



2009 Athletic Scholarship Recipients

In 2009, thirteen athletes were awarded scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000 for a total of \$9200.



Julia Bjorkman, age 14, the daughter of Ellen Bjorkman of Crystal Bay, NV, is an eighth grader at Incline Middle School. Described by her Diamond Peak Ski Team coach as “driven and dedicated,” Julia achieved exceptional results as a first year J-3 racer, finishing the 2008-09 season in the top ten nationally in Downhill and the top twenty in Super G.

Dylan Brooks, age 16, the son of Douglas and Candice Brooks of Mammoth Lakes, CA, transferred to the Sugar Bowl Academy for his junior year of high school. His coach at the Mammoth Ski Team noted that Dylan overcame several serious injuries during his ski career and persevered to achieve one top ten and two top 20 national rankings as a J-2.



A member of the Mt. Hood Ski Team, Ali Gunesch is the daughter of Bill and Mary Gunesch of Government Camp, OR. She attends Sandy High School during the fall and spring; however, in order to better balance a rigorous training schedule with her academics, she transfers to the Mt. Hood Academy for her winter term. Jeff Pickering, the U.S. Ski Team Region Head Coach, notes that Ali combines strong skiing skills, athletic ability, and a good work ethic. These admirable traits have benefited her on and off the race courses where she ranked nationally as a J-3 in the top 25 in Downhill and the top 20 in Super G.

Haley Hanseler, age 15, is the daughter of Jamie Hanseler of Longview, WA, and a sophomore at Mark Morris High School. She has been commended by her Mt. Hood Ski Team coach, Bill Gunesch, for her competitiveness, determination and work ethic. Her drive for excellence resulted in being nationally ranked as a J-3 in the top 20 in Downhill, Super G, and Slalom.



Allene Kennedy, age 15, the daughter of David Kennedy of Truckee, CA, is in her sophomore year at Truckee High School. She is a member of the Squaw Valley Ski Team.

Unlike most of her peers in ski racing, Allene's training is limited to weekends and occasional days off from school. Nevertheless, she has achieved admirable results with a top ten ranking in Downhill and top fifteen in Super G and Giant Slalom.

Lila Lapanja, age 14, the daughter of Vojko and Margie Lapanja on Incline Village, NV, is a freshman at Incline High School. Like many junior racers, Lila balances her rigorous training and competition schedule with formal classes and independent studies; a balance that has yielded a 4.0 GPA as well as top five national ranking in all four disciplines. Her coach Josee Lacasse commends her hard work, dedication and maturity that has contributed to her competition success and made her an inspiration for her peers.



Nicolo Monforte, age 14, the son of Sal and Johanna Monforte of Olympic Valley, CA, attends North Tahoe High School in Tahoe City, CA. Nicolo is a member of the Squaw Valley Ski Team. His coach, Lee Schmidt, lauds Nicolo for giving a 110% in every endeavor. His positive attitude and hard work has yielded outstanding results; number one first-year J-3 in the Far West Division, top 5 ranking nationally in Downhill and Super G; and top fifteen in slalom.

Morganne Murphy, age 15, the daughter of Belinda Denmark of Truckee, CA, is a sophomore at Forest Charter School and a member of the Squaw Valley Ski Team. Competing as a J-3 last season, Morganne achieved top ten national ranking in Downhill and Super G and top twenty in Giant Slalom and Slalom.



Dylan Murtha, age 15, the son of Greg and Laura Murtha of Truckee, CA, is a sophomore at the Sugar Bowl Academy. Over the last four years, Dylan has been a top competitor in the United States Ski and Snowboard (USSA) sanctioned alpine ski competition. His coach, Aaron Atkins, attributes his success to his being an incredible competitor with the work ethic necessary to achieve all his goals. He completed his second year J-3s in 2009 ranked number one in the U.S. in Giant Slalom, seventh in Downhill, tenth in Super G, and seventeenth in Slalom.

Jake Perkins, age 17, the son of Chris and Tammie Perkins of Truckee, CA, attends Truckee High School. Jake recently transferred from the Squaw Valley Ski Team to the Sugar Bowl Ski Team. His coach at Squaw Valley, Greg Jones, praised him for his dedication and hard work. As a J-2 level racer last season, he was ranked 2nd in Giant Slalom, 2nd in Super G, 4th in Downhill, and 5th in Slalom in his age group.





Jetta Rackleff, age 18, is the daughter of Cathy Hammond , and a 2009 graduate of Summit High School in Bend, OR. Jetta has been a consistent top competitor throughout her junior racing career with the Mt. Bachelor Ski Team. Her coach, Pat Robson, has commended her ability to balance the demands of ski racing, hockey, music, and other extra-curricular activities with her school work where she achieved a 3.75 GPA. Jetta is a speed specialist who completed the 2008-2009 season standing in the top 20 nationally in Downhill and Super G.



Jordan Schweitzer, age 15, the daughter of Todd Schweitzer, is a sophomore at Summit High School in Bend OR. Her coach, Nils Ericksson, has praised her as one of the most talented female skiers he has seen in all his years as a ski racing coach. Her hard work has contributed to her achieving national ranking (as a second year J-3 racer) in the top ten in three alpine disciplines, Downhill, Super G and Slalom, and she was ranked in the top fifteen in Giant Slalom.

Kenneth Wilson, age 16, the son of Ken and Debbie Wilson of Prattville, CA, attends Chester High School, Chester, California, and trains with the Squaw Valley Ski Team. Last season as a J-3, Kenny ended the 2008-2009 race season ranked nationally in the top ten for Downhill, Super G, and Giant Slalom and in the top fifteen for Slalom. He is commended by his teachers for his ability to organize his school time and his discipline in meeting independent study goals. Kenny carries that dedication and discipline onto the race course where, according to his coach, Lee Schmitt, his mental toughness and competitiveness have led to success in ski racing.

