top of the hill for your runs. Competitors that show up late for their run will have to run at the end of their age group.

Inspection:

Questions: Does my child get to inspect the features before a competition?

Answer: All competitors should inspect every training and competition site before starting. Work with your coaches to learn what to look for and how to inspect. On competition days have your child meet up with their coach and they will provide a group inspection.

Scoring:

Questions: How will my child's performance be judged?

Answer: All skiers will compete in two events, Big Air and Slope Style.

- Big Air - One trick performed over a man-made jump.
- Slopestyle – Multiple tricks performed during a single run

Competitors will be guaranteed at least three contest runs at each event.

Awards:

Questions: Will all the children participating receive awards?

Answer: Individual awards will be given up to 8 places. If the total number of competitors in an age group exceeds 30, awards will be given to the top 15 places in that age group.

Posting of Results:

Questions: How soon after a competition will the results be posted?

Answer: The results from each comp will be posted as soon as possible on our website. While it's fun to see who wins these comps, it is more beneficial to the athlete to see how they personally did against their peers. This is a good way for them to measure their improvement and stay motivated to improve.

Home Competitions:

Questions: What can I do to help with a home competition?

Answer: Wild Mountain has always run outstanding events and this has largely been due to the involvement of our dedicated group of parents. We encourage all D-Team parents to volunteer at one of our home events. We will have signups available at the parent meeting of the first week of practice. Volunteering is a great way to be up close and watch your child compete.

We hope this handbook is helpful in familiarizing you with our D-Team program. We strive each season to keep our skiers and parents informed through this handbook and periodic updates. If you have any further questions that were not answered in this handbook, please feel free to talk to your Coach, or contact Nathan Hakseth the snow sports manager at nathan@wildmountain.com or at (651)465-1103.

The Wild Mountain Team