



For Immediate Release

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Alpine Bank Steps Up as 2019-20 Sponsor of Snow Sports Alliance Program

In conjunction with BOEC, Mountain Mentors, and The Summit Foundation this program provides skiing & snowboarding opportunities to Summit County youth.

[Breckenridge, Colo., January 12, 2020] – Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC), the non-profit dedicated to expanding the potential of people with disabilities and special needs, has teamed up with Alpine Bank, The Summit Foundation and Mountain Mentors to resume the Snow Sports Alliance Program after a year's hiatus due to a lack of funding. This program gives Summit County youth, who otherwise would not be able to afford skiing and snowboarding, the chance to be involved in this glorious winter outdoor recreation environment. The generous financial backing of Alpine Bank, and scholarship assistance from The Summit Foundation has made this program possible once again this year.

In celebration, on Sunday, January 12, 2020, representatives from BOEC, Alpine Bank, Mountain Mentors and The Summit Foundation will gather at BOEC's Adaptive Ski and Snowboard School at Breckenridge Ski Resort for a meet and greet and skiing with the participants.

The Snow Sports Alliance Program runs for 10 Sundays through the winter ski season, which started this season on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at the BOEC Peak 9 office in Breckenridge. Historically, there is a highly-subsidized affordable cost to the participant, but thanks to program sponsorship from Alpine Bank and scholarship assistance from The Summit Foundation this year, all students are able to participate for free. Each student receives 10 weekly small group ski/snowboard lessons from BOEC instructors, transportation to and from the ski resort from BOEC, season-long rentals through Blue River Sports, and a season pass through EpicPromise.

"This show of community support with all of the various entities coming together to make this happen is a true reflection of what Summit County is all about," said BOEC Executive Director, Sonya Norris. "We couldn't be happier about offering the Snow Sports Alliance Program back to the community this year with the help and support of our friends at Alpine Bank and The Summit Foundation."

Mountain Mentors refers 10 Summit County youth ages 8-12 for the program. The late Bob Redman, a merchant, snowboard enthusiast, and BOEC snowboard instructor, began this program in 1997 with the hope of allowing any youth, regardless of their socio-economic situation, the opportunity to enjoy skiing. In the winter of 1997, Bob was tragically killed in a ski/snowboard collision while instructing his first group of Mountain Mentor children.



Since that time, the staff at Mountain Mentors and the BOEC have worked diligently to ensure Bob's vision continues. And with the financial support of Alpine Bank, the program returns for its 21st year.

"You are proud to call Colorado home. So are we. Since 1973, we've been giving back to the communities where we live, work and play across our great state, and we're here to stay," said Matt Hanson, Regional President for Summit County Alpine Banks. "Supporting the Snow Sports Alliance Program is just another example of how we help to empower the county's youth and give back to our amazing community in a valuable way."

About Snow Sports Alliance

From 1997 – 2017 the Snow Sports Alliance has been a well-established community partnership that empowers disadvantaged Summit County youth to be included in our mountain culture through free ski and snowboard lessons, equipment and transportation. Through collaboration of Mountain Mentors and BOEC, this partnership has served over 200 Summit County youth the past 20 years.

About Summit County Mountain Mentors

Founded in 1987, Summit County Mountain Mentors is a well-established community-based mentoring program that matches caring adult volunteers with youth ages 8 to 16. Mountain Mentors' mission is "to positively influence the youth of Summit County to lead healthy lifestyles, through a consistent one-to-one relationship with an adult. This relationship can help a young person overcome certain obstacles and learn skills that will prove to be valuable in their maturation.

About BOEC

BOEC is a non-profit 501(c)3 human service organization whose mission is to expand the potential of people with disabilities and special needs through meaningful, educational and inspirational outdoor experiences. BOEC offers state-of-the-art programming and features a highly trained professional staff. The major programs include, the Adaptive Ski and Ride Program, Wilderness Program and Internship Program that serves over 3,000 participants each year for over 10,000 programming days. Participants come from all over the world and include adults and children with physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities, injured veterans, youth at risk and many other interested parties.

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