



Dear AVSC Families,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that we share our 2021-22 ASK programs with you all! Whether you are a returning athlete or new to the AVSC community, we look forward to working with you!

First and foremost, I want to thank you, our parents. Last season was full of challenge and adjustments. You all supported us as we pivoted our programming and operations. You remained flexible, adaptable and patient as we worked to create a safe, healthy, inspiring and fun experience for your kids, and for that, we are so grateful.

With that said, we could not have done it alone. I want to take a moment to thank our numerous partners that helped us adjust and served an integral role in making ASK programs function and thrive. We'd like to give a special thanks to the Aspen Skiing Company. From the 350+ pros and coordinators that make every lesson skill building and fun, to the ski patrol and operation teams for keeping us safe, and to everyone within Aspen Skiing Company who worked so hard to keep our mountains open in a unprecedented climate of caution. Gorsuch and Four Mountain Sports were steadfast in their commitment to providing our athletes over 350 sets of equipment: the vehicle for excitement! All our chaperones, bus drivers and volunteers that helped support operations from transportation, chair lift riding and the little things in between. And lastly, an enormous thanks goes out to the rest of the AVSC family – staff, parents, donors, sponsors and volunteers. It truly takes not only a village, but a valley!

With struggle and conflict comes opportunity, and that is true for our ASK programs. While we had to reinvent programming last year during a time of crisis, what we found is that some of these changes were well received. This year, you might notice some of those updates stuck around, but overall, our goal was to return ASK to its "regular scheduled programming" and what works best for our families and community. Our favorite programs are back as well as a new program, "Mountain Express".

ASK is a staple of our community and a steppingstone in each athlete's experience. From those mastering their first turns to first international competitions to first US Ski Team nominations. This program means many things to the families and athletes in our community, but at its core it is an introduction to the outdoors and snowsports in an environment that is inclusive and inspiring. For almost 85 years, AVSC has worked to create an environment and opportunities for your kids to find passion for the mountains and outdoors, while setting the stage for the future, creating meaningful mentorship, equal access, opportunity and a sense of belonging.

We are immensely proud of our community for the way that we banded together and made the most out of this past year despite the collective challenges. We feel fortunate that we were able to take some time to reflect on our role in shaping local youth and helping them achieve their goals.

As you look over the programs for this winter, please reach out to Meredith Elwell, the ASK Program Director with any questions. Her contact information is listed throughout the website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Godomsky".

Mark Godomsky
Executive Director
Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club