



**45**<sup>th</sup>  
*Annual*

**JANUARY 21-25, 2024**

# Welcome to Ski for Light

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### Dear SFL Friends and Family,

Welcome to the 45th Annual Black Hills Regional Ski for Light event! Each year the town of Deadwood comes alive as our Ski for Light family comes together to meet new friends, renew acquaintances, and enjoy our time together with exciting activities. At the time of publication, we were still crossing our fingers for some much-needed snow on the cross country side which will give all a chance to try out our brand-new cross country skis and boots which we obtained this past year. The boots are waterproof so hopefully cold, wet feet will be a thing of the past. The folks at Terry Peak, where we hold our downhill skiing activities, have been busy making snow. We just need Mother Nature to help us out a bit.

The organizers for this year's event have been working hard to provide exciting activities during the day and at night. You can try your hand at cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, or riding snowmobiles during the day. At night, the slot tournament always brings out the competitive beast in our folks. Test your pipes at karaoke, or dance to the tunes at the Historic Saloon #10. The bumper tubes on Wednesday night also provide a lot of fun. Located across from the Franklin Hotel in Outlaw Square, there is a shuttle for those who may need it.

As you travel around the historic town of Deadwood, please thank the local businesses for what they do to support our organization. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to our board members, who are wearing blue coats. Enjoy your week at this year's event!

### *The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light Board of Directors*

## Black Hills Regional Board of Directors

Ray Bubb *President*

Chris Gould *Vice President*

Eric Lowe *Secretary*

Lisa Fitzner *Treasurer*

Marcie Brumbaugh

George Lee

Tim Brumbaugh

Dale McMillin

John Gould

Laurie Robbenolt

Diana Graham

Vern Shafer

Kelly Harnett

Paul Soulek

Adam Krumwiede

Eric Vetter

Robyn Kyte

# New to Ski for Light?

## Here is Some Information for You!

Each year we have a number of new folks at Ski for Light who are unsure of what the week entails. Because some of us have been doing this for years, we take for granted that everyone else knows what to expect and for that we apologize. But if you are unsure of anything or need anything, please ask!! You will find we are a very accommodating group to be with.

Sunday is registration day. Everyone should go to the Mineral Palace between 2:00-5:00 to register. You will then turn in all the raffle tickets you sold, pay any balance due, find out which hotel and room you are assigned, receive a program which includes a schedule of events for the week, get a name tag, get banquet tickets and meal vouchers you've paid or qualify for or you may buy them there. There will also be SFL souvenirs for sale. At 5:00, there will be a wine and cheese meet and greet and at 7:00 there will be a new person orientation and Question & Answer session.

If you are a participant who signed up to Cross Country Ski: You will find out who your guide for the week is either on Sunday at registration or Monday at the cross country site. Check the schedule to find out when the bus leaves to go to the cross country site. On Monday, you will meet up with your guide, receive your equipment and then you are set to ski on the 1K and 5K trails. You will have a chance to sign up during the week for race day on Thursday. Races are finished by noon.

If you are a participant who signed up to snowshoe: you can go to the cross country site on Monday to be paired with your guide.

At the Cross Country site: there is a warming tent and lunch will be served everyday but Thursday in which you can go back to the Mineral Palace hotel and eat with a provided meal voucher, or, you may go to the downhill side at Terry Peak and eat lunch with a provided meal voucher and cheer on the downhill participants during their races.

If you are a participant who signed up to do both Cross Country and Downhill: you will find out who your guide is either on Sunday at registration or Monday at the cross country site. You signed up to Downhill: Visually impaired skiers will be assigned a guide for the week and will find out who your guide is on Monday morning at Terry Peak. Check the schedule to see when the bus leaves for the site. Your guide or a volunteer will help you get your equipment needed after you get a rental slip from the downhill coordinator. If you are a mobility impaired skier you will come to the site and sign up with the downhill coordinator for adaptive skis and wait until it's your turn to use the ski. You will have many different guides during the week. Race day for visually impaired stand-up skiers is Wednesday so sign up before then. Race day for physically impaired participants is Thursday so sign up before then. There is no recreational skiing for adaptive skiers on race day until all the races are finished.

At Terry Peak, the Downhill site: There will be two downhill coordinators. The inside coordinator will assign you a guide if you

are a visually impaired skier; adaptive skiers will get signed up for a turn on an adaptive ski and let you know when it's your turn. The outside coordinator will help you get your adaptive ski and guides. You will be provided meal vouchers every day from the SFL t-shirt table to eat lunch at the cafeteria.

If you are a volunteer who signed up to guide cross country: You will find out who you are assigned to guide for the week either Sunday night at registration or Monday at the cross country site. Check the schedule to see when you will meet for training on Monday morning at the site. We encourage you to help your participant out during the week, and help them sign up for races on Thursday.

If you are a volunteer who signed up to guide BOTH cross country and downhill: You will find out who you are assigned to guide for the week either Sunday night at registration or Monday at the cross country site. You will meet your participant on Monday morning at the cross country site and xc ski there for the day. You will meet your participant on the downhill side on Tuesday and help them get their equipment and ski there for the day. You will be expected to help your participant out during the week and get them signed up for DH races on Wednesday and XC races on Thursday.

If you are a volunteer who signed up to guide Downhill: You will meet on Monday morning at 8:30 AM at Terry Peak to help unload the trailer (and everyday thereafter) and then go through training for adaptive skiing and guiding visually impaired skier. Some of you will be assigned a visually impaired skier to guide for the week and you should make sure to help your participant get signed up for their race day on Wednesday. Some of you will be guiding participants in adaptive skis. Your day will consist of taking turns guiding different participants in different skis. There are usually 2 guides that will go with a participant in the adaptive ski, make 3 runs and return to see if the ski or guides are needed for another participant's turn. Please make sure the downhill coordinator knows that you are available to guide and wait for an assignment.

General Information: You may eat breakfast and supper wherever you choose in Deadwood but if you purchase or qualify for meal vouchers, they may only be used at The Gem Restaurant located in the Mineral Palace. They will have a breakfast buffet available every morning and supper, every night. On Monday night, we usually meet at the Saloon Number 10 for a free supper which is donated by a kind contributor of Ski for Light, but check your schedule to be sure.

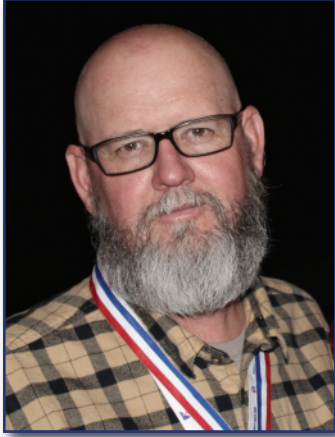
In the evening, there will be different activities available, like, karaoke night, a slot tournament, a picnic and bonfire at the cross country site, so be sure to check your schedule to see what's available.

The registration room at the Mineral Palace Hotel will be open most nights to any and all who would like a place to visit or play music and hang out. Check the schedule for available night.

# Thank You to Our Dedicated Board Members

The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light Board of Directors wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the hard work and years of dedication to three board members who stepped

down after last year's event but will continue to support us in their future endeavors. Bill Young, or BY as he is known by all, served on the board for a number of years, was president of the organization for the last several years, and was also the primary coordinator for the cross country activities. Steve Sanders directed the setting of the country courses for a number of years and also helped organize the bicycle rides during the Summer Light event. Betsy Carbo was our treasurer for several years and a primary coordinator for the snowmobile rides at the event. It is through the selfless efforts of these three individuals that our organization has continued to enjoy its success. Thanks again for a job well-done!



*Billy "BY" Young*



*Steve Sanders*



*Betsy Carbo*

## TSA Cares

### ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT TRAVELING WITH A DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION?

TSA offers screening information and assistance to travelers upon request through TSA Cares at (855) 787-2227. TSA Cares is designed to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions and others who may need additional assistance with screening. TSA Cares is staffed, to provide travelers information on what to expect during the screening process, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET on weekends and holiday.



Through TSA Cares, a traveler may request the services of a TSA Passenger Support Specialist (PSS), who can provide assistance through security screening. A PSS is a TSA officer who has received specialized training, including how to effectively assist and communicate with individuals with disabilities or medical conditions; and travelers who need additional screening assistance. Requesting PSS service does not exempt you from security screening

## Major Sponsors

*Thank You!*



# Adaptive Ski Weekend February 9-11, 2024

Free introduction and review  
of adaptive skiing

Check in by the food lodge

# Sioux Falls Adaptive Skiing Event



Please complete the online rental waiver ahead  
of your first visit of the season:

[sportcodestore.com/GreatBear/rental](https://sportcodestore.com/GreatBear/rental)

## Questions?

Contact Dan Grider  
605-367-4309 ext. 3  
Kirsten Gerdes 605-333-6833  
or Lisa Klein 605-333-4537



# great bear

SKI VALLEY

5901 E Rice Street  
Sioux Falls, SD

February 9 | Noon - 5:00pm

February 10 & 11 | 10:00am - 3:30pm

- **Scheduled** two-hour Adaptive ski times are available
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled ski time
- Skiers must be at least 6 years old to participate
- Weight limit of 225 lbs. for sit skiers and 250 lbs. for stand skiers
- You will be contacted to schedule a ski time
- Please do not attend if you are ill

**PRIVATE ADAPTIVE SKI LESSONS**  
ARE AVAILABLE BY RESERVATION THROUGH GREAT BEAR  
<https://greatbearpark.com/lessons>

Additional Adaptive Ski Instruction  
dates are available to schedule on  
Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

for \$40 a lesson:

February 8

February 15

February 22

February 29

Check-in at 5:30 pm

All applications are due to  
Kirsten Gerdes by January 26, 2024

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

# Summer Light

*THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BE HELD:*  
**Friday, August 16 - Sunday, August 18, 2024**

The Summer Light event at Camp Bob Marshall continues to grow in popularity. Located in the heart of the beautiful Black Hills, six miles east of Custer on the northeast shore of Bismarck Lake, Camp Bob Marshall is a 4-H Camp which provides cabins and shower facilities at Bob Marshall that are wheelchair accessible. You are also welcome to bring your camper.

Fishing, canoeing and kayaking, and swimming on Bismarck Lake are key recreational activities. Bob Marshall's setting, the picturesque ponderosa pine forest of the southern Black Hills intermingled with aspen and spruce, is an ideal area for bird watching, nature and rock studies. Biking on the Mickelson Trail near Bob Marshall has become very popular for our group. It ends at a local



*Summer Light - Bismarck Lake*



*Summer Light - biking the Mickelson*

restaurant where bikers can relax and enjoy drinks and a meal. At night, sitting around the campfire listening to music and singing cap an eventful day.

For many who attend, Camp Bob Marshall is the last chance to relax before the school year starts. This event is very family-friendly so feel free to bring your family and have them meet your Ski for Light friends.



*Summer Light with Tim, Eric, and Eric*



*Summer Light with Steve and Tim*

# Who's Who at Ski for Light

## Listed below are the Participants for the 45th Annual Black Hills Ski for Light

Tammy Adams	Robert Burnham	Crystal Hollenbeck	Sarah Lawson	Patricia Neumeyer	Kimberly Scherbarth
Brant Adams	Tanya Cady	Michael Hutchens	Katherine Lawson	Jennifer Okell	Kenda Slavin
Pasquale Agnone	Brian Corwin	Lia Jacobsen	Nathan Leier	Gloria Olivo	Earl Smith
Brianne Alley	Casey Davidson	Jill Johnson	Karen Lemmon	Brock Oster	Richard Sobetski
Sarah Anson	Jacob Durham	Sylvia Jonas	Kaye Leslie	Mark Paquette	Roy Sonne
John Bartos	Jacey Enget	Chris Jonas	Hope Magelky	Nick Pavel	Colin Speidel-Wetzseeon
Eric Biggar	Kylie Forth	Bhavani Jorgensen	Dylan Martz	John Paxman	Pam Spisak
Ryan Christopher Biro	Alexander France	Blake Jorgensen	Mahesh Mathew	Jeff Peterson	Dawn "Sunrise" Srstka
William Boever	Donnie Frasier	Anthony Julson	Steven Max-Faults	Heather Pham	Lexee Steffan
Tracy Bradley	Agatha Gietzen	Tyler Juranek	Michael McDermott	Doug Puetz	Matthew Thomson
Richard Branaugh	Karla Gilbride	Tara Knudson	Tanner McVay	Mika Pyyhkala	Shirley Tomlinson
Paula Briscoe	Susan Lee Guest	Slava Kotova	Kenneth Meyers	Kim Richards	Dan Treffer
David Brown	Jill Guilbeau	Olga Kotova	Virginia Miller	Connor Roemen	Derek Turner
Lyle Bruins	Harley Haynes	Jay Kronfeld	Lauren Morales	Sheryl Rogge	Tyrel Turner
Angie Brummond	Linda Hillberg	Kari Krumwiede	Merisa Musemic	Richard Rueda	Bob Uecker
Mark Bulger	Michael Hoepfner	Katie Larson	Jeremy Neuheisel	Mickie Saltzman	Eric Vetter
					Francisco Xuncax

## Listed below are the Guides and Volunteers for the 45th Annual Black Hills Ski for Light

Sydney Allen	Diana Cornford	Alex Greger	Casey Keough	Augustin Murra	Vern Shafer
Steven Alley	Stephanie Davis	Greg Gunderson	Heidi Keough	Shayna Oosthuysen	Hannah Shafer
Bobbi Jo Aune	Kaye Dial	Shawn Gunderson	Ward Kinney	Jackie Oster	John Skulborstad
Michael Avveduto	Isabelle Dominguez	Anita Gust	Kathy Kinney	Diana Pace	Stacy Smith
Brayden Bahr	Scott Doty	Kelly Harnett	Adam Krumwiede	Larry Pawlowski	Mike Smith
Shelly Baker	Egon Dzintars	Brandon Harvey	Elijah Kruse	April Pawlowski	Paul Soulek
Elizabeth Baker	Scott Eckroth	Jennifer Hasvold	Jerry Kruse	Joseph Payette	Robyne Staiger
Beth Bakke/Stenehjem	Lance Enget	Perry Hattorf	Miranda Kruse	Gary Pedersen	Douglas B Stip
Michael Beason	Linnea Evans	Ildi Hattorf	Robyn Kyte	Richard Perdue	Elizabeth Stoutland
Porfirio Belmontes	Stormy Fanning	Dana Haug	George Lee	Tracy Perdue	Bonnie Streitz
Jean Bening	Kayla Fender	Dan Hawley	Peter Lee	Anna Perry	Nicolette Thomson
Allan Bening	Shirley Fender	Angie Hoff	Michael Lee	Tami Petersen	Rob Van Dam, Jr.
Bob Berryman	Michael Fischer	Nora Hoffmann	Timothy A. Lemmon	Stephen Peterson	Judah Vance
David Best	Lisa Fitzner	Curt Hohman	David Long	Katherine "Kitty" Pitts	Micheale (Kel) Vance
Jan Brandt	Emma Flynn	Ava Hohn	Teri Long	Diana Reichel	Mark Walker
Samantha Brekke	Julie Follette	Patti Houge	Suzanne Luken	Steve Robbennolt	Harold Walker
Marcie Brumbaugh	Earnest Fry	Cheryl Hutchens	David Martin	Laurie Robbennolt	Pam Walker
Tim Brumbaugh	Linda Fry	Katrina Hutchison	Diane McClain	Ron Rolinskas	Brent Wangler
Cove Brummond	Mary-Beth Gardner	Robert Jackson	Marlyn McClain	Fred Romanjenko	Bob Williams
Ray Bubb	Alan Gease	Petra Janes	David J. McCloud	Mary Roth	Bertha Woehler
Stuart Campbell	Chris Gould	Rick Johnson	Dale McMillin	Steve Sanders	Danny Woehler
Mark Carbo	John Gould	Janice Jones	Jack Mergen	Dave Schaefer	Betty Jo (BJ) Wylie
Betsy Carbo	Charles Gould	Jamie Jorgensen	Troy Mergen	Kendra Scheidt	Grace Wylie
John Cargill	Frank Gould	Mike Julson	Robert Miller	Bruce Schmidt	Melissa Yackley
Cathy Caron	Imogen Gould	Doug Kasten	Kyah Miller	Chris Sewell	Ron Yeager
Hayden Christensen	Oliver Gould	Mark Kautto	Mark Milligan	Brooklyn Sewell	Debbie Yeager
Chantel Ciavarella	Diana Graham	Carol Kennedy	JoAnna Mitchell	Steve Sewell III	Katie Young
					Mike Yuds

Please note that there may have been changes after this publication went to press.



# Ms. Wheelchair America 2024



*Editor's Note: Joseph Payette, affectionately known as "Uncle Joe" when he first attended the Black Hills Regional Ski for Light with his niece, Mariah Kilbourne, who won the title of Ms. Wheelchair America several years ago, was asked to be a judge at this year's Ms. Wheelchair America competition in August. His experience as a judge for this year's pageant is detailed below. Being a part of the competition further indicates our strong association with the national organization.*

**Ms. Wheelchair America started in 1972** with Dr Phillip Wood. It has continued the legacy with diverse titleholders and volunteers to empower, encourage and celebrate the unique abilities of all and help remove the barriers facing those with disabilities.



This year marks the 51st year of MWA. Eighteen state title holders gathered from across the country in Grand Rapids Michigan at the Amway Grand Plaza for a competition based on the advocacy of achievement, communication & presentation. A city of bridges, it is a wonderful clean and accessible metro

location allowing for the enjoyment of eateries, hotels, walks, parks, and museums by everyone.

I was invited and joined a representative from the Mary Free Bed Guild, Mobility Works and member of Team USA 2008 in judging an application, essay, two interview sessions and a platform speech by these 18 outstanding competitors. I witnessed women - mothers and daughters, authors and artists, teachers and students, born or later in life requiring the need of a wheelchair being free-spirited and orderly, poised and confident, motivated and determined, meeting new friends while expanding their abilities and readying to take on the world or at least their part of the world.

The judging led all to the stage where the top five finalists were recognized. These five each answered two questions from a judge. And there, in front of the crowning nights audience, once all scores were tabulated, Ms. Wheelchair America 2024 was announced - Ms. Wheelchair Maryland Chandra Smith. She now represents the other title holders and all of America. There were additional acknowledgements and awards for many and all, I believe, were better for this experience.

As I did when I introduced myself to the candidates, I say to Black Hills Ski for Light participants and volunteers – That I believe we all approach the 'day to day' a little differently. And if we can take some time to make another's approach more comfortable and enjoyable, we will better understand and respect each other. Enjoy the Day!





# Chandra Smith

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 2024

Chandra Smith is an IT engineer currently serving the 508 IT accessibility team for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). She is a woman of faith, a poet by night, and a dreamer. With a passion for both elegant code and the power of words, Chandra finds beauty in the complexities of algorithms, just as she does in the cadence of a well-written verse.

Born to two disabled parents, Chandra was introduced to challenges and hardships at a tender age. Her father suffered four strokes by the time she was a teenager. Her mother passed away last year from Sarcoidosis, a debilitating lung disease. Her mother's battle with Sarcoidosis shaped her resilience and became her greatest inspiration.

Growing up in a low-income family, Chandra understood that education was her family's ticket out of poverty. She embraced this belief wholeheartedly, becoming a first-generation college graduate with not just one but three master's degrees.

With over a decade of experience in the intelligence field, Chandra's career has been nothing short of remarkable. Starting at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), she worked as a Deloitte contractor before finding her place at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Her journey at DIA started as just an IT engineer, but she soon found herself supporting the 508 office, a role she initially knew nothing about.

Determined to make a difference, Chandra immersed herself in the world of accessibility. She followed people with

disabilities and engaged with disability communities to expand her knowledge. Whenever possible, she championed the cause of accessibility, juggling multiple roles, including serving as the Vice President of DIA's chapter of BIG (Blacks in Government) and organizing the first-ever IT accessibility symposium at DIA.

However, life took an unexpected turn in the fall of 2021. Chandra's health deteriorated, leading to a hospitalization that would change her life forever. Faced with multi-organ failure, she was put on life-support, and the medication that saved her caused sepsis, resulting in three life-saving amputations. In a coma for three weeks, she also suffered a stroke that affected the mobility of her right hand, her only intact limb. But Chandra's fighting spirit prevailed.

Emerging from the hospital after a year and a day, including six months in a burn unit due to medical burns covering 25 percent of her body, she defied the odds and embraced a world that had drastically changed. Every staircase became a hurdle, every email a creative challenge, and every familiar place a new adventure. Yet, armed with her indomitable spirit, Chandra faced it all head-on and returned to work. Her resilience and determination did not go unnoticed.

A year after being released from the hospital, she was crowned Ms. Wheelchair American 2024, triumphing in a week-long disability advocacy competition. With this new title, Chandra's mission became clear: to spread awareness, promote advocacy, and change the world!

As a disability advocate, Chandra firmly believes that when we make things accessible for those with disabilities, the entire community benefits. She is committed to making digital content accessible to all, regardless of abilities. Her vision for the future is inclusivity and equality, where individuals with disabilities have the same opportunities and experiences as everyone else.

Chandra's story is not one of tragedy but of triumph and faith. She has overcome countless obstacles and continues to fight for a more inclusive society.



Chandra Smith with sister Chaquandra Smith



# Daily Schedule

## Ski for Light January 21-25, 2024

### Sunday, January 21st

2:00 – 5:00 pm	Registration – Mineral Palace Conference Room by Restaurant
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Wine/Cheese Welcome Mineral Palace Meeting Room
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Newcomers' Orientation**
9:00 pm	Band at Old Style Saloon #10

### Monday, January 22nd

7:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am	Bus to XC site for Guides only
8:30 am	Transportation to snowmobile rides
8:30 – 10:30 am	Downhill Guide Orientation at Terry Peak
8:30 – 10:30 am	XC Guide Orientation at Site
10:00 am	<b>Bus #1</b> Leaves for XC Site Equipment Issue at XC Site <i>(If participating in both XC/downhill, go first to XC site for guide pairing)</i> <b>Bus #2</b> Leaves for Terry Peak
12:00 pm	Lunch Served at each site
10:30 – 4:00 pm	Skiing (no transport between venues)
4:00 pm	Buses Return to Hotels
6:00 pm	Dinner at Old Style Saloon #10 <i>Sponsored by Mary Ellen Lantis</i>
9:00 pm	Band at Old Style Saloon #10

### Tuesday, January 23rd

7:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Transportation to snowmobile rides
9:00 am	Buses depart <b>Bus #1</b> to XC Site <b>Bus #2</b> to Terry Peak
9:15 – 12:00 pm	Skiing
10:00 – 4:00 pm	Skiing
4:00 pm	Buses Return to Hotels
6:00 pm	Slot Tournament at Mineral Palace
8:30 pm	Karaoke Location at the Buffalo Bodega
9:00 pm	Band at Old Style Saloon #10

### Wednesday, January 24th

7:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Transportation to snowmobile rides
9:00 am	Buses depart: <b>Bus #1</b> to XC Site <b>Bus #2</b> to Terry Peak
11:00 am	Visually Impaired Downhill Racing
9:15 - 12:00 pm	Skiing
12:00 pm	Lunch Served at each site
3:30 pm	Downhill Skiing Ends Bus transport to XC Bonfire at XC Site <i>(One bus will return for those not wishing to stay for bonfire)</i>
4:00 pm	Bonfire at XC Site
5:00 pm	Second bus returns to hotels
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Ice Bumper Cars at Outlaw Square
9:00 pm	Band at Old Style Saloon #10

### Thursday, January 25th

7:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Buses depart <b>Bus #1</b> to XC Site <b>Bus #2</b> to Terry Peak
9:15 - 12:00 pm	XC/Snowshoe Races (may do both)
9:15 - 12:00 pm	Downhill Races (Snowsliders first)
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	XC Bus returns to hotel after races completed (vouchers for lunch at the Mineral Palace will be distributed after race is completed)
1:00 - 4:00 pm	Completion of Downhill Races
4:00 pm	Downhill Races Completed <i>(Bus back to hotel – may leave earlier)</i>
6:00 pm	Bus leaves hotel for banquet
7:00 pm	Banquet/Awards Dinner at Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel
9:00 pm	Band at Old Style Saloon #10

**\*\*The meeting room at the Mineral Palace will be available at night on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for those who want a more quiet environment.**

*If you are eating lunch at Terry Peak,  
see SFL coordinators for lunch vouchers.*

*Vehicles at XC site must be kept to a minimum.  
Do not park on Hwy 385 – you will be ticketed/towed*

# Ski for Light Happenings



**SNOWMOBILE RIDES** will once again be available in the morning and afternoon on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. These rides allow riders to experience the beauty of the Black Hills on the George Mickelson trail. Be sure to sign up for the ride at registration and also at the different venues. Rides are limited to participants only. We would also like to thank Mad Mountain Snowmobile Adventures for their generosity in allowing us to offer these rides to our Ski for Light family.



**KARAOKE** on Tuesday, Jan 23rd, 8:30 pm at the Buffalo Bodega



**BUMPER TUBES** at Outlaw Square on Wednesday, Jan 24 from 6-9pm. A shuttle will be available to transport from the Mineral Palace to Outlaw Square



Be sure to sign up at the main desk of the Mineral Palace for the **SLOT TOURNAMENT** which will be held on Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Mineral Palace.



**DANCING** nightly at Saloon No. 10

Enjoy the warmth and great times at the **BONFIRE AT XC SITE** Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 pm

# Staying in Touch with the Ski for Light Family

## What is your Ski for Light Moment?

Please send us any interesting, inspirational, humorous or humbling pictures so we can share YOUR SFL moments. Send it to our office at the following address:

Black Hills Regional Ski for Light | P.O. Box 3707 | Rapid City, SD 57709  
or email us at: [bhskiforlight@gmail.com](mailto:bhskiforlight@gmail.com)

You can include your name or make it anonymous and we will try to share these moments with others.

### Pictures to Share?



Please include:

- **Event:** SFL 2024
- **Caption:** Your caption
- **People:** Identify people
- **Description:** A brief description of what is in the photo as this will be used to describe to visually impaired.



The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light website provides information on our program such as dates, applications, photos, how to make a donation, and key dates for our events. Please check us out at:

[www.bhsfl.org](http://www.bhsfl.org)

We have added a Facebook web page for you to stay connected to your Ski for Light Friends year round.

Go to Facebook and search for Black Hills Regional Ski for Light



### BLACK HILLS SKI FOR LIGHT

## SKI SWAP

The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light Ski Swap has become the largest in the surrounding area and has been strongly supported by the local population. Vendors and consignors sell their equipment at the Rapid City Civic Center. As our major fundraiser, the ski swap is what has allowed us to keep the cost of the winter event the same for the last 30 years.

Working at the swap has its perks as volunteers are able to prebuy equipment prior to offering it to the public for the sale which only runs for three hours:



**NOON to 3:00PM**  
**OCTOBER 26, 2024**

*Come volunteer or come and buy equipment for the upcoming ski season!*

**WIN**  
**\$500**

**Only \$1**  
*for each ticket!*

### Did you know...

that you could win \$500 just by buying a raffle ticket to be drawn the night of the banquet:

**Thursday, January 25**

and you need not be present to win. Proceeds from raffle ticket sales are used to defray the costs of the event and to provide scholarships to individuals who would not be able to attend without the assistance.

# Special Awards and Tributes

The **Cross Country Participant Award/Downhill Participant Award/ Snowshoe Participant Award** is given to a cross country participant/downhill/snowshoe participant who distinguished themselves in a unique way on the cross country/downhill side. It may be that person who challenges him/herself to go beyond his/her physical limitations or provide emotional support to their friends who are skiing while they can't.

**Katie Larson**

*2023 Cross Country Participant Award*

**Connor Roemen**

*2023 Downhill Participant Award*

**Jay Kronfeld**

*2023 Snowshoe Participant Award*

The **Cross Country Guide Award/ Downhill Guide/ Snowshoe Guide Award** is given to the cross country/downhill/snowshoe guide who devotes their time and efforts to helping out in whatever way they are able to taking care of those involved with the cross country/downhill/snowshoe program at Ski for Light.

**Bruce Schmidt**

*2023 Cross Country Guide Award*

**Brandon Harvey**

*2023 Downhill Guide Award*

**William Kopp**

*2023 Snowshoe Guide Award*

The Ski for Light **Spirit Award** exemplifies SFL Board's desire to recognize the contributions of an individual for the work they do throughout the week and/or year as they interact and assist both volunteers and participants and generally have the ability to lift the spirits of anyone they happen across throughout the program.

**Chris Sewell**

*2023 Ski for Light Spirit Award*

The Black Hills Ski for Light **Legacy Award** is awarded in the spirit of significant and long-standing contribution to our organization, much like the actions and contributions of Dallas Dietrich, Phyllis O'Conner, Joe Sanders and Doc Van Huevian, who have passed before us.

**Tim & Karen Lemmon**

*2023 Ski for Light Legacy Award*

## Hope's Vision Day on the Hill



**Huff Hills Ski Area**  
5455 County Road 80  
Mandan, ND 58554

Our Ski for Light family in North Dakota have their own adaptive ski day set this year for Saturday, February 24, 2024. Started in 2010 as a Girl Scout Project by Hope Reis, Hope's Vision adaptive downhill ski program offers opportunities to those with disabilities to have a chance to experience sports. Skiing takes place at the Huff Hills Ski Area, located in Mandan, ND and will run from 10:00

AM to 5:00

PM. Scott Eckroth is the main coordinator and can be reached at (701) 202-5931 for more information. Come join them for a day of fun and camaraderie!



# Ski For Light Tribute

*A tribute to those who have passed on;  
we know that they are smiling down on us during this week.*

**A life worthy of admiration | A light in the darkness**



## *Eric Kritzmire*

Eric Kritzmire went into the hands of the Lord on October 1, 2023, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 5, 2023, at George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site

Crematory in Sioux Falls. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 6, 2023, at Zion Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family for future designation to Craig Hospital in Denver, CO, Can Do Canines in New Hope, MN, The Special Olympics, Paralyzed Veterans of America in Sioux Falls, or a charity of your choice.

Eric Thomas Kritzmire was born January 7th, 1976, in Sioux Falls, SD, to John and Marsha Kritzmire and big brother Cory. He lived his entire life in Sioux Falls and knew it inside and out. He attended Eugene Field Elementary, Whittier Junior High, and Washington High School.

After high school, Eric had a diving accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury that left him partially paralyzed. Quadriplegia did not deter him from leading a productive and fulfilling life. After rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Denver, CO, Eric attended and graduated from Southeast Technical Institute with a degree in AutoCAD. He became a draftsman for Building Sprinkler, Inc., where he had previously been an installer. Eric worked there for 26+ years. He loved his job and the people he worked with.

He was an associate member of the PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America). He participated in pheasant hunts and fishing as well as volunteered from time to time. Eric was an excellent shot when he could get a tag. He partook in the Oahe Dam Deer Hunt as often as possible. Even with his injury, Eric was able to ski using adaptive equipment. He was a badass and could easily ski the black diamond slopes of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

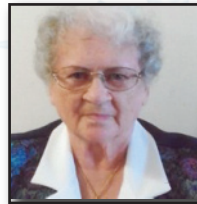
On May 27th, 2017, he married his family. Erica, Benjamin, and Claudia became a part of his life, forever fulfilling his long-awaited dream of having a family. Family was everything to him; he always listened without judgment and offered advice as needed. Eric's love for his family, near and far, was never superseded. It was always accepting and forgiving and will always be present.

Eric enjoyed life and made the most of everything. All of his adventures led him to be a fantastic storyteller. The stories were always memorable and would illuminate his bright blue eyes. He was involved in mischief and mayhem before and after his injury (it was a miracle he survived as long as he did!). He enjoyed music and went to as many concerts as possible. Some of his favorites were Iron Maiden, Metallica, P!nk, Green Day, Motley Crue, Chris Stapleton, Eric Church, Allman Brothers Band, and numerous more. He also loved sprint car racing and attending the races at Huset's Speedway.

Eric was loved by all and will be greatly missed. We will miss his smile and his stories. Our memories of his life will live on.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Erica of Sioux Falls; children, Claudia and Benjamin of Sioux Falls; parents, John and Marsha Kritzmire of Sioux Falls; brother, Cory (Karin) Kritzmire of Alma, CO; nieces, Noble, Eleanor, and Lydia; parents-in-law, Pam and Larry De Smet of Sioux Falls and Jim and Joan Keyser of Wessington Springs; and grandmother-in-law, Maggie Doering of Wessington Springs.

He was preceded in death by his best friend and service dog, Savannah; grandparents, Noble and Bernice Odland and Robert and Clara Kritzmire; three aunts; three uncles; and one cousin.



## *Shirley Frasier*

Shirley Jean (Larive) Frasier enjoyed her last day on this earth on March 3, 2023. Shirley was born on May 1, 1937, the youngest of 13 children to Arthur and Tillie (Lloyd) Larive. She attended schools in

Sundance, Rapid City, Deadwood and graduated from Spearfish High School in 1955.

She married Duane George Frasier on May 24, 1956 at St Joseph Catholic Church in Spearfish. They moved to San Diego, CA then to Napa, Idaho where they lived on a dairy farm and Shirley worked at Birdeye Poultry and Canning Plant. They moved to Gillette, WY then to Spearfish and finally Lead, SD. Shirley lived in Lead for 40 years before moving to Spearfish in 2002.

Shirley worked at the U&I Sugar Beet Factory in Belle Fourche for 11 years, served on the Supervisory committee at Dakota Territory FCU for 20 years, treasurer and member of the Terry Peak Snowmobile Club for 30 years, and volunteered at the Black Hills Ski for Light for all of the 44 years that it has been in operation. She loved to water ski, fish, camp, garden and also attended numerous craft fairs with her homemade dolls. She loved trail rides and cattle roundups as well as riding in the Days of 76 parade on her horses.

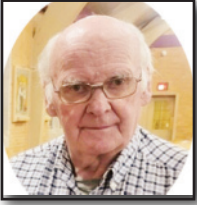
The couple raised five children, all of whom graduated from Lead High School. Callie Gruntmeier, Torrington, WY; Kevin (Jennifer) Frasier, Boulder Canyon, SD; Karen Barthel, Sturgis, SD; Kyle (Cheryl) Frasier, Arvada, CO; and Corey Frasier, Belle Fourche, SD.

She also had 10 grandchildren: Brittany (Robert) Strong, Zach (Morgan) Nelson, Jordon Barthel, Broc Barthel, Paige Barthel, Shelby (Nick) Crays, Haleigh Frasier, Kiana Frasier and two others. Eight great-grandchildren: Clayton and Harper Strong, Joseph and David Crays, Teegan, Nova and Waylon Nelson.

Shirley is survived by three sisters, Patricia (Robbi) Duncan, Douglas, WY; Alice Pattinson, Spearfish; and Julia Roadifer, Spokane, WA and numerous nieces and nephews.

# Ski For Light Tribute

## Paul Akrop



Paul Gregory "Greg" Akrop, beloved brother and uncle, 74, of Deadwood and Terry Peak, passed away Monday, December 4, 2023 at Monument Health in Rapid City following a brief illness.

Greg was born September 24, 1949 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Deadwood, the third child of Paul John and Genevieve (Duchene) Akrop. He attended St. Ambrose Catholic School through eighth grade, and graduated from Deadwood High School in 1967. Due to the untimely death of his father in 1966, Greg opted to go to Black Hills State College to be able to be close to home and continue to operate the family business, Deadwood Granite and Marble Works. Following graduation from college, Greg was accepted into the South Dakota Highway Patrol and graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy in Pierre. He was assigned to Huron, but decided after a year that being near his home and helping run the family business with his brother, David, was a more pressing priority.

Skiing was Greg's lifelong passion. He learned to ski at Terry Peak at the age of six, participated in racing and ski jumping through high school, and served as a Snow Ranger for the Forest

Service at Terry Peak Ski Area during college. He served on the Board of Directors of Black Hills Chairlift Corporation and ultimately became the General Manager of the area in the 1980s. During his tenure as General Manager Terry Peak added a snowmaking system, opened several new ski runs, upgraded chairlift equipment and built a new chalet at the Stewart Slope base.

He retired as General Manager after the 1999-2000 ski season, but continued to live in the house he built near the ski area in 1979, and continued to ski at Terry Peak regularly.

Greg was a lifelong member of St. Ambrose Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Genevieve Akrop. He is survived by his brother David Akrop, his sister Mary Ann (Bruce) Oberlander; nephew Michael (Angela) Oberlander and their twins Matthew and Sarah; nieces Lisa (Jason) Jorgenson and their children Genevieve, Andrew and Benjamin, and Julie (Jeremy) Gibbons and their children Luke and Jonathon. Having never married, Greg cherished his nieces and nephew and great-nieces and great-nephews as his own.

Visitation will be Sunday, December 10, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Deadwood, with a Rosary at 6:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Monday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ambrose. Interment will be in the family plot in Rose Hill Cemetery in Spearfish following the service. A memorial has been established for Black Hills Regional Ski for Light.

## Legacy

Myles D. Sampson, a successful land developer and lifetime resident of Western Pennsylvania, founded the Sampson Foundation in 1993. He was involved in improving his community and dedicated much of his life to a wide variety of philanthropic projects. Being blessed with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and an astute business sense, Mr. Sampson took great pride in his philanthropic endeavors. He was motivated by a strong spiritual background and sense of moral obligation. He believed that his good fortune in life was truly a gift from God, and that to give back to those less fortunate was his primary duty. Or, as stated in one of his favorite quotes, "With great wealth comes great responsibility". Since his passing in 2007, the legacy of Mr. Sampson lives on through his wife



and two daughters bringing his philanthropic spirit into their own communities and charitable pursuits. His legacy, core beliefs, and values lie at the heart of the mission of The Sampson Family Foundation. The family and board remain committed to fulfilling the great philanthropic vision of the Foundation's founder. Myles attended the Black Hills Regional Ski for Light for several years and as a result his Foundation continues to generously give to our organization every year.



SAMPSON  
FOUNDATION

Mark it on your calendar for next year!

2025

January 19-23, 2025

46th ANNUAL BLACK HILLS REGIONAL SKI FOR LIGHT

# SPECIAL THANKS

*Our event is made possible by the generosity of businesses and individuals who support us every year. We would like to recognize those who have helped us this year. Some of those who made a contribution may have been received after this publication went to press.*

## DIAMOND ~ \$5000+

**Sampson Foundation**  
**Wharf Coeur**

**Gould Development LLC**  
**Mineral Palace**

## PLATINUM ~ \$2500+

**Terry Peak**  
**Mad Mountain**  
**Adventures**

**Independent**  
**Insurance Agents**  
**Shari Lenoue**

**Recreational**  
**Springs Resort**  
**Raymond James**

## GOLD ~ \$1000+

**Bankwest**  
**First Interstate Bank**

**Ida Warne Craft**  
**John Paxman**  
**Black Hills Powersports**

**In Memory of Greg Akrop**  
**US Foods**

## SILVER ~ \$500+

**Peak Sports**  
**Spearfish Lions Club**  
**Tony Pauly**  
**VFW BH Post 5969**

**Scull Construction**  
**Regis Synan**  
**Diana Reichel**

**Forest Products**  
**Denny Menholt Chevrolet**  
**Reinhart Foods**  
**Acme Bicycle**

## BRONZE ~ <\$500

**Sundance State Bank**  
**Deadwood Elks Lodge #508**  
**Evening Star Lions Club**  
**Sturgis Lions Club**  
**Britton Lions Club**

**White River Lions Club**  
**Fred Romanjenko**  
**Hill City Lions**  
**Lemmon Lions**  
**Selby Lions**

**Hilary Wills**  
**Casey Davison**  
**Hot Springs Lions**  
**Nathan Leier**  
**Elizabeth White**

# Thank You!