



COLORADO SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME NOMINATION  
CHRIS DAVENPORT  
SPONSORED BY CARL PETERSON  
CATEGORY ATHLETE  
ACHIEVEMENTS 1996 – PRESENT



Ms. Susie Tjossem  
Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

## NOMINATION LETTER

Dear Sussie,

As an Alumnus of the University of Colorado, I am very pleased and honored to nominate Chris Davenport, also an alumnus of CU, to be inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Chris is a Two-Time world champion skier, and is widely regarded as one of the premier big mountain skiers in the world today. Among his many ski mountaineering achievements, in 2007 he became the first person to achieve all fifty-four of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks in less than one year. He has numerous first descents on peaks around the globe under his belt, and recently guided and skied Mt. Everest.

After racing for the University of Colorado's Ski Team, Chris got involved in the nascent big mountain competition scene, where he rapidly established his name by winning the 1996 World Extreme Skiing Championships in Alaska. In 2000, he reached the podium in every big mountain event that he entered, and then won the 2001 World Extremes, again. Chris' consistent success, paired with his skill as a spokesperson, helped usher in the modern era of big mountain free-ride skiing.

Few athletes have been as consistently present in ski media over the last two decades as Chris. He has starred in almost 40 feature ski films, from Warren Miller Films, and Matchbook Production, during an era in which ski films were the most highly consumed media in the industry.

For most of the last decade, Chris' primary focus has been on ski mountaineering and backcountry skiing. He was the first person to climb and ski all of Colorado's 54 14,000-foot peaks in less than one year. His 14ers project was widely acclaimed for its grit, commitment and media-savvy execution. The book Chris wrote about Colorado's 14ers, "Ski The 14ers" has sold over 10,000 copies.

As an educator, Chris has dedicated himself to guiding, teaching, and helping others discover their potential in skiing. He currently serves as a director of the Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club, the largest youth-based winter sports club in the country. He also serves on the Board of Protect Our Winters, a charitable organization dedicated to educating and lobbying on climate change on behalf of the entire winter sports industry.

Chris Davenport was inducted into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2015. He is from Colorado, and he has represented Colorado to the highest degree. Please consider him for the 2017 induction into the Colorado Hall of Fame.



Carl Peterson  
Sponsor



Chris Davenport's ski career encompasses nearly every aspect of skiing, and in each one, Chris' participation brought visibility to aspects of the sport that would grow into major ski segments.

After ski racing for the University of Colorado, Chris got involved in the nascent big-mountain competition scene, starting with the U.S. Extreme Skiing Championships in Crested Butte, CO in 1994. His career took off when he won the 1996 and 2001 World Extreme Skiing Championships in Alaska. In 2000, he podiumed in every big mountain event he entered. Chris' success and skill as a spokesperson for many industry brands helped usher in the modern era of big-mountain freeride skiing.

In 1998 he won a bronze medal at the inaugural X-Games Skiercross in Crested Butte, and won the 24 Hours of Aspen with teammate Tyler Williams by skiing 245,000 vertical feet in 24 hours.

Chris' engaging personality has made him as relevant to skiing off the slopes as on them. Chris has been the voice of the FIS Women's World Cup races in Aspen for fifteen years. He has also been the venue announcer at multiple Birds Of Prey World Cups at Beaver Creek and the former Park City World Cup races. Chris was the host announcer at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games alpine races at Whistler, BC. For 10 years, after retiring as a competitor, Chris served as a commentator for ESPN and ABC for the X-Games franchise. In 2017 Chris will be the host announcer for the first ever World Cup Finals races outside of Europe, to be held in Aspen.

For most of the last decade, Chris' primary focus has been on backcountry skiing and ski mountaineering. In 2006 Chris became the first person to climb and ski all of Colorado's 54 14,000-foot peaks in less than one year and has also made successful descents of the Eiger, the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, the Monte Rosa in the Alps, all the major volcanoes of the Pacific Northwest, all but two of California's 14ers, and four new ski lines on North America's highest peak, Denali, in 2007.

Chris' "Colorado 14ers Project" was widely acclaimed for its grit, commitment and media-savvy execution. The book Chris wrote about the 14ers, "Ski The 14ers" has sold over 10,000 copies and helped spur on the rapid growth in backcountry skiing and ski mountaineering that has occurred over the last decade. In 2015 Chris took his "Colorado 14ers Project" to the next level by finishing skiing Colorado's 100 highest peaks, the Centennial Peaks. This was a first and Chris was named National Geographic's "Adventurer of the Year" for his vision and success on the Colorado based project.

Chris has skied and guided on six continents, and guided a client to the summit of Mt. Everest and back down safely in 2011. Along the way he skied a rare descent of the Lhotse Face of Everest.

Because of his accomplishments in big-mountain, skier-cross and ski mountaineering, few athletes have been as consistently present in ski media over the past two decades. Chris is an 8-time nominee for the *Powder Magazine* Readers' Poll Awards. He has starred in almost 40 feature ski films from Warren Miller Films and Matchstick Productions, during an era in which ski films were the most highly consumed media in the industry. Chris toured frequently with these



films, meeting the consumers and inspiring the next generation of skiers. His resume is matched by few North Americans, and perhaps no one has leveraged media as effectively to promote ski mountaineering, helping drive the growth in backcountry skiing and ski equipment.

Chris has been a successful ski businessman as well. Chris took on an instrumental role in developing the Salomon Pocket Rocket and AK Rocket ski lines, skis that turned fat-ski technology from a fringe concept into a mainstream product. He is currently a part-owner of Austrian based Kastle Skis and has been involved for eight years in the design, development, and business growth of the ski line. Colorado is the number one market for Kastle Skis in the USA thanks to Chris's leadership.

At Colorado based Spyder Clothing, Chris designs a signature collection, which is the brand's hallmark technical apparel. Chris has been an official ambassador and team member for the Aspen Skiing Company for almost 20 years. He was recently instrumental in the design and development of the Scarpa Freedom SL ski boot, which has become the best-selling boot of all time for Scarpa in North America.

As an educator, Chris has dedicated himself to guiding, teaching and helping others discover their potential in skiing. For 13 years he has operated his own ski camps in Portillo, Chile, and is frequently hired as a private ski guide, lecturer, and mentor in the industry. He has given a TEDx talk on risk management, and currently serves as a director of the Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club, the largest youth-based winter sports club in the country. Chris also serves on the Boards of Protect Our Winters, a charitable organization based in Boulder, dedicated to educating and lobbying on climate change on behalf of the entire winter sports industry, and the American Institute For Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE)

Most recently Chris was named one of ESPN's 10 Greatest American Freeskiers of all time and was inducted into the 2015 class of the United States Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Chris lives in Snowmass, Colorado with his wife and three boys.



December 1, 2016

Ms. Susie Tjossem, Executive Director  
Colorado Ski Museum  
Ski Hall of Fame

Re: Chris Davenport

Dear Susie,

This letter is written on behalf of Chris Davenport in support of his nomination to be inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame. I have known and worked with Chris for more than ten years and feel he is truly worthy of being recognized into the Colorado Ski hall of Fame. He has forever impressed me as being passionate about skiing, and particularly about Colorado skiing.

It's no secret that Chris Davenport's long list of career accomplishments has caused him to be regarded as one of the premier big mountain skiers in the world today. The exposure he has gained by being featured in dozens of ski movies, as an author and as a sports commentator all add to his persona as a true ambassador of skiing. But it is his warm and welcoming personality that impresses me most. A recent video production titled the "The Faces of Dav" highlights many aspects of his career including being *The Explorer*, *The Adventurer* and *The Mountaineer*. But the segment of the series called *The Father* tells the full story of a man who has lived his passion without forgetting his roots and the most important aspect of his life.

Dav's devotion to Colorado and Colorado skiing is obvious when considering the following:

- 1) He showcased Colorado with what I consider one of his most impressive career accomplishments – skiing all 54 of Colorado's 14,000+ peaks in one calendar year. The book he wrote and published beautifully portrays Colorado in a most unique way and chronicles that remarkable feat.
- 2) He chooses to live, work and raise his family in Aspen, Colorado.
- 3) He volunteers much of his time with things like being part of the Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club's Board of Directors. He also donates talents to various non-profit organizations in and around the Aspen Valley.

Dav's everyday activities as a recognized professional skier continue to "give back" the sport, the State of Colorado and the community of Aspen. As it is for many of us, skiing truly is his passion and I sincerely think Dav will never forget his roots, and the more important aspects of life/family, as he continues his fairytale career as a professional skier.

As for me, I have been associated with the Ski Industry for nearly 50 years and truly recognize the contribution and affect someone like Chris has had on Colorado skiing. Having started skiing in Ohio, I moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming in 1971 where I eventually became the Assistant Ski School Director. I moved to Colorado in 1987 where I held positions as the Ski School Director for the Buttermilk and Snowmass ski areas. I have been associated with the Professional Ski Instructors Association (PSIA) as a Certification Examiner and National Alpine Team member (1984 through 2000). For the past 20 years I have been the Director of Mountain Planning for Aspen Skiing Company and still teach skiing 50 days per year, making sure I ski six days per week!

In my opinion, Chris has had a tremendous impact on skiing in Colorado during his career. Given his tremendously visible personality, Chris is a true ambassador of skiing, and particularly Colorado skiing, and his contribution as such is truly worth acknowledging. I sincerely hope the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame will recognize Chris's life devotion to Colorado skiing by inducting him as one of its esteemed members.

Sincerely,

Victor Gerdin





To: Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame -- October 2016  
Subject: Nomination seconding letter, for Chris Davenport

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this in support of the nomination of Colorado resident Chris Davenport to the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame; Athlete category.

For decades Chris has been a driving force in skiing — in both Colorado and around the world. He is an outstanding athlete who excels in multiple disciplines.

Beginning in 1996, Chris burst upon the ski scene by winning several of the first "freeride big mountain skiing" contests. Since then, as a sponsored ski athlete, guide, spokesperson and author he has applied his athleticism in numerous venues and subsequently inspired countless individuals, myself included.

In 2006-2007, Chris changed his focus from competition skiing to Colorado ski mountaineering, when he skied all of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks within a year-long period. That was a huge event in Colorado skiing, as prior to the first time the "fourteeners" had been skied (by myself), Colorado's highest peaks had been somewhat dormant in terms of ski mountaineering. Not only did Chris set a speed record and become the second person to ski all the 14ers, but he "opened up" the fourteeners in terms of the culture and psychology of his current generation. Subsequently "skiing the fourteeners" has become an established part of the Colorado ski scene.

Continuing his outstanding athleticism, Chris extended his fourteeners skiing when in 2015 he and two partners became the first ever skiers to descend the 100 highest peaks in Colorado. This stunning achievement is alpine sport at its finest, and perhaps the most important event in "Colorado skiing athletics" to occur in decades.

Other aspects of Chris: He's an experienced product designer. As an accomplished athlete, he knows what works. His advice is taken seriously by the companies he works with such as Scarpa, Spyder and Kastle. More, Davenport is an author, having co-published two excellent large-format inspirational ski books, one covering the Colorado peaks ("Ski the Fourteeners"), and another covering inspirational ski descents ("50 Classic Ski Descents of North America").

As Colorado Ski Hall of Fame member, I take these nominations seriously. Now in middle age with a family, Chris has more than four decades of skiing under his planks – plenty of time to make a seasoned addition to Colorado skiing.

In summary, I enthusiastically second the nomination of Chris Davenport as a member of the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

Louis Dawson: Publisher – WildSnow.com, Colorado Ski Hall of Fame 2005



**SUMMARY STATEMENT** for Chris Davenport's Hall of Fame induction.

Chris Davenport, from Colorado, is one of the world's premier big mountain skiers. In 2007 he became the first person to ski all 54 of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks in one year, and he added 46, 13,000 thousand foot peaks to the record by 2015. He has authored two coffee table books that celebrate Colorado's Mountains, "Ski the 14er's" and "Fifty Classic Ski Desents of North America. His accomplishments have brought visibility to the sport, that makes Colorado the desired destination for skiers from all over the world.