Adaptive Recreation in Vermont

How Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport builds community through accessible recreation, partnerships, and inclusion
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Imagine… Being in a recreational based community and not being able to access it.

Vermont #1 for Healthy Eating & Exercise - Gallup Poll, March 2014

“One of the greatest places to live” - Burlington ranked #7 in ‘Outside Magazine’

“America’s Best Adventure Towns” as ranked by National Geographic
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports

- **Mission:** Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports is committed to empowering individuals with disabilities. We promote independence and further equality through access and instruction to sports and recreational activities.

- Average 3,000 different outings a year
Why should you care about accessibility?

- ADA
  - Everyone needs to be “adaptive”
  - Minimum standard
- Inclusion
  - Social
  - Activity
  - Physical
- Universal Accessibility
  - Universal design
Have you ever…

• put on sunglasses, a hat, or sunscreen at the beach?
• turned on the air condition in the car on a hot day?
• wore a wetsuit for cold water?
• used chalk while climbing?
• brought trekking poles on a hike?
Times are changing...
How do we do it?

How can you help more people with disabilities access recreation?

PARTNERS!!
Types of Partnerships
Host

• Ski Resorts
  • Bolton Valley Ski Resort
  • Sugarbush Ski Resort
  • Pico/Killington Ski Resort
• Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
Service

- Adult Day Centers
- Schools
- Department of Blind and Visually Impaired
- Veteran’s Affairs
Other

- Kelly Brush Foundation
- High Fives Foundation
- Disabled Sports USA
What Does Vermont Adaptive Look For in a Partner?

- Mutually Beneficial
  - Know your strengths as an organization
  - Shared Resources
    - Marketing, Equipment, Expertise, Tax Benefits, Access to Capital, Revenue, Athletes (clients), Volunteers
- Shared Values
- Multiply your impact
Lessons Learned and Suggestions

• Hold true to your mission and values
• Don’t undervalue your immediate resources; staff, volunteers, athletes
Contact
Hypothesis

Society

People with disabilities