



Happy Holidays from our family to yours. May the new year bring you much happiness and joy throughout the holiday season and the New Year to come.

FAR WEST CONVENTION

Far West's 85th Annual Convention: The 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be held June 7-11, 2017, in beautiful Boise, Idaho, at the *Grove Hotel and Boise Centre*. The theme is "**BOISE IS...**" with the event being co-hosted by *Bogus Basin Ski Club & Intermountain Ski Council*. Their Convention Committee has been hard at work planning activities and events to keep everyone busy for the four days we will be there. The resort is located minutes from the airport, in the heart of downtown Boise, so there will be plenty to do, whether you are doing a Far West activity, or just want to take some free time to shop and see the town. For room reservations, call the *Grove Hotel* at **888-961-5000** and refer to our group name: "**Far West Ski Association**". You can also register on-line at the FWSA room reservation site located at: <http://bit.ly/FWSA2017-lodging>. For additional information, visit the FWSA website (www.fwsa.org). Further information will be posted as it becomes available. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to attend our *FIRST-EVER* Convention in Boise. Come early - stay late and enjoy all that Boise and its' surrounding area has to offer.

Charities and Community Service Recognition Program: FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. The *Charities and Community Service Recognition* Program has been recognizing clubs for their charitable work at each convention for the past ten years. The Charity Recognition Program has created two different levels of application for Clubs. We have the *Diamond* and *Double Diamond* award. Any Club that has won first place in this wonderful recognition program in a past year will apply in the Double Diamond category. All other Clubs will be in the Diamond category. The two separate levels will hopefully give all groups an added incentive to apply, and then to apply again. Each Club category will have a first and second place winner. The Council category will recognize a first-place winner. FWSA has not yet determined how the winners will be recognized, but certainly, it will be special! Please stay tuned.

The top two Clubs in each category and the winning Council will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention. **Application deadline is March 26, 2017.** Information and applications can be obtained on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org regarding this wonderful program, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition. For any Charity & Community Service questions, contact Sigrid Noack at skisig@gmail.com.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Annual Ski Week 2017: January 28th-February 4, 2017 are the dates set for the next FWSA Ski Week to **Breckenridge, Colorado**. Ski Week staff and the staff at **Breck** will have some great things planned for everyone, including a Mountain Picnic, 5 out of 6-day lift tickets, racing, and lots of socializing. Join us in Breckenridge to get in on all the fun. Check with your council's Trip Leader to make your reservations for this fantastic week.

Far West Mini Ski Week 2017: The 2017 Far West Ski Association's "**Spring Fling**" Mini Ski Trip will be held at *Sun Peaks Resort / Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel and Suites*, British Columbia, Canada, March 21st to 26th. Sun Peaks Resort offers incredible access to cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding. Optional activities during your stay may include: dog sledding, snowmobile tours, snow bikes, tubing, ice skating, snowshoeing, spa day. We are pleased that we now have on-line payments through *PayPal* after your initial deposit has been mailed. To sign-up for this trip, please complete the registration and waiver forms and mail your initial deposit to Gloria Raminha. After that, participants may make payments online at www.fwsa.org using PayPal, or can be mailed to Gloria. If the dates don't fit into your schedule, we can arrange for an earlier or later arrival or departure. **Remember, Sun Peaks is in Canada, so you MUST have a passport. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after our trip dates.**

Far West International Trip 2017: **THERE'S STILL ROOM LEFT** on the international ski trip for 2017 to **Austria and Hungary**. Ski week is set for March 12-19 in **St. Anton**, with an extension trip from March 19-26, to **Vienna and Budapest**. The extension trip is also being offered as a "Stand Alone" trip for those interested. Participants will be staying in one hotel for the week in St. Anton - The *Schwarzer Adler Hotel*, and will be getting one lift pass, which allows skiing in 5 areas. You'll experience a Welcome/Orientation, a mid-week day tour, mid-week après party and a Farewell party. We have 24 people signed up for ski week thus far. If you want to add your name to this growing list of participants, contact Debbie Stewart at: FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

Far West Ski Foundation U.S. Ski Team Investments for 2016: No athlete becomes an Olympian on their own. It requires a network of dedicated coaches, teammates and supporters. USSA has a proud tradition of being supported by funding from generous Americans. This extraordinary tradition is shared with few countries in the world. We have created programs to match donations of all sizes. Just like every second, every step, and every shot counts in the Olympics, so does every contribution to our team. Join us today by making a donation. The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Foundation is the non-profit fundraising arm of the U.S. Ski

Team, U.S. Snowboarding and U.S. Free-skiing. Incorporated in 1964 as a 501(c)3, the Foundation raises money to support year-round athlete training, development, competition and educational needs. Donations to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Join me in making a donation at <http://foundation.ussa.org/>.

There is still time for you to make investments in this year's cycle on **ANY** mission or for the best current use of the Foundation. FWSF has a no-fee arrangement with PayPal; your contribution to Far West Ski Foundation will then be transferred to the current accounts in the bank used by FWSF. Or, you may send your investment directly to John Reinhardt, Treasurer

FWSF, 6105 SW Sheridan Street, Portland, OR 97225. Or you may use our website at www.farwestskifoundation.org.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide is Out: Check your local ski shop or resort for a copy of the 29th annual *Far West Skier's Guide*. *The 2016-2017* is an awesome publication giving us information about our clubs, councils, trips we're taking and events that will be happening in the coming season. Pick up a copy or check out the Digital Edition at

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2016-17/>. It has an additional 28-page insert not found in the hard copy.

*Here's wishing you all the happiest of holidays
and acres of fresh powder to ski in!*