

News Release

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2019 World Para Alpine Skiing National Championships Winter Park March 26-30, 2019

Adaptive Athletes Compete for Placement on 2022 Paralympic National Teams

Denver, Colo. (Mar 23, 2019) – <u>The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD)</u> will host the 2019 World Para Alpine Skiing National Championships March 26-30 at <u>Winter Park Resort</u>. More than 60 adaptive athletes from 10 different nations will compete in this event to earn points to qualify for their respective Paralympic teams.

"Hosting the National Championships with so many outstanding athletes from around the world competing here in Winter Park is truly amazing. This event shows everyone watching that these athletes are not people with disabilities, but people with a true competitive spirit," says Erik Petersen, NSCD Competition Director.

Adaptive athletes combine speed and agility while racing down slopes at speeds in excess of 60 mph. Competition accommodates male and female athletes with a physical impairments such as spinal injury, cerebral palsy, amputation and blindness/vision impairment. Athletes compete in three categories based on their functional ability, and a factor system allows athletes with different impairments to compete against each other.

Athletes compete in three events: Super-G, Giant Slalom and Slalom to earn points that eventually determine their standing on the national team and who will be representing their respective country in the 2022 Winter Paralympics in Beijing, China.

Athletes competing include: **Andrew Kurka**, the US sit-skier who took gold in the men's downhill and silver in the super-G in the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea; **Kurt Oatway**, the Canadian won gold at the 2018 Winter Paralympics in men's sitting Super G; and **Alana Ramsay**, Canadian stand skier won bronze medals in the Super G and Super combined in PyeongChang. NSCD athletes to watch include **Tyler Carter** and **Spencer Wood**, both US stand skiers who debuted at the 2018 Paralympics; and **Allie Johnson** (stand skier) and **Trevor Kennison**, (sit skier), both beginning their racing careers with momentum and holding nothing back this season.

This event is hosted by the NSCD and sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The 2019 World Para Alpine Skiing National Championships schedule is as follows:

3/26/19	10:00	Giant Slalom - Race 1st run
	13:00	Giant Slalom - Race 2 nd run
3/27/19	10:00	Giant Slalom - Race 1st run
	13:00	Giant Slalom - Race 2 nd run
3/28/19	10:00	Super G -Race 1

	13:00	Super G Race 2
3/29/19	10:00	Slalom - Race 1 st run
	13:00	Slalom - Race 2 nd run
3/30/19	10:00	Slalom - Race 1 st run
	13:00	Slalom - Race 2 nd run

To secure an interview with one of NSCD's athletes or another athlete competing in Nationals, please contact Diane Eustace at 303-807-5722 or via email, deustace@nscd.org. To access more details about the Paralympic team and races, click here.

About NSCD

The NSCD offers adaptive lessons for individuals and groups of people with disabilities in a variety of action sports, adventure sports and competitive programs. Athletes with any physical, cognitive, emotional or behavioral diagnosis can participate in sports and recreation programs year-round in Colorado's Front Range and mountains. The NSCD's recreational athletes build self-confidence and improve overall health in programs such as skiing, rock climbing, paddle sports and therapeutic horseback riding. The NSCD's competition program offers a way for independent athletes to compete at an elite level in international alpine and Nordic competitions and to thrive in the camaraderie of the NSCD team environment.

The NSCD is one of the largest therapeutic recreation and competitive adaptive sports agencies in the world, based out of Winter Park Resort and Broncos Stadium at Mile High in Colorado. With specially trained staff and volunteers, as well as its own adaptive equipment lab, the NSCD teaches over 37,000 lessons to athletes each year with a variety diagnoses. For more information about the National Sports Center for Disabled visit our website at nscd.org or like us on Facebook for updates about our programs and athletes.

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