



# **THUNDER RIDGE**

## **DEVELOPMENT RACE TEAM**

*Winter 2021*

### **A Guide for Development Parents**

Welcome to the Thunder Ridge Development Race Program! The Development Team is comprised of skiers **ages 8-10\***. The primary focus is on developing good FUNdamental skiing skills, which are then applied to FUN (non-competitive) drills and games that will help to develop slalom and giant slalom racing skills. Although these skiers do not race, they are a vital aspect of the Thunder Ridge Race Team. Our "Devos" are the future skiers of our Race Team!

\*8 & 9 year olds have the option of joining the Race Team or spending the season developing their skills in our Developmental Program. \*\*10 year olds will also be considered for the Program based on discussion and evaluation by the Program Director. First year racers are recommended to join the Developmental Team. Our Coaches will be happy to discuss the appropriate placement for your child.

**Please note -- Participants in this program must be able to ski intermediate terrain and ride all lifts unsupervised. You will be required to pass a chairlift test in order to participate in the Race Team program.**

*Thank you for sharing your racers and enthusiasm for the sport of skiing with us!*

#### **Registration Forms**

There are 3 forms that you need to be concerned with: 1) Registration Form, 2) Medical Information, Photo Release and Behavioral Contract, 3) Covid-19 waiver. Please make sure that these are completed and returned to Thunder Ridge Ski Area with your payment. On the registration form you will see a line for your email address. We often communicate via email, so please give us a family address that you check frequently.

#### **Program Schedule**

Our program runs for 6 weeks starting January 9th. The dates are: January 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. **Please be aware there is no training on President's Weekend February 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.** We may have a season-ending fun race, date TBD.

#### **Daily Schedule**

- Saturday and Sunday practice is from 9:30 – 11:30. The Coaches take the skiers to the lift at 9:30, so please come early to get ready and boot up.
- The drop off and pick up location is over by *Little Thunder base access area*, located by the ramp across from the restaurant parking area. Please come with your child to *sign them in and out*, and be sure to tell the coaches about any early pickups. Please make a note in the sign-in book!
- **Screening Procedures:** For the protection of fellow participants, their families, and our Thunder Ridge staff, all race team members will be required to fill out a Daily Health Screening. This will include a series of questions regarding Covid-19 symptoms or exposure by the racer or any immediate family member.

### Equipment & Clothing

- First, helmets are mandatory. Goggles are a good idea. As we are outside all day, please dress them accordingly – layers are best when it's cold, and then they can remove some if it warms up in the day. For warmth think neck warmers.
- Mittens are better/warmer than gloves for those little hands. Think waterproof, not fleece or knit mittens. Always have a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of mittens with you in case the 1<sup>st</sup> pair gets wet.
- Mask are REQUIRED! Luckily, skiers and racers are no strangers to wearing masks. Racers and coaches will be required to wear masks while outside on the snow, on lift lines, riding the chairlift, and when social distancing is not possible. Masks must also be worn when entering the lodge to use the restrooms. No exceptions will be made.
- Stay away from cotton socks and cotton in general. It gets wet and stays wet. All long underwear should be OUT of the boot, and socks pulled up to keep from getting bumps and ridges in the boot. This can result in sore spots and bruises on the shin.
- Make sure that every night their boots and mittens are dry. Pulling out the inner boot liner will insure a dry boot. It takes a few times to get the hang of it, but it is sooo worth it! Condensation from wet and snow can make feet and hands miserable!

### General Tips

To make your child's experience successful, please try and keep the following things in mind:

- ❖ Make sure that your racer has a good breakfast!
- ❖ Label, label, label everything!
- ❖ Have your child practice bathroom runs, without your help. After a couple of times with helmet, mitts, zippered jackets, suspenders, and snow pants, they will see that they need more time to go to the bathroom than they may have thought. This will help avoid accidents!
- ❖ If a child gets separated from their group, reinforce that they should wait at the lift for their group to reassemble. Their coach will tell them if there is another meeting spot.
- ❖ As weather can be variable, there are 2 ways to check for changes in schedule:
  - 1) Thunder Ridge web site: [www.thunderridgeski.com](http://www.thunderridgeski.com), click on race page
  - 2) Race Team Hotline: 845-878-4100 press 6 for race teamAny changes will be updated by 5pm the night before. If there is nothing posted, follow your regular schedule. You will NOT receive a phone call or an email. **WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!**
- ❖ Be patient the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, especially with your racer. Come with time to spare as the first days are rather busy for everyone.
- ❖ Please get your child to practice on time....it is difficult to try and catch late arrivals up with their group.
- ❖ All personal belongings that are not being used while skiing must be stored in your car. **The locker room will not be available for the 2020-2021 ski season** due to social distancing regulations set forth by State and Local officials. We will be unable to store personal belongings.
- ❖ The **Thunder Ridge Gift Card** is a great alternative to carrying cash. It is a prepaid card that can be used in the cafeteria for hot chocolate and lunches as well. It can become your skier's meal card! You can put any amount on it (\$20 minimum), and keep adding whatever you want, whenever you want. Zip it in your athlete's jacket, and forget having to give out hot chocolate or lunch money every practice!



## **Covid 19 Guidelines for 2020-2021 Season**

The following is a list of updates and logistics for the 2021 Children's Development Program with regards to the impacts of COVID-19. Thunder Ridge Ski Area will be closely adhering to Federal, State and County restrictions. Overall our goal will be to keep participants outside as much as possible, keep facilities and equipment clean and limit close contact. Maintaining everyone's good health, whilst developing skiing skills in a fun mountain environment is our top priority! It's possible that some of the restrictions may change over the course of the program. In these instances we will keep you up to date with any changes as soon as they become available.

### **Chairlift Training:**

At Thunder Ridge Ski Area we take chairlift safety very seriously. All participants in our Race Team program must participate in chairlift training prior to program commencement. You must be able to load independently, pull down the safety bar, and unload independently in order to qualify for the team. You will be *required* to pass a chairlift test in order to participate in the Race Team program. **If Chairlift Training and Test has not been completed, your child will not be able to participate. If you are unable to commit to your child participating in Chairlift Training before the program starts please do not sign them up.**

### **Screening Procedures:**

For the protection of fellow participants, their families, and our Thunder Ridge staff, all race team members will be required to fill out a Daily Health Screening. This will include a series of questions regarding Covid-19 symptoms or exposure by the racer or any immediate family member.

### **Group Assignments:**

Once a participant is assigned to a group they will remain with that group until that session ends for the day. We will not be moving participants from group to group to limit the amount of exposure to other individuals. Accurate group attendance will be taken to help facilitate any contact tracing when necessary. Racers within the same group and their coaches, where possible, will social distance from each other.

### **Masks:**

Luckily, skiers and racers are no strangers to wearing masks! Racers and coaches will be required to wear masks while outside on the snow, on lift lines, riding the chairlift, and when social distancing is not possible. Masks must also be worn when entering the lodge to use the restrooms. No exceptions will be made.

### **Personal Belongings:**

All personal belongings that are not being used while skiing must be stored in your car. The locker room will not be available for the 2020-2021 ski season due to social distancing regulations set forth by State and Local officials.

### **Sick Policy:**

If your racer is not feeling well the day of practice or a race, please stay home!

**\*\*We appreciate your patience and understanding during these challenging times! Please understand that these directives may change at any time, either ahead of or during the ski season, and that any such changes will be beyond our control.**