

## **News Release**

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## The National Sports Center for the Disabled to Host the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Park Open Dec. 16 – 19, 2015

Paralympic athletes begin competition for the Winter Paralympics in South Korea

**Denver, Colo. (Dec. 15, 2015)** – <u>The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD)</u> will host the 28th Annual Winter Park Open Dec. 16 - 19 at <u>Winter Park Resort</u>. More than 50 adaptive athletes from around the world will compete in this event to earn points to qualify for their respective Paralympic teams.

"This year we are excited to welcome our returning athletes and of course, some new up and coming athletes that are training for the Winter Paralympics in South Korea," said Erik Petersen, competition director for the NSCD. "We encourage the public to come up to Winter Park Resort and see these world class athletes in action and compete."

This event is hosted by the NSCD and sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The Winter Park Open will feature over 50 athletes from nine countries including the US, Canada, Chile, Sweden, New Zealand, Japan, Iceland, Australia, and Great Britain. Races begin at 9:30 and 11:30 each day.

Here are a few of the athletes below who plan to compete at the Winter Park Open and will be available for interviews.

- New Up & Coming Athlete: Alison Kunkel, Chicago, Ill. Disability: Below the elbow impairment
  - The Chicago athlete is new to NSCD's competition program. She competes in both the Slalom and GS races and is a Paralympic hopeful for South Korea.
- 2. Returning Athlete: Adam Hall, Winter Park, Colo. Disability: Spinal bifida
  Adam is from New Zealand and has been skiing competitively with the NSCD for over 10
  years. He is a two-time Paralympian and earned one gold medal in 2010 at the Winter
  Paralympics in slalom. Adam is now working to earn a spot on the U.S. Paralympic team
  in South Korea.

To secure an interview with one of NSCD's athletes, please contact Maria Miller at 303-847-1409 or via email, <a href="maria@kmalcogroup.com">maria@kmalcogroup.com</a>. To access more details, including the schedule for the Winter Park Open, click here.

## About NSCD

The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) began in 1970 as a one-time ski lesson for children with amputations for the Children's Hospital of Denver. Today, the NSCD is one of the largest outdoor therapeutic recreation agencies in the world. Each year, thousands of children and adults with disabilities take to the ski slopes, mountain trails and playing fields to learn more about sports - and themselves. With specially trained staff and its own adaptive equipment lab, the NSCD teaches a variety of winter and summer sports and activities to

individuals with almost any physical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral diagnosis. For more information about the National Sports Center for Disabled visit our website at http://nscd.org or like us on Facebook for updates about our programs and athletes.

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