

## **2009/2010 ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR ADAPTIVE LESSONS**

To qualify for the Adaptive Ski Program, an individual must be legally blind, deaf, has a leg, foot, arm or hand amputation developmental/cognitive disability and/or a physical disability that requires adaptive equipment or techniques to ski or snowboard. Having a disability or illness alone does not qualify an individual for an Adaptive Lift Ticket.

If a caregiver of family member wishes to participate in an adaptive lesson, they may purchase a full-day ticket from the ski area at a 50% discount. (This is not a friend ski free ticket, the companion must be skiing with the adaptive skier/snowboarder and assisting). This discount is a courtesy of ski area management, not a privilege mandated by law.

**To issue Adaptive Lift Tickets, or to qualify an individual for an Adaptive Ski Lessons, use the following guidelines. An individual must fit into all three items below. If only one or two of the guidelines apply to them, they are not eligible.**

1. Individuals whose disability is severe enough that it impacts daily living as outlined under ADA – definition below.
2. He/she cannot participate in a regular group ski lesson or ski independently without the use of adaptive teaching techniques, adaptive equipment, a ski buddy, or a guide (age requirement: 5 years to indefinite)
3. Has written documentation. Acceptable forms of proof include:
  - Letters from health care professionals such as physician, specialist, therapist – must be dated, on official letterhead and include statement of diagnosis, permanence and severity of disability.
  - Letter of award from Social Security for the Impaired (SSI)
  - Letter from special education teacher, vocational rehabilitation counselor – must be dated, on official letterhead, with statement of diagnosis, permanence and severity of disability.
  - Documentation from American Veteran or U.S. Disabled Ski Team  
*Documentation will only be requested if eligibility cannot be determined from the student application.*

**Examples of various disabilities, laws and applicable broad definitions follow:**

**ADA The Americans with Disabilities Act:** ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability of employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, telecommunications and US Congress. ADA defines an individual with a disability as a person who has physical or mental impairment(s) that substantially limits one or more life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all impairments covered.

### **BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED/PARTIALLY SIGHTED**

**Blind:** No usable light perception, are totally blind.

**Visually impaired/partially sighted:** Legally blind is 20/200 best correction in best eye, and/or a field restriction of 30 degrees or less. Accidents and diseases such as Diabetes, Albinism, Glaucoma, Retinitis Pigmentosa, Rentrolfentofiboplasia, muscular degeneration and cataracts are common causes

## **AMPUTATIONS**

Missing limbs such as hand, arm, foot, leg or any combination of the above. May or may not use prosthetic devices. Often a result of a traumatic accident, diabetes, birth defects, etc.

## **DEAF**

Individuals who are profoundly deaf and may use sign language to communicate or wear two hearing aids.

## **DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED**

Cognitively (reasoning ability) impaired to the point that it effects decision making, problem solving, motor skills, and/or communication skills. Includes: Downs Syndrome, Autism, Fragile X Syndrome, Angolan's Syndrome, Hydrocephalic and sometimes combined with a physical disability such as Cerebral Palsy.

## **MENTAL HEALTH / EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED**

Eligible only in a residential (in-patient) facility or school program and meet the above criteria

## **PHYSICAL DISABILITES**

Any individual with a permanent physical disability resulting from an accident, stroke, illness or birth defect. Examples include:

Spinal cord injured (SCI) resulting in some level of paralysis such as paraplegic (lower limb involvement), quadriplegic (four limbs involved), hemiplegic (half body) resulting in complete or incomplete paralysis.

Traumatic Brain Injury – resulting in a variety of physical, motor, cognitive impairments

## **TRAUMATIC INJURIES**

Permanent injuries to spinal column, head, and limbs generally due to accident, severe illness.

## **BIRTH DEFECTS**

Disabilities from birth such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida

## **CANCER/LEUKEMIA**

Terminally ill individuals, in treatment using chemotherapy, radiation or other programs requiring modification of daily living, or individuals in remission who have had daily living modified.

## **CHRONIC DISEASES**

Individuals with progressive diseases such as Muscular Dystrophy (MD) – generally a childhood disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – an adult disease.

## **ASTHMA**

Individuals with severe cases who are periodically dependent on oxygen

## **DIABETIC**

Extremely severe cases, threatening loss of sight or limb, dependent on intravenous insulin. Physician's diagnosis maybe required if questionable.

## **SENSORY INTEGRATION DISORDER (MUST BE PATIENTS IN TREATMENT ONLY)**

Inability to process information and thought patterns, difficulty in completing simple tasks. (Motor, learning, social/emotional, speech/language or attention disorders). Participants must require special instruction and not be able to participate in regular programs.

**A committee will review each application on a case-by-case basis.**