Did you know that Maine has sent an athlete or coach to every Winter Olympic Games since 1948?

Many other Mainers have served as officials and technical advisors over the years.

We invite you to meet these remarkable people, and explore why Maine is home to so many outstanding Nordic and Alpine skiers, jumpers, and snowboarders.
Maine is a special place

Maine’s landscape, history, and communities have all played a part in the state’s Winter Olympic story.

History
Scandinavian immigrants first brought cross country skiing to Maine in 1870 when the state recruited more than 100 Swedes to immigrate and settle the town of New Sweden in northern Maine. Soon Norwegian and Finnish immigrants followed and settled across the state, bringing their skiing traditions and competitive spirit. In the early 20th century, towns celebrated winter with Winter Carnivals featuring Nordic competitions in cross country and ski jumping. Rivalries and the establishment of ski clubs and ski facilities followed, as Mainers pursued their passion for snow.

Landscape
Maine’s landscape is ideal for developing outstanding winter athletes. From miles and miles of cross country trails to challenging alpine terrain, opportunities to learn and perfect skiing and snowboarding skills abound.

Communities
Maine, a largely rural state, is known for its close knit communities. Several communities have developed strong Nordic and Alpine programs that have encouraged and supported young athletes. Maine’s many small community ski areas make skiing and snowboarding accessible and affordable to a broad range of people, and several Maine high schools have highly competitive ski teams. Talented young skiers ready to take their skills to the next level can attend programs where academic schedules are adjusted to accommodate the ski racing season.

Schools
- Andover High School
- Bates College
- Carrabassett Valley Academy
- Edward Little High School
- Fryeburg Academy
- Gould Academy
- Hebron Academy
- Livermore Falls High School
- Mt. Blue High School
- Mountain Valley High School
- Oxford Hills High School

Ski Areas
- Black Mountain
- Lost Valley
- Sugarloaf
- Sunday River

Visit the Ski Maine Association website to learn more about Maine ski areas. https://skimaine.com/
The modern Olympic Games began in 1896 as a summer event. Twenty-eight years later, the Olympic movement expanded to include the Winter Olympic Games. The original Winter Olympic sports were bobsledding, curling, ice hockey, Nordic skiing (military patrol, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping), and skating (figure skating and speed skating). Alpine skiing, biathlon, freestyle skiing, and snowboarding were added over the years.

The Games were held every four years from 1924 to 1936, interrupted in 1940 and 1944 by World War II, and resumed in 1948. Until 1992, the Winter and Summer Olympic Games were held in the same years. A 1986 decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) placed the Summer and Winter Games on separate four-year intervals in alternating even-numbered years. With this change, the next Winter Olympics after 1992 were in 1994, beginning a new four-year cycle that continued in 1998.

The Winter Paralympic Games, which include athletes with mobility disabilities, amputations, blindness, and cerebral palsy, are held every four years directly following the Winter Olympic Games. The first Winter Paralympics were held in 1976 at Örnsköldsvik, Sweden. Alpine and Nordic skiing for amputees and visually impaired athletes were the main events. The 1992 Winter Paralympics were the first Winter Games to use the same facilities as the Winter Olympics.

**Winter Olympic History**

**The Paralympic Games**

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**Olympic Timeline**

1894 Baron Pierre de Coubertin founds the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
1896 First modern Summer Games in Athens
1924 The First Winter Olympic Games, Chamonix, France
1928 St. Moritz, Switzerland
1932 Lake Placid (NY), United States
1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Alpine Skiing makes its Olympic debut.
1940 Planned for Sapporo, Japan but moved to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, following Japanese invasion of China. Cancelled following the German invasion of Poland
1944 Planned for Cortina D’Ampezzo, Italy, cancelled
1948 St. Moritz, Switzerland. First Mainers in the Winter Olympics.
1952 Oslo, Norway
1956 Cortina D’Ampezzo, Italy
1960 Squaw Valley (CA), United States
Biathlon makes its Olympic debut.
1964 Innsbruck, Austria
1968 Grenoble, France
1972 Sapporo, Japan
1976 Innsbruck, Austria
1980 Lake Placid (NY), United States
1984 Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (now Bosnia & Herzegovina)
1988 Calgary (AB), Canada
1992 Albertville, France
Freestyle Skiing makes its Olympic debut.
1994 Lillehammer, Norway
1998 Nagano, Japan
Snowboarding makes its Olympic debut.
2002 Salt Lake City (UT), United States
2006 Turin, Italy
2010 Vancouver (BC), Canada
2014 Sochi, Russia
2018 Pyeongchang, South Korea
2022 Beijing, People's Republic of China
Maine’s Earliest Olympians

Cross country skiing has given me so much, I felt the need to give back. I am fortunate to be involved in something I love, while giving others the opportunity to enjoy the sport.

- Wendall “Chummy” Broomhall

Wendall "Chummy" Broomhall
1919-2017
Hometown: Rumford, Maine

Chisholm Ski Club
Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Military service: World War II, 10th Mountain Division, 87th Regiment, Company A, 1st Battalion-Detachment 2662

Perhaps Chummy Broomhall’s most important contribution to Maine skiing is the many ways he gave back. A member of the Chisholm Ski Club since 1936, Chummy was instrumental in developing Black Mountain Ski Area, donating hundreds of acres of land and creating a cross country course that has hosted many local and national competitions. He coached and supported generations of young Maine skiers throughout his lifetime.

The Chisholm Ski Club and Black Mountain have produced six winter Olympians, including Chummy and three skiers he coached.

Charles Akers
1939-2016
Hometown: Andover, Maine

Olympic Games
1960, Squaw Valley, Cross Country
1964, Innsbruck, Biathlon

Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Military service: Biathlon Training Unit, Fort Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska

Robert Pidacks
1929-1999
Hometown: Rumford, Maine

Chisholm Ski Club and Gould Academy
Olympic Games
1952, Oslo, Cross Country

Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Military service: Korean War

Wendall’s trip to the 1948 Olympics in Switzerland included planes, trains, and an ocean liner.

Robert Pidacks Memorabilia
Courtesy of the Pidacks family

Broomhall's trip to the 1948 Olympics in Switzerland

1948 Olympic Team
Courtesy of the Broomhall family

Wendall “Chummy” Broomhall Olympic Bib
Courtesy of the Broomhall family
Maine’s Big Year: The 1968 Olympics

Four Mainers competed in the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France: John Bower, Tom Upham, Jim Miller and Jack Lufkin.

A Continuing Legacy

I tried to tap into [Maine’s rich Nordic heritage]. A lot of who I am today was made possible by the opportunities that people gave me to ski.

- Dan Simoneau

It became a goal for us to get on the U.S. national teams, get to the world championships, get to the Olympics. We knew it was possible because other people had done it.

- Tom Upham

I just had an army of supporters at both Olympics. That was really important to me because it felt like the state of Maine was my fan club.

- Leslie Bancroft-Krichko
When I was one of the early athletes to jump on board with what Maine Winter Sports Center was offering, nobody had any idea really how it worked. This was a completely new and revolutionary thing to do.

- Russell Currier

With the Olympics behind me, I feel liberated! I feel like I can go and do my sport because I want to. I can have fun with it.

- Clare Egan
There's not enough words to describe what it was like walking [into the Opening Ceremony], but that's when it hit me: I was a Paralympian.

- Luba Lowery

I was addicted to the speed and the freedom of being on the snow.

- Sara Billmeier

Sit-ski frame built by Craig Gray, and the skis and poles he used with the frame.

- Sara Billmeier

Sarah Billmeier
Born 1977
Hometown: Yarmouth, Maine

Paralympic Games
1992, Albertville, Alpine, LW2
1994, Lillehammer, Alpine, LW2
1998, Nagano, Alpine, LW2
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine, LW2
2006, Torino, Alpine, LW2
2010, Vancouver, Alpine, LW2
2014, Sochi, Alpine, LW2

Billmeier lost a leg to bone cancer at age 5, started skiing at age 8, and won three Paralympic gold medals at age 14. During her eight years on the U.S. Disabled Team she won 6 Paralympic Gold Medals, 6 World Championship titles, and 13 U.S. National Championship crowns, the best record of any Maine skiier, ever.

Carl Burnett
Born 1955
Hometown: Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Paralympic Games
2000, Salt Lake City, Alpine, Sitting
2006, Torino, Alpine, Sitting
2010, Vancouver, Alpine, Sitting

Burnett was paralyzed below the waist in a car crash when he was five years old. He took up ski racing at age 12 after watching a race in New Hampshire, and at age 15, he competed in four junior national titles.

Craig Gray
Born 1955
Hometown: Newport and Scarborough, Maine

New England Wheelchair Athletic Association
Male Athlete of the Year, 2003
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2013

When Craig Gray couldn’t find the available equipment suitable for his needs in the U.S., he worked with his brother-in-law to design and manufacture improved sit-ski and adaptive cross country ski equipment.

Luba Lowery
Born 1988
Hometown: Cumberland, Maine

Paralympic Games
2010, Vancouver, Alpine, Sitting

Luba Lowery was adopted from her native Russia at the age of four by a Maine family, and began skiing in Maine through the Maine Adaptive Sports program at Sunday River when she was 8. She ended up losing a leg to diabetes and bone disease when she was 16, but she kept skiing, joining the ski team three years later.

David Chamberlain
Born 1975
Hometown: Wilton, Maine

Paralympic Games
2014, Sochi, guide for Kevin Burton, Cross Country

Chamberlain was a cross country ski guide and new seat manufacturer, and the head of a cross country ski guide program. He lost his right leg in a car crash when he was 20, but he never gave up, and he was an accomplished cross country skier before an injury ended his career.

Sara Billmeier
Born 1977
Hometown: Yarmouth, Maine

Green Mountain Valley School, Vermont

Paralympic Games
1992, Albertville, Alpine, LW2
1994, Lillehammer, Alpine, LW2
1998, Nagano, Alpine, LW2
1999, Nagano, Cross Country, Sitting
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine, LW2
2006, Torino, Alpine, LW2

Billmeier lost a leg to bone cancer at age 5, started skiing at age 8, and won three Paralympic gold medals at age 14. During her eight years on the U.S. Disabled Team she won 6 Paralympic Gold Medals, 6 World Championship titles, and 13 U.S. National Championship crowns, the best record of any Maine skiier, ever.

At the Olympics, Sara won a total of six gold medals, four silvers, and one bronze, becoming the first female呐 Olympic gold medalist in cross country skiing.

Sara Billmeier
Born 1977
Hometown: Yarmouth, Maine

Green Mountain Valley School, Vermont

Paralympic Games
1992, Albertville, Alpine, LW2
1994, Lillehammer, Alpine, LW2
1998, Nagano, Alpine, LW2
1999, Nagano, Cross Country, Sitting
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine, LW2
2006, Torino, Alpine, LW2

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Luba Lowery
Born 1988
Hometown: Cumberland, Maine

She grew up in a small town in Russia, and was adopted by a family in Maine. She started skiing at a young age and was quickly seen as a talented athlete.

When Luba was 16, she lost a leg to diabetes, but she continued to ski and eventually became an accomplished Paralympic skier.

David Chamberlain
Born 1975
Hometown: Wilton, Maine

Paralympic Games
2014, Sochi, guide for Kevin Burton, Cross Country

David Chamberlain grew up in a small town in Maine, and was introduced to skiing at a young age.

He worked as a cross country ski guide and new seat manufacturer, and was a part of a cross country ski guide program in Maine.

When David lost his right leg in a car crash, he decided to start a cross country ski guide program in Maine, and he became a successful guide and new seat manufacturer.

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When David lost his right leg in a car crash, he decided to start a cross country ski guide program in Maine, and he became a successful guide and new seat manufacturer.
You are representing your country, but it feels more like you’re representing your state. Those are the people that you interact with and that have supported you. …When you’re there, at the Olympics, you’re carrying all those people’s hopes and dreams.  
- Seth Wescott

Seth Wescott
Born: 1976  
Hometown: Farmington and Carrabassett Valley  
Carrabassett Valley Academy  
Maine Sports Hall of Fame, 2011

Seth Wescott is one of the most accomplished and decorated athletes in snowboarding history. He reached the podium in every major snowboardcross (SBX) event in the world - the Olympics, United States National Championships, Winter X Games, and World Championships. Seth was the first Olympic Gold Medalist in SBX, winning its Olympic debut at the Turin Winter Games in 2006, and successfully defending his title at the Vancouver Winter Games in 2010. These days, Wescott divides his time between designing snowboards for his company, Winterstick, advocating for active lifestyles for kids in Maine through Take It Outside and WinterKids, and working with other outdoor athletes at Protect Our Winters. You might find him carving fresh powder riding among the peaks of Alaska's mountain ranges, and catching waves on his surfboard. Wescott is also a business partner at The Rack BBQ, a restaurant at Sugarloaf.

I just wanted to have fun with my friends. It’s still like that but it got me to the Olympics. So that’s pretty cool.
- Troy Murphy
Julie Parisien
Born 1971
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Lost Valley and Sugarloaf
Burke Mountain Academy
Olympic Games
1992, Albertville, Alpine
1994, Lillehammer, Alpine
1998, Nagano, Alpine
Alpine Skier of the Year, Ski Racing Magazine, 1990
Maine Sports Hall of Fame, 2001
U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, 2006
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2008

Julie Parisien got her skiing start at Lost Valley at the age of two and soon was racing her brothers and sister down those slopes. Through grade school Julie skied after school at Lost Valley and on weekends with the family at Sugarloaf.

As a high school freshman she moved to Burke Mountain Academy to seriously pursue her goal of becoming a world class ski racer.

Parisien is known for her toughness and perseverance. While training for the 1992 Olympics, Julie fell and broke her wrist. But rather than quit, her dad, an orthopedist, made her a special cast that allowed her to keep training. You can see the mitt she wore over the cast in the photo above. She went on to a strong fourth place finish in the slalom at Albertville.

Julie Parisien comes from a family of top-notch competitive skiers. Her siblings Rob and Anne-Lise also competed at the Olympics in Alpine skiing. Their eldest brother, Jean Paul (1968–1992), captained the Williams College ski team and coached at Burke Mountain Academy.

Anne-Lise Parisien
Born 1972
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Lost Valley and Sugarloaf
Burke Mountain Academy
Olympic Games
1994, Lillehammer, Alpine
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2014

Early in her career, Anne-Lise dominated junior skiing in the U.S., winning multiple medals.

Karl Anderson
Born 1953
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Edward Little High School
Olympic Games
1976, Innsbruck, Alpine
1980, Lake Placid, Alpine
Maine Sports Hall of Fame, 2001
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2005

Karl Anderson was the first Maine skier to represent the U.S. in an Alpine event at the Olympics.

When Anderson retired from competition, he moved on to leadership roles in U.S. skiing at the national and Olympic levels. He also became a great supporter of the Special Olympics program and served as coach for Maine Special Olympics.

Kirsten Clark-Rickenbach
Born 1977
Hometown: Raymond, Maine
Carrollwood Valley Academy
Olympic Games
1998, Nagano, Alpine
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine
2006, Turin, Alpine
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2010
U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, 2012
Maine Sports Hall of Fame, 2016

Kirsten Clark-Rickenbach is fast, very fast, on skis. She was about nine when she and her brother Sean would head to the woods at Sugarloaf to warm up on Morse while crossing ski patrol. But she doesn’t recall ever getting in trouble. “They couldn’t catch us.”

Clark-Rickenbach may not have won any Olympic medals, but her record in U.S. National Championships and World Cup competition speaks volumes. In 1999 she won the first of four straight U.S. Downhill titles, the only U.S. woman to achieve that feat. Kirsten competed for the U.S. in six World Championships, winning the silver medal in the Super G in 2003.

Karl Anderson was the first Maine skier to represent the U.S. in an Alpine event at the Olympics.
Coach Al Merrill
Hometown: Andover, Maine
Hebron Academy and Pineland Ski Club

Olympic Games
1940, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
(qualified as athlete but games canceled)
1956, Cortina D’Ampezzo, U.S. Nordic Team Coach
1960, Squaw Valley, Nordic Chief of Course
1964, Innsbruck, U.S. Nordic Team Coach
1968, Grenoble, U.S. Nordic Team Coach
1980, Lake Placid, Nordic Chief of Race

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, 1974
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2003

Military service: World War II, 83rd Infantry Division, Europe; Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star.

Merrill coached the U.S. Nordic ski team in three Olympics, and served as an official at two additional Olympic Games. He was the American representative to the cross country committee of the International Ski Federation for over two decades. Merrill was also the coach of the Dartmouth College ski team from 1956 to 1972.

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Coach Peter Davis
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Edward Little High School

Olympic Games
1980, Lake Placid, Assistant Coach, U.S. Nordic Team

Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2015
Peter Davis directed programs and coached Nordic athletes in Vermont and Wisconsin. He served as an assistant coach for the U.S. at the 1978 World Nordic Championships and head coach of the 1979 U.S. World Junior Nordic team.

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Coach Bob Harkins
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Edward Little High School

Olympic Games
1988, Calgary, Alpine Operations Manager

Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2010
Bob Harkins has directed and coached Alpine skiing programs at Sunday River, Gould Academy, and in Oregon and Washington.

As Director of Skiing at Sunday River, Harkins was part of the team that created the innovative Perfect Turn Skier Development Program.

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Coach Mike Day
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Carrabassett Valley Academy

Olympic Games
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2018, Pyeongchang, Alpine, Women’s Coach

Mike Day coached with the U.S. Men’s Alpine team for many years, and returned to Team USA in 2016 to coach Olympic gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin.

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Coach Forest Carey
Hometown: Kingfield, Maine
Carrabassett Valley Academy

Olympic Games
1998, Nagano, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2002, Salt Lake City, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2006, Turin, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2010, Vancouver, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2014, Sochi, Alpine, Men’s Coach
2018, Pyeongchang, Alpine, Men’s Coach

Forest Carey coached Olympic and World Championship skiers Bode Miller and Ted Ligety.

He received the USSA International Coach of the Year Award in 2011 and 2015, and coached alpine skiing at Middlebury College and Carrabassett Valley Academy.
Mainers have contributed their expertise as officials at the Winter Olympics since the 1960s. Some, like Chummy Broomhall and Al Merrill, crossed over from being Olympic athletes and coaches. These are some of the Mainers who officiated at Olympic Games and served their field in so many ways.

Jean Luce  
Hometown: Portland, Maine  
Sugarloaf Ski Club  
Olympic Games  
1980, Lake Placid, Organizing Committee and Alpine Events Administrator  
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2004  
Jean has officiated at every level of ski racing: World Cup, World Championship, and Olympic. As a member of the organizing committee for the Lake Placid Olympics, Luce spent three years organizing and training volunteers. She also served as Chairman of USEASA Freestyle Committee and Alpine Committee, and wrote the Eastern Freestyle Rule Book in 1969. Luce served six years on the USEA Board of Directors. She led the process of organizing the 1971 Tall Timber Classic World Cup Race at Sugarloaf, and was a leading founder of Carrabassett Valley Academy.

Galen Sayward  
Hometown: Guilford, Maine  
Olympic Games  
1980, Lake Placid, Cross Country Chief of Hand Timing Calculations  
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2007  
Sayward was also selected to judge ski jumping at the Lake Placid Olympics, but since jumping and cross country were taking place at the same time, he chose cross country.

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Homtown, Portland, Maine
Sugarloaf Ski Club
Olympic Games
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Sayward was also selected to judge ski jumping at the Lake Placid Olympics, but since jumping and cross country were taking place at the same time, he chose cross country.

Tom Kendall
Hometown, Auburn, Maine
Olympic Games
1980, Lake Placid, Assistant Chief of Protocol, Cross Country
2002, Salt Lake City, Chief of Timing, Cross Country and Biathlon
Maine Ski Hall of Fame, 2015
A specialist in ski race timing, Kendall developed a computer timing and scoring system which he called B.A.R.T., for “Best Available Race Timing.” It was first used to compile and print results at Black Mountain for the Châtelain Ski Club in the 1980s. He continued to improve and refine the system, and it has been used for club skiing and by schools and colleges.
EASTON, MAINE—

Eric Kankainen
Structural Engineer
Hometown: Kingfield, Maine

Maine Eric Kankainen grew up skiing at Sugarloaf. He was the Structural Engineer of Record for all facilities provided by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympics. He received the Utah Engineer of the Year Award for his Winter Olympics work.

Chisholm Ski Club Volunteers
Members of the Chisholm Ski Club served as volunteers at all three Winter Games hosted by the U.S.:

**Squaw Valley, 1960**
Chummy Broomhall
Bucky Broomhall
John Roderick
Ed MacDonald

**Lake Placid, 1980**
Chummy Broomhall
Aurele Legere
Al Miller
Hal Buck
Francis Gauthier
Leonide Arseneau
Al Beane
Scott Broomhall
Bill Chenard
Ed MacDonald

**Salt Lake City, 2002**
Chummy Broomhall
Bucky Broomhall
Ray Broomhall
Scott Broomhall
Dan Warner
Tom Kendall
Dick & Mary Kendall
Rich Riedel
Tom Ross
Herb Adams
Dave Hanzen
Peter Hale
Rick Hale
Neil Giberson
Paul Jones

Thx — Wendell “Chummy” Broomhall’s Chief of Race Credentials 1960 Olympics
Courtesy of the Broomhall family

Thank you for supporting the Maine Olympians exhibit!

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