



About WASP

The Whistler Adaptive Sports Program (WASP) provides year-round sports, recreational and therapeutic programs for people of all ages with disabilities. Our mission is to provide access to sport and recreation for all.

Whatever the season, WASP provides opportunities for hundreds of people with a range of disabilities to take part in a wide range of programs in Whistler. WASP is changing lives every day. Since 1999, the program has delivered over 7,300 sports and recreational experiences.

In the winter, WASP provides skiing and snowboarding lessons, adaptive alpine ski racing and Nordic skiing. In the summer, WASP offers kayaking, canoeing, hand cycling, rowing, gymnastics and hiking. Led by a core group of paid staff, WASP programs are delivered primarily by volunteers from the community.

Since 1999 the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program has delivered:

- 7,300 lessons, clinics and camps
- Unique sporting experiences for 1,800 children and adults in Whistler, one of the world's premier mountain resorts.
- In 2009 volunteers committed 21,000 hours and WASP provided 70 days of training for its coaches and instructors.

About Whistler

As the host of approximately 90 per cent of the Paralympic events in 2010, Whistler is proud of the opportunities it brings to build substantially on an international reputation as an accessible destination – and grow visitation from the disabled community.

The Winter Games provides Whistler with an unprecedented opportunity to build upon its accessibility initiatives, showcase its exceptional adaptive sports programming and establish itself as the world's premier destination for athletes with disabilities to compete and train.

Whistler also recognizes the heightened responsibility it has to continue providing people from around the world – from all ranges of ability – with an opportunity to have a seamless resort experience that's based not only on accessibility but inclusivity.

Some consider Whistler a small mountain community with an international feel – a place where one can explore the mountains by day by day and experience fine cuisine and clubs by night. It's a place where people from all ages and backgrounds – with a common sense of adventure – brush shoulders on the mountains and in the village.

Accessible and inclusive community

The Whistler Adaptive Sports Program plays a central role in attracting elite and recreational athletes with a disability to Whistler. Working in partnership with the Resort Municipality of Whistler, VANOC, the Whistler Housing Authority, and 2010 Sport Legacies Society, WASP is creating a community where people with disabilities can live, work, and play.

FAST FACTS ABOUT ACCESSIBLE WHISTLER

- For Whistler, the benefits of 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will last a lifetime. Whistler residents and visitors will be left with more than 20 tangible legacies such as the Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Athlete Village. Following the Games, it will become Whistler's newest neighbourhood with short-term and long-term accessible units and a year-round centre of sporting excellence for all athletes including those with a disability.
- People with disabilities, in North America alone, spend more than \$13 billion each year on travel, and are one of the fastest growing tourism market opportunities. Whistler's Accessible Tourism Strategy provides tourism businesses with an accessibility assessment and recommends steps to improve accessibility with simple, inexpensive changes to makes businesses accessible for thousands more travelers.

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Winter Programs

The winter is a busy time for the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program because we believe that everyone is entitled to enjoy the beauty and benefits of winter recreation the Coast Mountains. Whether it's a day on the cross-country ski trails or an afternoon on the slopes, there is plenty to do when it gets cold.

- Alpine Skiing
- Nordic Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Instructor, Coach and Athlete Training – The Canadian Ski Coaching Federation, the Canadian Snowboard Federation and Foresight Ski Guides (VAIL, Colorado), have all chosen WASP as a partner to train instructors, coaches and athletes.
- The WASP Adaptive Alpine Race Program provides elite athletes regular race training as well as emerging racers the skills and experience needed to qualify for national and international competition.

Summer Programs

The Whistler Adaptive Sports Program introduced summer activities in 2006. These have grown to include:

- Whitewater and flat water kayaking
- Trail riders and Hiking
- Rowing
- Hand-Cycling
- Gymnastics
- Canoeing

Media Story Starters

For a complete list of story starters, visit www.whistleradaptive.com.

Tyler Mosher an alpine pioneer

Long time Whistler resident Tyler Mosher has helped create and develop adaptive snowboarding in Canada.

Nine years ago, Mosher broke his back in nine places while snowboarding. Although 40 per cent paralyzed from the waist down, he regained enough mobility and strength to learn to walk again. When recovering from his injury, Mosher learned to cross country ski because he couldn't walk.

Mosher is now on the 2010 National Para-Nordic team. He is also focused on adaptive snowboarding with the help of

programs like WASP and the Canadian Snowboard Federation; Adaptive Snowboarding is now a recognized sport in Canada.

Whistler Athletes' Centre – A Paralympic Legacy

The Whistler Athletes' Centre and Lodge is the first ever permanent and affordable accessible training facility in Whistler. The facility is in the heart of the Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Village and was built with the future in mind.

After the 2010 Winter Games, Whistler will become the training ground for winter and summer disabled sport.

The complex features a 4,000 square foot strength and conditioning facility, a 5,000 square foot gymnastics hall, recovery and regeneration rooms, change rooms, a testing room, offices and a multi-purpose meeting room.

The building is fully accessible, including features such as accessible washrooms/showers and an elevator to enable access to the upper floor.

The Whistler Athletes Centre will also be the new headquarters of the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, a not for profit organization for learning, therapeutic and sports excellence for individuals of all ages and a wide variety of disabilities.

Rob Gosse – Just simply loves to ski

"Skiing takes your disability out of the picture," said Rob Gosse, a skier since 2007. "I love that I ski as an equal with both able-bodied and adaptive skiers. It gives me a whole new freedom."

Injured in the summer of 2006, Rob came out of GF Strong 12 weeks later wanting to try everything. From basketball to athletics to waterskiing Rob said that skiing "just stuck."

"I'd always been an active guy and coming from a sports-oriented background, people at the rehab centre were telling me I was a perfect candidate for many disabled sports, which I laughed off at first," remembers Rob. "But going to a bunch of different events, I realized that the disabled sports community is a small one, and really helped to connect me throughout the sports network."

With an eager willingness to try something new, Rob joined a group of skiers heading up to Whistler with the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program. He fell in love and almost immediately entered the competitive program.

He was named to B.C.'s Para-Alpine Development Team in 2007, and by the end of his first season he had collected two silver medals and a bronze. Let the racers of 2014 be forewarned. Rob Gosse is on his way.

