

FWSA 2012-2013 Athletic Scholarship Recipients

Summary

1. Dean Austin	Mission Ridge, WA	\$500 scholarship sponsored by the Bergfreunde Ski Club of Portland, OR
2. Elyse Burandt	Spokane, WA	\$1000 scholarship sponsored by Northwest Ski Clubs Council
3. Kirk Carlson	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$750 FWSA scholarship
4. Ali Gunesch	Government Camp, OR	\$1525 Erin Nicole Scholarship sponsored by Skiyente Ski Club (Portland, OR)
5. Haley Hanseler	Mission Ridge, WA	\$750 FWSA scholarship
6. Lila Lapanja	Diamond Peak, CA	\$1000 FWSA scholarship
7. Molly Leavens	Park City, UT	\$1000 FWSA scholarship
8. Kayleigh MacGregor	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$500 scholarship sponsored by the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
9. Danny O'Neal	Mission Ridge, WA	\$500 FWSA scholarship
10. Madeline Riffel	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$500 FWSA scholarship
11. Jordan Schweitzer	Mt. Bachelor, OR	\$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Mountain High Snowsports Club of Portland, OR
12. Hunter Stuercke	Cottonwood, UT	\$500 FWSA scholarship
13. Mary Totten	Bogus Basin, ID	\$500 FWSA scholarship
14. Cody Underkoffler	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$500 FWSA scholarship
15. Lucas Underkoffler	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$500 FWSA scholarship
16. Alexa Wehsener	Mammoth Lakes, CA	\$900 scholarship sponsored by the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

FWSA 2012-2013 Athletic Scholarship Recipients

Biography

Dean Austin, age 18, from Portland, OR, is a member of the Mission Ridge Ski Team. He graduated from Cleveland High School in 2012 with a 3.6 GPA. During the 2012 season, Austin placed in the top ten seven times, including two second place Slalom and Giant Slalom finishes. His best racing achievement was winning the silver medal in Super G at the 2011 J-2 Nationals. According to his coach at Mission Ridge, Austin is "well spoken, outgoing, supportive, dedicated, hard working, and fun to have around." Dean is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship sponsored by the Bergfreunde Ski Club of Portland, OR.

Elyse Burandt, age 15, is from Spokane, WA, where she races for the Spokane Ski Team. Elyse finished the 2012 season standing in third place overall and third place in Slalom for her year group. During the 2012 competition season, she scored sixteen top ten finishes, six of which were in the top three including second in the Western Region J-3 Giant Slalom Championships. Elyse is maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Elyse has been selected by the Northwest Ski Clubs Council to receive its \$1000 scholarship.

Kirk Carlson, age 18, is from Mammoth Lakes, CA, where he is a member of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. During the 2012 season, Kirk had seven top ten finishes of which three (Far West Speed Finals) landed him on the podium. Kirk is deferring college for a year to concentrate on skiing with his ultimate goal to compete on the University of Utah's NCAA ski team. He graduated with a 3.90 GPA. Kirk is the recipient of a \$750 FWSA scholarship.

Ali Gunesch, age 18, is from Government Camp, OR, and is a member of the Mt. Hood Ski Team. During the 2012 season, Ali had fourteen top ten finishes in which she reached the podium eight times. This year, Ali was the top American (second overall) in Super G at the Western Region Junior Championships, and finished first in Slalom and second overall at the Northwest Cup Series. She also won a Downhill and a Super G at Mt. Bachelor's Sun Cup. She graduated from Sandy High School, Sandy, OR, with a 4.0 GPA. Ali has been accepted at Brown University, but she is taking a one year academic sabbatical to concentrate on skiing. Ali is the recipient of the Skiyente Ski Club's (Portland, OR) Erin Nicole Scholarship in the amount of \$1525.

Haley Hanseler, age 18, from Longview, WA, is a member of the Mission Ridge Ski Team. She graduated from high school with a 3.97 GPA. Haley had ten top ten finishes of which five landed her on the podium. She finished 23rd in Super G at the U.S. Nationals in 2012. She is taking a one year academic sabbatical to lower her points so that she can compete on the University of Utah NCAA ski team. Haley has been selected to receive a \$750 FWSA scholarship.

Lila Lapanja, age 17, is the only Tahoe scholarship recipient this year. She trained with the Sugar Bowl Academy before joining the U.S. Ski Team's Development Team. From her first scholarship four year's ago, Lila was recognized as a strong all-round athlete who held top ten standings in all four racing disciplines. In 2011, Lila joined the U.S. Ski Team's Development Team and during the 2012 race season she exceeded expectations. She took fourth place in Slalom at the U.S. Nationals and finished the season ranked first in Giant Slalom, first in Super Combined, second in Slalom, and third in Super G for her year group. Most recently, Lila has been appointed to the USST's Europa Cup Technical Team. Lila has been awarded a \$1000 FWSA scholarship.

FWSA 2012-2013 Athletic Scholarship Recipients

Biography

Molly Leavens, age 15, from Park City, UT, now competes for the USSA Academy. Molly is an all-round athlete with podium finishes in Super G, Giant Slalom, and Slalom. She finished the 2012 season ranked second in overall points for year group 1997. Molly had podium finishes in eight races in 2012 and finished the season ranked number one in Slalom. Molly has a 3.99 GPA. Molly is the recipient of a \$1000 FWSA scholarship.

Kayleigh MacGregor, age 15, who is a member of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Kayleigh formerly lived in Malibu, CA, but her parents recently moved to Mammoth so that she could take advantage of the training opportunities. Last season, Kayleigh finished fifth in the Far West Downhill Championships. She also had two top ten finishes in Downhill and Super G. Kayleigh has been awarded a \$500 scholarship sponsored by the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs.

Danny O'Neal, age 17, from Baker City, OR, trains with the Mission Ridge Ski Team. Danny had only three top ten finishes, but he took a gold medal in a Downhill and a Super G at the Mt. Bachelor Spring Series. Danny has been awarded a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

Madeline Riffel, age 18, lives in Mammoth Lakes, CA, and skis for Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. This last season, Madeline competed in both alpine ski racing and ski cross. In Alpine events, she had seven top fifteen finishes including a second and a third in Super G. In ski cross, she finished the season ranked second in the U.S. and fifty-third worldwide. Kevin Francis, the FIS coach at Mammoth described her as a dedicated athlete with very clear goals and an excellent work ethic. Madeline graduated from high school with a 3.79 GPA. Madeline has been chosen for a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

Jordan Schweitzer, age 18, from Gresham, OR, is a member of the Mt. Bachelor Ski Team. Despite a serious injuries in December 2011, Jordan held on to her number one standing in Downhill and pulled in a tenth place for Super G in her year group. She had 15 top ten finishes including three podium finishes. Jordan is taking an academic sabbatical to make a last try for the U.S. Ski Team. She graduated from high school with a 3.86 GPA. Jordan has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship sponsored by the Mountain High Snowsports Club of Portland, OR.

Hunter Stuercke, age 17, from Cottonwood, UT, competes as a member of the Rowmark Ski Academy. During the 2012 season, Hunter had seven top-ten finishes including a first place in Slalom. His former coach, Mark Archer, lauded Hunter for his dedication, drive, and desire to be the best he can be in the sport of ski racing. His most recent coach, Everett Young, adds that ski racing is in Hunter's heart; it's part of his make-up. That dedication, hard work and desire gained him Rowmark's Most Improved Athlete award for 2012. Hunter is the recipient of a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

Mary Totten, age 16, lives in Boise, ID, and is a member of the Bogus Basin Ski Team. Her coach, Aaron Flynn, noted her passion for ski racing, positive attitude, and competitive drive. Mary had three top-ten finishes in 2012 including a second place finish in Slalom. She has a 3.7 cumulative GPA. Mary has been awarded a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

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Biography

Cody Underkoffler, age 14, resides in Crowley Lake, CA, and is a member of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Cody's coach, Kerry Brownlie noted that Cody has "great discipline and focus, and is always driving himself to the next level." That drive netted him six top-ten finishes in 2012 and a Far West ranking of 10th overall for J-3s. Cody holds a 3.33 GPA. He is the recipient of a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

Lucas Underkoffler, 16, like his brother lives in Crowley Lake, CA, and is a member of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Lucas maintains a 3.86 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. During the 2012 season, Lucas had four top-ten finishes and stood eighth overall among Far West Division J-2 competitors. Lucas has been awarded a \$500 FWSA scholarship.

Alexa Wehsener is a 17 year-old athlete from San Diego who competes with the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Alexa's season was interrupted by an injury that took her out of competition for almost two months. Nevertheless, she managed to finish in the top-ten in a Slalom and a Giant Slalom race. She also took a fifteenth place in one Super G. Alexa is the recipient of a \$900 scholarship sponsored by the San Diego Council.