

Sponsor a Skier: USCSA Nationals 2017
Bend, Oregon

Dear Nordic Skiing Community,

As many of you know, this year we are embarking on our second journey to the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Nationals. Last year the competition took place in Lake Placid, New York and we took ten skiers out to compete in four races over the span of one week. Having been our first year, we weren't sure what we were in for. However, the week ended up being the absolute highlight of our season. Competing against schools like Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, and the Air Force Academy pushed us to be our best and heightened the love for skiing in everyone. The support and encouragement we received from USCSA and the other teams was enormous and we are so thankful for the community we found there.

This year, USCSA is holding Nationals at Mt. Bachelor in Bend, Oregon. Because of the distance, our team is unable to drive to the event. As you can imagine, an airplane ticket on top of the individual registration fee and the club competition fee makes this into a very, very expensive week. Last year, through the University Central Student Government we were able to apply for and receive almost \$1000 in funding to lessen the costs; however, on Sunday, we discovered that this year we received only \$150. This amount, although very appreciated, hardly begins to cover the expenses of the club and each skier competing.

This is where we need your help. The lack of support we have received from the university has made an already expensive trip especially difficult. Representing the University of Michigan last year at a national level was an incredible experience; something that I, as the current president, hope can continue in the years to come. In order to continue representing the university, the state of Michigan, and the fantastic community from which we come, we need outside support. Every donation, big or small, enables our club to continue and allows us to take the "M" to the national level. If you are able to donate, please know that you are making our journey possible and we are *incredibly* thankful for your support.

With utmost gratitude and best wishes,

Abby Potts

President

abpotts@umich.edu

Checks can be made payable and sent to:

Michigan Nordic Ski Club

945 Greenwood Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI

48104

Breakdown of costs per skier:

Airplane ticket: \$500

Individual registration: \$330

Car rental share: \$100

Food for the week: \$50

Housing share: \$50

Please find below the bios of each of the seven skiers that are headed out to Bend, Oregon on March 5th. All have competed their hardest throughout the season, many showing vast improvements and incredible drive. Competing in Bend will be an amazing opportunity and we cannot wait to get there.

**ABBY POTTS**

Abby is a junior studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a minor in French. This is her third year on the team and she is currently the president. Last year was her first year at USCSA Nationals in Lake Placid, NY and it was one of her best memories of college thus far. Getting to compete at a national level against other teams from all around the country was an amazing experience and she can't wait for the years to come. Seeing the growth of this team and all of the hard work that everyone puts in makes her incredibly proud of how far this club has come. She is so thankful to have these wonderful people in her life and to have the amazing support of the ski community.



TIM WILLIAMS

This is Tim's first year on the UM nordic ski team, and first year nordic skiing. Hailing from the beautiful New Zealand, this down-underdog may not (yet) be the fastest on the team, but has his sights set on the coveted *most improved* team member award. Heading to nationals, where his goal is to not come last in every race, Tim looks forward to learning from those around him and refining his technique. He is very excited.



CAROLINE PETERSEN

Caroline is a Junior studying Architecture, Urban Planning, and writing. This is her second year of XC skiing and her second year on the U of M Nordic Ski Team! Last year was her first year at USCSA Nationals in Lake Placid, NY. She's headed back for another round to show the competition all that she's learned this past year! And to get a few laughs out of it, too... of course :)



ELLIE CALLISON

Ellie is a Master's student studying Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. This is her third year of Nordic skiing and her third year on the Team. Last year was her first year at USCSA Nationals and she can't wait to be back again this year. She hopes to show off her major improvements since last year's Nationals.



LARS HALLSTROM

Lars is a Freshman studying an undecided discipline of Engineering and planning on pursuing a Minor in the Environment. He has been skiing with his family his entire life and has greatly enjoyed the opportunity to XC ski with his peers. This will be Lars' first year attending USCSA Nationals and he excited for the opportunity to represent U of M at a national level.



ALLISON WARD

Allison is a Masters student studying Mechanical Engineering. Despite growing up in Alaska she just this year started nordic skiing and is working hard to make up for lost time. This will be her first trip to USCSA Nationals and is excited to represent the maize and blue. She hopes to improve her skiing and not fall too much.



THANASARN (TAY) TANTIVIRUN

Tay hails from the tropical country of Thailand and is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in German studies. It was in 2014 when he hopped on a pair of skis for the first time and fell head over heels in love with the sport. Indeed his favorite season is winter. After graduation, he wants to apply his knowledge in engineering to make the world a better place and hopes to see a smile on people's face wherever in the world he may be.