

ALPINE POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM

ASPEN VALLEY SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club offers a Post-Graduate (PG) program to give alpine athletes the opportunity to dedicate a year to pursuing their high-level goals in ski racing, whether their goal is to make their respective National team or be a top contributor on a Division I collegiate team. AVSC has incredible resources, notably our coaching staff and training facilities, which make Aspen an ideal place for athletes to achieve their goals.

ELIGIBILITY

Consideration will be given to highly motivated high school graduates who are on track to make a national team or Division I collegiate team. We will compete at the FISU, FIS, and NorAm level. Athletes must demonstrate our core values: commitment, teamwork, integrity. The group will be approximately 12 athletes.



2021 DU Invitational at Aspen Highlands. Photo by Matt Power.

TRAINING FACILITIES

Alpine athletes primarily train on the Stapleton Training Venue, a private venue at Aspen Highlands which provides 400m vertical of varied terrain and is FIS homologated for slalom, giant slalom, super g, and downhill. AVSC has control over the surface, safety, and features of the hill – we modify conditions to ensure the best training for our athletes. Beyond the training venue, Aspen Highlands provides some of the most incredible in-bounds skiing in the world, including the famed Highlands Bowl... and it's all accessible via a lift from the AVSC clubhouse. In addition to Aspen Highlands, Aspen Skiing Company includes three other mountains: Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, and Buttermilk. PGs will train and free ski at all four mountains, including on the World Cup venue on Aspen Mountain. Variety is an important aspect of our program.

Off the hill, the AVSC clubhouse is outfitted with a full gym, a tuning room, and equipment storage. We have an in-house Athletic Trainer to support athletes through injury prevention and rehabilitation. We love where we live: in addition to skiing, the Roaring Fork Valley is known for outstanding mountain and road biking, trail running, rock climbing, fishing, hiking, and more.

HOUSING + TRANSPORTATION

Housing is not provided by AVSC, but we will do our best to help PGs find a good situation. Aspen has an incredible (in most cases, free) public transportation system; PGs do not need a car. Athletes do not need to live in Aspen; our staff and athletes live in many of the surrounding towns (Snowmass Village, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs).

ACADEMICS

Colorado Mountain College has a campus in Aspen where athletes can elect to take courses.

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COACHING STAFF

CASEY PUCKETT, FIS Head Coach

Casey Puckett has a long and decorated career in ski racing and ski coaching. Puckett competed in five Olympic games, Since his retirement he has been coaching for AVSC with a brief stint on the US Ski Team coaching staff. He loves helping hard-working athletes who are dedicated to becoming the best they can be.

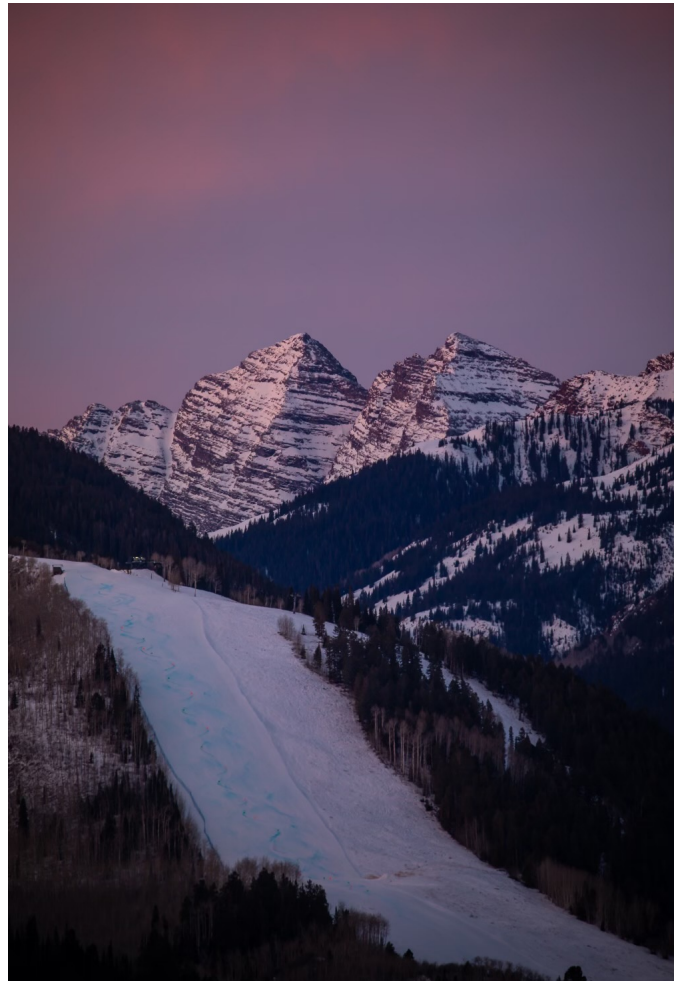
JEFF LACKIE, Alpine Program Director

Jeff Lackie joins AVSC with years of experience coaching skiers from U8 to elite levels, leading to numerous World Cup wins and Olympic medals. Formerly the Alpine Program Director at Green Mountain Valley School and Head Coach for the US Ski & Snowboard Women's Speed Team, Jeff excels in fostering athletes' success through a holistic approach. He is excited to build on Aspen's rich skiing heritage and collaborate with the community to enhance AVSC's alpine program. Jeff states, "When the sun is shining in Aspen, there's nowhere else I'd rather be than standing on the side of a race course."

HOW TO APPLY

Contact Casey Puckett FIS Head Coach to set up a phone interview.

cpuckett@teamavsc.org



Sunrise at the Stapleton Training Center. Photo by Sam Ferguson.

For most up to date pricing, please visit teamavsc.org/Alpine-Programs

FROM AN ATHLETE'S PERSPECTIVE ...

Training at AVSC is incredible because you're not limited to a narrow designated trail like so many other clubs. Highlands has awesome variable terrain and it's wide enough for a different course set every day of the year. It's also really valuable to get some skiing in on Ajax after they've prepped the race hill to perfection for the World Cup. On top of that, the coaching dynamic works really well. Not only do they have a great technical eye, but their enthusiasm for the sport really shows. I'm not sure many other clubs have a coach hopping in the course to show you how it's done.

My PG year gave me the opportunity to spend a huge amount of time skiing, which is important because once you get to college and take on some tough classes you're pretty limited with time on snow. Everything is so fast paced in college and I hardly ever communicate with my coaches, let alone get more than four runs in a day. I got a lot more than I asked for out of a PG year; I thought the goal was to lower my FIS points, which I definitely did, but in retrospect I really appreciate all the experience I gained and also the amount of time spent working with coaches.

- Devon Cardamone, Middlebury College Ski Team

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CASEY PUCKETT
FIS HEAD COACH

CPUCKETT@TEAMAVSC.ORG