

**Team Summit Colorado  
Wall of Fame Class of 2023**



**Rosener Human Performance Center  
July 28, 2023  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Welcome to the Team Summit Wall of Fame Inaugural Induction Ceremony!

Today, we gather to pay tribute to the extraordinary athletes, coaches, and pioneers who have left an indelible mark on the world of skiing and snowboarding in Summit County, Colorado. As we stand at the threshold of a new tradition, we take this moment to honor the foundation upon which our snow sports community was built.

This year's class of inductees holds a special significance as we recognize the Pioneers from each sport. They blazed trails, conquered challenges, and paved the way for the successes we celebrate today. With their remarkable achievements, they inspire us to reach new heights and embrace the spirit of perseverance and determination.

Join us in commemorating the legends whose dedication has shaped Team Summit's history and contributed to our vibrant snow sports culture. Through their tireless efforts, they have not only exemplified excellence but have also instilled in us a sense of pride in our community.

As we unveil the Team Summit Wall of Fame, we invite you to witness the stories of these remarkable individuals, etched forever on its surface. Let us come together to applaud their triumphs, celebrate their achievements, and remember the immeasurable impact they have made.

Today marks the beginning of a tradition that will continue to grow with each passing year. The Wall of Fame will stand as a testament to the legacy we carry forward, ensuring that the achievements of our athletes, coaches, and pioneers are cherished and celebrated for generations to come.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this Wall of Fame a reality. Your unwavering support has allowed us to celebrate the past while eagerly embracing the future.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of recognition, inspiration, and unity as we welcome the first class of 2023 into the Team Summit Wall of Fame.

Let the celebration begin!

## **2023 Wall Of Fame Inductees**

### **Alpine**

Gene Gillis

### **Freeski**

Chris Carson

### **Nordic**

Jody Anderson

### **Snowboard**

Don Sather



Gene Gillis  
Sport: Alpine Skiing

Gene Gillis goes down in history as one of the most important and influential of ski town figures not just in Summit County, but across the United States.

The Bend, Oregon, native was a passionate lifelong skier after he learned how to stay upright on a pair of planks at the age of 3. His love for downhill racing led him to race for the U.S. at the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

After his racing career concluded, Gillis transitioned to decade after decade of coaching and ski area development success. Having already helped to develop Mount Bachelor in Oregon and Stratton Mountain in Vermont, Gillis was a key part of the team that developed Keystone Resort after he moved to Summit County in 1971.

Gillis was a main influencer in creating the kind of ski and ride experience recreators have today at the resort's North Peak and Jones Gulch areas, and he also was a major player in the installation of snowmaking at Keystone.

A co-founder of the Summit Ski and Education Foundation and a head coach of the Summit Race Team, Gillis played a major part in countless Summit County winter sports athletes' lives.

Gene Gillis was frequently visited by Phil and Steve Mahre, Gold and Silver slalom medalists in the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo.



Chris Carson  
Sport: Freeski

Chris Carson goes down in history as one of the Pioneers of Freeskiing in the United States.

Chris, a World Pro Mogul Tour Skier, found a love for skiing at an early age and has chased his passion the rest of his life. Chris started out as a ski racer with Copper Mountain Race Team, but the freedom of mogul skiing was his true calling. Chris skied with the Winter Park Freestyle Team during his teen years and then turned his focus to the Pro Mogul Tour. Chris was a consistent top five skier on tour during the early 90's and his results included a win in 1991 at Keystone and numerous podium finishes during his career. Chris also was the winner of the famed A-Basin Enduro numerous times and with Rex Wehrman held the record for the most laps on Pallavicini in one day. Chris has been in Warren Miller movies, stunt double skier for Aspen Extreme, and always on the cutting edge of the sport.

After his competition days were over, Chris focused his energy to coaching and sharing his love and passion for the sport with the next generation. Chris first started working with mogul skiers as a development coach and then as an assistant mogul coach and head mogul coach helped athletes such as Heather McPhie, David Babic and Mikaela Matthews advance to the United States Ski Team. Chris was also an industry leader in bringing Park and Pipe Skiing, Big Mountain Skiing, Ski Cross, and Skimo to the club level. Athletes such as Olympian Bobby Brown were some of the skiers that Chris helped elevate to the highest levels of their sport.

Chris has always brought an amazing enthusiasm and commitment to Team Summit and the athletes that he has helped bring up through the ranks. He has not only helped athletes achieve their athletic goals but also given them the life skills to continue on to great success outside the skiing world.



Jody Anderson  
Sport: Nordic Skiing

The longtime Frisco resident was the driving force behind Colorado's oldest annual Nordic race. She conceived the Frisco Gold Rush event in 1969 when the local Nordic race club was short on funds to send kids to the USSA Junior National Nordic Championships in Alaska.

Anderson, also ran the first Nordic ski shop out of the Frisco Lodge in the early days to support the local nordic skiers with equipment. Jody was also one of the founding members of the Summit Nordic Ski Team.

Jody was involved in both ski racing and the school, in the 1970s, she and Marie Zdechlik taught kids to ski on a small hill over by the current middle school. The women cut trees down with chainsaws and burned the slash to create a small ski slope. At the time, new skiers weren't allowed at Arapahoe Basin, so the women taught the basics – how to snowplow and turn.

As you can see, Jody never let a challenge keep her from supporting our local athletes.



Don Sather  
Sport: Snowboarding

A resident of Summit County since the '70s, Don Sather was the co-founder of Team Summit Snowboarders in 1989. Don said he saw the ski team athletes with their jackets on and being able to have early release from school to train and he wanted that for the new sport of snowboard athletes. A driving force in the sport of snowboarding's formative years, he also served as president of the United States of America Snowboard Association, on the Board of Directors for the International Snowboard Federation, as a representative of the USASA and ISF in pursuing Olympic status for snowboarding and on the selection committee of the first U.S. Olympic Snowboard Team.

- Presented snowboarding to FIS at the biennial congress in Budapest in 1992.
- Gave Shaun White his first snowboarding gold medal when he was seven years old.
- A co-founder and organizer of the first snowboarding Junior World Championships in Slovenia in 1994.
- Served as the athletes' representative in the U.S. Senate committee hearings on the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

## **How To Support the Next Generation of Athletes**

### **Income Based Tuition**

We need your help to make a real difference in the lives of local children! At Team Summit, we firmly believe that every aspiring athlete should have the opportunity to participate in our life-enriching programming, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. Our income-based tuition program aims to level the playing field and give every local kid a chance to pursue their passion for sports and outdoor activities.

### **Olympic Aspiration Fund**

We believe in nurturing and empowering our athletes as they ascend to the highest echelons of sports. However, we recognize that the costs associated with attending prestigious competitions can often pose a significant barrier. That's why we are committed to providing the Olympic Aspiration Fund to support these remarkable individuals on their journey to competitions such as Junior World Championships, Rev Tours, and other high-level events. With your generous contribution, we can ensure that these dedicated athletes have the financial backing they need to represent their talents on the global stage. Together, let's break down barriers and give these exceptional individuals the opportunity they deserve to shine and succeed. Join us in our mission to foster champions and make their dreams a reality!

We are raising funds to support this vital initiative and provide support. Your generous donation will empower these young athletes, opening doors to endless possibilities. Together, let's create a community where talent and passion thrive without limitations. Join us in transforming lives and fostering a brighter future for all. Donate today, and let's make a lasting impact together!

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