

James Thurston - Palmerston North, New Zealand

In 2012, just before his 20th birthday, James Thurston sustained a spinal cord injury when he was a passenger in a car that crashed at high speed. James was always an active person, and was involved in motocross and downhill mountain biking before his accident. A few years into his recovery, he was struggling to find employment and a sport to channel his energy into when he discovered monoskiing. He was instantly hooked on the sport. SnowSportsNZ soon took notice, offering him an opportunity to join their National Development Team. In January 2019, James made the decision to move to Winter Park, to train alongside some of the world's best adaptive skiers with the NSCD. His goal is to qualify for the New Zealand Paralympic Team and compete at the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics.