



Winter at Westminster January '09 Newsletter



The Vibe

The Winter at Westminster 2009 season has officially started! Orientation was highlighted by Craig Gordon, forecaster for the Utah Avalanche Center, who dazzled students with his *Know Before You Go* avalanche presentation. The '09 W@W crew has already skied The Canyons with a season pass, checked out Park City with a demo from the coolest avalanche dog, donned rifles for the Biathlon, gone extreme tubing, and bowled the night away. Last weekend students completed their Level 1 Avalanche Certifications and are ready to take on Utah's spectacular backcountry. This weekend we get First Tracks and a storm is brewing!



It's an awesome group this year – students are here from all over the country to enjoy the Greatest Snow on Earth. Come visit us and check out the W@W program. Just give us a call and we will set you up with a free lift ticket and tour at one of the local resorts!



Student Profiles

Gary Behm, Skier

Age: 20

Home College: Messiah College

Hometown: Westminster, Maryland

Other Hobbies: Anything outdoors

Major: Business Management

First Impressions: "Its absolutely amazing, like a dream come true. We get to be trained in avalanche safety, we get to go skiing every day. It's the coolest."

Highlight: Avalanche training

Natalie Mell, Snowboarder

Age: 20

Home School: Temple University

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Other Hobbies: Playing soccer

Major: Marketing

First Impressions: "It's amazing. It's everything an outdoorsy person would want bundled into a few months. The program is so well organized. It has changed my view on experiencing things."

Highlight: Avi cert!

Kurt Schuler, Skier

Age: 21

Home College: Bates College

Hometown: Jackson, New Hampshire

Major: Geology

Other Hobbies: Nothing exists outside of skiing in the winter. I do like rock climbing too.

First Impressions: "My first day was great. We went to The Canyons and it was snowing hard. We've done so much stuff. You can never get bored. There's so much to do here in Salt Lake City."

Highlight: "Meeting people from around the country that share the same passion for skiing and snowboarding and being able to ride with them every day."

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W@W Blog

W@W has a blog, hosted on the W@W homepage (www.winteratwestminster.com). This blog is designed to stimulate open communication about the program, about your academic and recreational experiences, and to promote any important updates, events, or contests. The beauty of W@W is that each person in the program gets to take ownership of the program. What does this mean? It means that your opinion genuinely matters and we want to hear it! If you are in the program this year, post your thoughts about events. If you are thinking about joining the program, post a comment and tell us what you're up to. This blog is a community posting to talk about Winter at Westminster and to generate ideas on how to make this program the BEST winter semester program on earth!

Get Linked

It's important to be *in the know*...especially if you are thinking about heading to the slopes or the backcountry. You want to make an educated decision about which resort you are going to hit on any given day. If you dare venture into the backcountry, you NEED to know about the snow conditions and weather patterns to minimize your chances of setting off, or getting swept up in an avalanche. Even though you will be participating in a few avalanche awareness activities, everyone in W@W'09 should read the avalanche report on a daily basis.

- Utah Avalanche Center www.avalanche.org/~uac/ -check out the daily avalanche report and forecast.
- Ski Utah www.skiutah.com -check out the snow totals at each resort.

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