



Challenge Aspen Contact:
Geneva Templeton
970-923-0578 ext 200
geneva@challengeaspen.com

CHALLENGE ASPEN 2009 SUMMER REC CAMPS ANNOUNCED

ART, ADVENTURE, MUSIC & DANCE, TEEN CAMPS INCLUDED "ROCKY MOUNTAIN STYLE"

Aspen, Colo. (April 2, 2009) - After welcoming a record number of Challenge Aspen winter program visitors to the mountain in 2008-2009, the Challenge Aspen staff and volunteers are getting ready to put away their snow gear in order to prep and plan summer adventures, announcing the Exceptional Artists' Studio (June 22-26), Outdoor Adventure Camp (July 6-10), Magic of Music & Dance Camp (July 20-24) and Just for Teens Camp (July 28-31). All camps are open to the public and will offer outrageous summer fun like rafting on the Upper Roaring Fork, fly fishing, arts and crafts, swimming, horseback riding and trips to Wilderness Ranch Ropes Course.

The Exceptional Artists' Studio on June 22-26 invites children ages 6 and up with any disability to experience the splendor of the arts and the Rocky Mountains, creating art in the morning, using a variety of media, and enjoying outdoor activities in the afternoon. The Outdoor Adventure Camp, July 6-10, is specifically designed for kids ages 8-18 with autism spectrum disorders. Campers will have the opportunity to explore the world of outdoor recreation, self-expression and good old-fashioned fun with Challenge Aspen trained staff and volunteer 'buddies'.

One of the local community favorites is the Magic of Music & Dance Camp, July 20-24. This long running camp invites children 6 and older with any disability to release their creative spirits and express themselves through dance, movement, music and acting. The grand finale of the week is a stage production for the local community. The summer of Challenge Aspen camp offerings ends with Just for Teens Camp on July 28-31 for those 15 and older with any disability. The Teens' Camp is loaded with outdoor adventures and team-building activities in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains, developing social skills and long-term goals with participants.

For more information on these camps and other summer group outdoor opportunities for anyone with a disability, contact Nikki Malcolm at 970-923-0578, ext. 213.

About Challenge Aspen

Since 1995, Challenge Aspen has provided adaptive recreational and cultural opportunities to thousands of individuals with disabilities from around the world. Based in Snowmass Village, Colorado, Challenge Aspen is an internationally established charitable organization. As a leader and innovator offering participants safe, expert instruction and the best competitive ski-racing and educational programs available in the world, Challenge Aspen also provides outstanding summer therapeutic art and drama camps to children with physical and cognitive disabilities. In addition, Challenge Aspen creates adaptive wilderness experiences and internationally recognized elite race training for veterans with disabilities. Critical partnerships with sponsors like Aspen Skiing Company, combined with the generous support of the Founders' Circle, National Council members and annual fundraisers, provide the funding necessary for Challenge Aspen to empower all participants through its outdoor and cultural experiences, regardless of financial status. For more information, visit www.challengeaspen.org.

Find helpful guidelines for writing about disability at www.lsi.ku.edu/~lsi/aboutus/guidelines.shtml.

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