Media Advisory





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DENVER LOVES THE WINTER PARK EXPRESS More than 15,000 tickets sold, Frequent Saturday sell-outs

Amtrak and Winter Park Resort officials report ticket sales for the first half of the "ski train" season have exceeded 15,000 passengers for the new Amtrak *Winter Park Express* presented by CenturyLink.

The much-anticipated rail service between Denver Union Station and Winter Park Resort began on Saturday, Jan. 7, between Denver and the slopes of Winter Park, operating through Sunday, March 26. Five of the first six Saturdays have sold out and the remaining weekends in February and March are selling fast. Since the Saturday departures are selling-out days in advance, officials are suggesting the Sunday departures as an alternative, as well as the Presidents Day round-trip this weekend.

Story ideas:

- In addition to CenturyLink, Amtrak and Intrawest, the resort's parent company, are pleased to announce <u>Noosa Yoghurt</u>, <u>Clif Bar</u> and <u>Koelbel & Company</u> have joined the *Winter Park Express* team. These corporate partners provide product samples and information to the Amtrak passengers to and from Winter Park Resort.
- On Saturday, March 4, eight children participating in a program with the Winter Park-based National Sports Center for the Disabled (NCSD) and Children's Hospital of Colorado will be celebrating their upcoming graduation by riding the Winter Park Express train for a ski trip. Participants in the Denver hospital's ARCH program have conditions ranging from spinal cord or brain injury, to long-term illnesses and conditions such as cerebral palsy, cancer and spina bifida. The NSCD began in 1970 by providing ski lessons for children and each year more than 3,000 children and adults with disabilities participate in NSCD programs.
- On Saturday, March 18, a group of 10 disabled veterans from Veterans Affairs in Denver will ride the train to spend a weekend skiing Winter Park. The program is organized by the NSCD to provide veterans with disabilities enhanced quality of life through sports. The veterans will return to Denver on the Sunday, March 19.

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