



## 2023-2024 FRONT RANGE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### WINTER PROGRAMS

#### MENTOR PROGRAM

**Youth Mentor** - The mentor position is a year-round on- and off-hill volunteer position. Mentors are matched with a group of 3-5 youth in our mentor program. Mentors are asked to join their groups for 5 on-hill ride days, as well as off-hill activities which include: service projects, life skills workshops, and mentor trainings.

- o **Minimum Commitment:** One year. However, the majority of mandatory in-person activities occur between the months of September-April. On-going communication between mentors and their groups is expected during summer months.
- o **NOTE:** The mentor position requires the most commitment from volunteers as we ask mentors to commit to a full year of programming, to developing relationships with an assigned group of youth, and to on-going communication with students and their families.



#### INTRODUCTORY / LEARN TO RIDE PROGRAM

**On-hill Volunteer** – Learn-to-Ride is a 5-day on-hill ski and snowboard program. Students are grouped with certified instructors from the mountain to learn the fundamentals of these snow sports. In addition to learning a new sport, LTR students are exposed to the SOS “core values” curriculum – linking experiences from the program to their daily lives.

- o **Minimum Commitment:** At least 4 out of 5 on-hill ride days – LTR volunteers are asked to commit to one full session (a series of 5 ride days) to provide consistency with their group. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for multiple sessions per season, but must commit to at least one. The 5 days are usually once or twice weekly (eg. every Saturday for 5 weeks, or Sat/Sun, Sat/Sun, Sat).
- o **NOTE:** LTR Volunteers are not asked to directly instruct students in these sports, rather support students through encouragement and motivation as well as overall group management. This is a great introduction to SOS programs for volunteers that cannot commit to being a mentor but want a little more exposure to working with youth in the outdoors. LTR volunteers are responsible for their own transportation, gear, and lift ticket.





## OFF-HILL/INDIRECT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Denver Street Team**

SOS is looking to build up a street team of dedicated volunteers who can represent SOS Outreach at events in the Denver Metro area. Events could include bar nights, festivals, rail jams, community gatherings etc. At these events you'll tell people about what SOS does, answer questions and have fun. We will provide you with all the information and training you need to be the face of SOS at these events.



### **Office/Administrative Volunteers**

Volunteers are sometimes needed in the SOS Outreach office during the winter season. Specifically, we ask for help packing and unpacking soft goods (jackets, snow-pants, gloves, etc.) before and after ride days. Also, depending on skill sets, we have a number of administrative and organizational tasks that need attention and are always greatly valued. These opportunities are more customizable to your schedule and can be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

### **Programs & Volunteer FAQs**

Do I need ski or snowboard instruction experience?

- No. While instruction experience can be helpful in some of our programs, it is not necessary. NOTE: You will not be directly instructing. Students in our on-hill programs receive ski school instruction from instructors at resorts. However, through volunteers we like to provide more personal attention for youth. Volunteers work with participants to motivate and encourage, assist throughout the skiing or snowboarding lessons, and support the SOS Core Values.

Do I need to do a background check?

- Yes. All youth-facing volunteer positions require a background check. SOS uses an online company to perform this check. We will require your social security number. Additionally, all on-hill volunteers must attend a training session. You will be able to sign up for specific volunteer dates during this training.

Do I need my own pass/lift ticket and/or gear?

- Yes. Unfortunately, SOS is unable to provide lift tickets or equipment to volunteers. We have programs at Vail, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Keystone, Loveland, and Copper. Remember this is a program for youth and we reserve our resources to get them on the hill and learning to ride!

What is a typical day like and how do I meet the groups?

- Normal program days are from 8am – 3:30pm *on the mountain*. Be prepared for early mornings and cold days. We ask all groups and volunteers to arrive at the resort meeting point by around 8 am. Volunteers must provide their own transportation. Our students go up to the resort as a school, usually in a bus or vans. Volunteers must find their own transportation to the mountains; however, if there are multiple volunteers for one program, we will connect you to discuss carpool options.