



National Sports Center for the Disabled Receives The North Face 2016 Explore Fund Grant



The funding will support the National Sports Center for the Disabled 2016 summer outdoor rock climbing program

DENVER, Colo. – June 30, 2016 – The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) is proud to announce The North Face awarded a 2016 Explore Fund grant for their 2016 outdoor rock climbing program. The NSCD's rock climbing program provides the opportunity for people with all types of disabilities to get outside and experience the sport of rock climbing. In venues across the Front Range of Colorado, NSCD participants of all ability levels work with expert instructors to set and achieve individual therapeutic goals. Climbing improves the fitness, functional skills, and quality of life of people with disabilities while also providing the opportunity for socialization and fun in the outdoors.

"The NSCD is honored to have received this grant from The North Face to assist in getting more people outside and engage in outdoor exploration, specifically our summer rock climbing program," said Becky Zimmermann, President & CEO of the NSCD. "Being one of the largest outdoor therapeutic recreation and adaptive sports agencies in the world, we understand the importance and healing power the outdoors can bring and the support of organizations such as The North Face Explore Fund is crucial to the NSCD's ability to keep program costs affordable for our participants."

The NSCD's rock climbing program takes place in a variety of locations across the Front Range of Colorado, including Eldorado Canyon, Clear Creek Canyon, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, and Castlewood Canyon. The majority of climbing program sites are on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

The North Face selected a total of 45 nonprofits that engage their participants in opportunities that inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors. Selected programs use outdoor exploration as a catalyst for positive personal or societal change, to encourage participants to try new outdoor activities, and promote environmental stewardship values.

"Encouraging people to experience and enjoy the outdoors has been our mission at The North Face since we were founded 50 years ago," said Ann Krcik, senior director of Outdoor Exploration at The North Face. "We are proud to support these outstanding programs that expose participants to the beauty and joy of the outdoors. Through these Explore Fund grants, we are building a community of outdoor explorers and inspiring people to love and protect the places where we play."

The NSCD was founded in 1970 initially providing ski lessons for children with amputations for Children's Hospital Colorado. Through the years, the programs have evolved and progressed into much more. Each year, more than 3,000 children and adults with disabilities participate in NSCD programs to learn more about sports and themselves. With specially trained staff and volunteers, and its own adaptive equipment lab, the NSCD teaches a variety of year-round sports and activities to individuals with almost any physical, cognitive, emotional or behavioral diagnosis. All programs are designed for individuals, families and groups and are available for all levels of ability, from beginner to advanced.

As part of its mission to start a global movement of outdoor exploration, The North Face introduced Explore Fund (www.explorefund.org) in 2010 and the program has since provided more than \$2.2 million in grants to organizations committed to inspiring people to explore the outdoors and care for the environment.

To learn more about the NSCD and summer rock climbing program, visit www.NSCD.org.

About NSCD

The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) began in 1970 as a one-time ski lesson for children with amputations for Children's Hospital Colorado. Today, the NSCD is one of the largest outdoor therapeutic recreation agencies in the world. Each year, thousands of children and adults with disabilities take to the ski slopes, mountain trails and playing fields to learn more about sports and themselves. With specially trained staff and its own adaptive equipment lab, the NSCD teaches a variety of winter and summer sports and activities to individuals with almost any physical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral diagnosis. For more information about the NSCD visit <http://nscd.org> or like us on [Facebook](#) for updates about our programs and athletes.

About The North Face®

The North Face, a division of VF Outdoor, Inc., was founded in 1966. Headquartered in Alameda, California, the company offers the most technically advanced products in the market to accomplished climbers, mountaineers, snowsport athletes, endurance athletes, and explorers. The company's products are sold in specialty mountaineering, backpacking, running, and snowsport retailers, premium-sporting goods retailers and major outdoor specialty retail chains.

Media contact:
Ashley Cattolica

Fitzgerald Petersen Communications for NSCD
970.381.3481
Ashley@fitzgeraldpetersen.com

Caren Bell
On behalf of The North Face
510.748.2742
Caren_Bell@vfc.com

###