



COLORADO SNOWSPORTS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION
EUGENE DAYTON

SPONSORED BY ARIS SOPHOCLES, MD
CATEGORY SPORT BUILDER
ACHIEVEMENTS 1969 – PRESENT



Part 2: Sponsor's Nomination Letter

Dear sirs and madams:

I am nominating Gene Dayton for election into the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. As you'll see from his biography, Gene has many accomplishments to his credit, all of which have contributed to the building of the Colorado ski industry.

In 1969 Gene founded the Breckenridge Nordic Center. He has operated it for 48 consecutive seasons. From 1988 to 2016 he also operated the Frisco Nordic Center. He is one of the pioneers of Nordic skiing in Colorado. In 2002 his son Matthew Dayton competed in the Nordic Combined event in the Winter Olympics. Gene is an accomplished Nordic skier himself, winning the 1984 American Birkiebeiner in his age category and placing second in The Great American Chase Series.

Gene was the co-founder of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center in 1976. The BOEC runs the adaptive ski programs at Breckenridge and Keystone (955 skiers, 3299 skier days). Our students come from 41 states and 6 countries. It also provides adaptive adventure programs during spring, summer and fall seasons (1301 students, 3582 program days).

The BOEC internship program trains college students to provide adaptive ski and adventure programming (2377 program days annually). Our graduates now serve disabled clients throughout the United States and as far away as Japan. Over the years we have trained and matriculated over 500 interns.

Also, the BOEC brought the Norwegian Ski for Light program to the United States in 1976, with the help of our third co-founder Olaf Pederson. Today our intern graduates provide skiing instructions for visually impaired Nordic and Alpine skiers at ski areas nationwide.


Finally, the BOEC's Wounded Heroes Family Adventures hosts injured soldiers and veterans from the US and Great Britain. It provides ski and wilderness programming for soldiers and their families, along with lodging and group activities.

In addition to co-founding the organization, Gene has served on its board and raised funds to support its scholarship fund. His Breckebeiner, now in its twelfth year, raises \$30,000 annually. 32% of BOEC students receive those scholarships for a total of over \$165,000 annually (\$86,000 for ski clients and \$79,000 for wilderness clients).

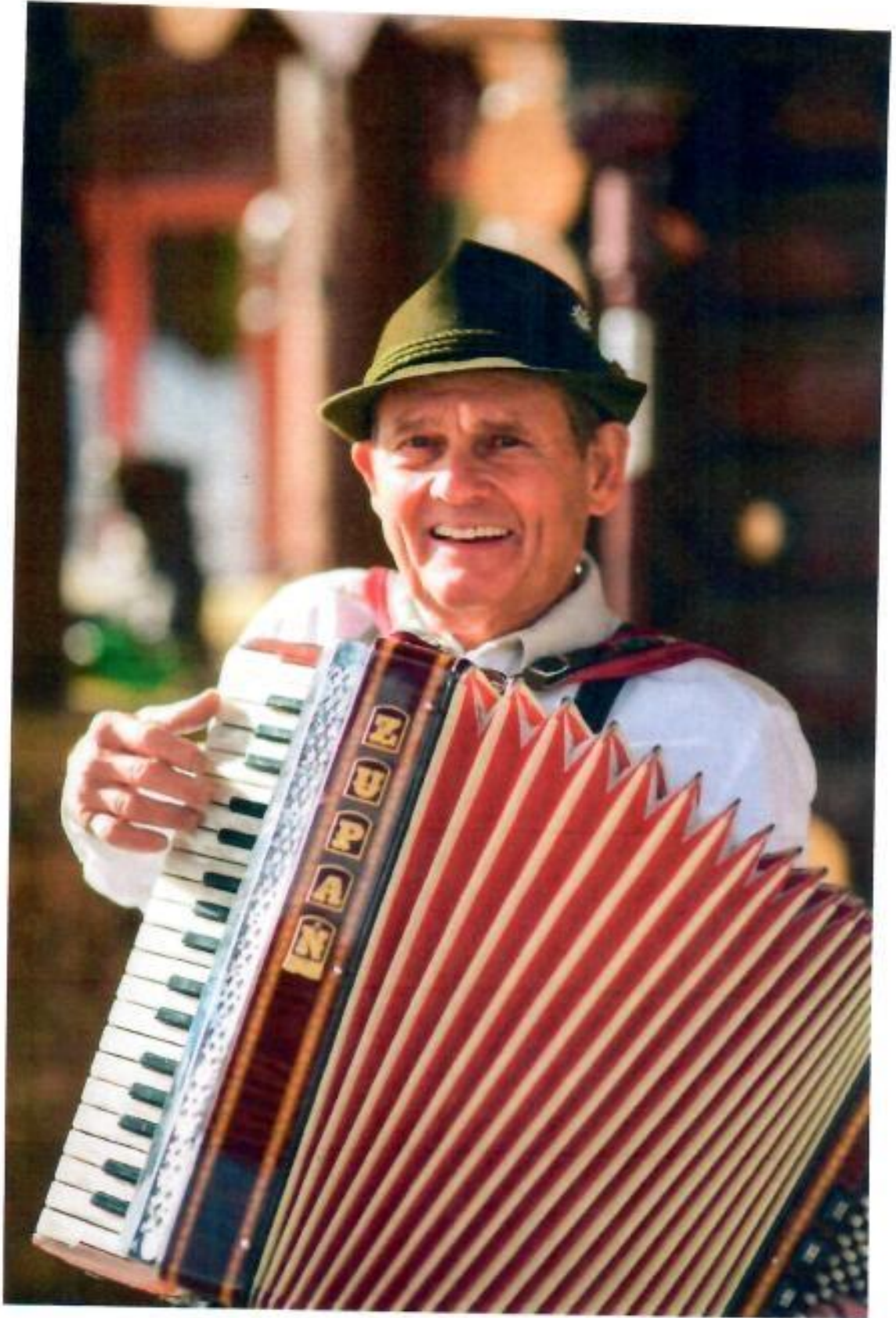
Gene also serves as a Ski for Light volunteer, one of 325 volunteers who assist our students.

There are few, if any, Colorado citizens more deserving of membership in the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,


Aris Sophocles, MD

Part 3: Photo of Gene Dayton



Part 4: Biography

- 1969: Owner Operator of the Breckenridge Nordic Center for 48 Ski Seasons
- 1976: Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center-Founding Director
- 1976-1981: Breckenridge Outdoor Education Director of Volunteers
- 1980-Current: Ski for Light Instructor Guide
- 1984: American Birkebeiner 1st Place Age Winner
- 1984: 2nd Place Finisher Great American Ski Chase Series
- 1988-2016: Operator of The Frisco Nordic Center for 28 years
- 1987: CCSAA National Board Member
- 1990: Volunteer of the Year, early Summit Huts Association
- 1990: CCCSA Regional Board Member through
- 1997: Experimental snowmaking operations at The Gold Course
- 2002: Father of 2002 Nordic Combined Olympian Matthew Dayton
- BOEC Honorary Member for Life World Loppett Gold Master Skier

Part 5: Two Nomination Seconding Letters



December 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased and honored to support the nomination of Gene Dayton to the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Gene was the founder of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) over 42 years ago. Throughout the history of BOEC, as instructor, director and trustee, Gene has been the driving force in creating one of the best programs for adaptive skiing (both Alpine and Nordic) and snowboarding in the country, if not the world. This program has touched the lives of over 30,000 individuals with disabilities and special needs, bringing them into a world they might never have been able to embrace on their own. Learning to ski or snowboard has changed their lives, giving them the confidence not only to master new skills but to better manage and enjoy their lives overall. These individuals have come from all over the country and from many countries around the world.

A key program of BOEC is the Intern Program, a professional training program in adaptive sport and therapeutic recreation. Each year for the past 40 years, the winter Intern Program has brought 14 young professionals to train in adaptive ski and snowboard instruction. The program involves rigorous training and hands-on involvement with clients. These staff have not only developed into future BOEC instructors but have gone on to other adaptive ski programs around the country, many assuming management roles. In this way, Gene's influence at the BOEC has multiplied many fold to advance the adaptive ski industry overall.

As the owner and operator of the Breckenridge and Frisco Nordic Centers, Gene has also generously donated passes, gear and lessons to our clients. He has hosted the Breckebeiner Nordic ski race for nearly 15 years to raise funds for our scholarship fund, enabling those in financial need to attend our Adaptive Ski and Ride Program.

I can think of no better deserving candidate for this honor than Gene Dayton. I whole-heartedly endorse him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Fitch".

Bruce Fitch
Executive Director
Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center

Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center
PO Box 697, Breckenridge, CO 80424
(970) 453-6422 boec@boec.org

December 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this support letter for Gene Dayton and his inclusion into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. I have known Gene since arriving in Breckenridge in the 1970's and feel he is more than qualified to be honored in this fashion.

Gene's accomplishments in the skiing world are many and varied. His involvement with the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center has lasted more than 40 years and includes his roles as founder, instructor and trustee. Because of this involvement, the BOEC has evolved into one of the most prestigious adaptive ski programs in the nation. As current Chairman of the BOEC, I can state that my job today is much easier, thanks to the efforts of Gene Dayton and his continuing support of this important organization.

The Summit Huts Association has also benefited from Gene's involvement. He is a dedicated volunteer and was instrumental in helping see to the completion of several of the huts in and around the Summit County area. This program benefits residents from all over the state and enables skiers to enjoy a tremendous outdoor experience.

Over the years, I have worked closely with Gene in the building and success of the Breckenridge Nordic Center. His efforts to maintain a first-class facility and his enthusiasm for the sport of Nordic skiing is infectious. He works tirelessly to keep the ski programs fresh and innovative for all ages.

As you can see, Gene's accomplishments are many, especially in regard to the promotion of the sport of skiing. For his entire life, Gene has put his heart and soul into this wonderful sport and, I am sure, will continue to do so. Gene truly deserves this high honor and his induction into the Hall of Fame would be the culmination of his efforts in promoting the sport of skiing.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Casey

TJC:pb

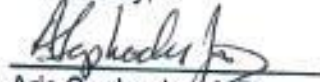
Part 6: Summary

Gene Dayton is one of the fathers of Nordic Skiing in Colorado. Additionally, he is the co-founder of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center. Both the Breckenridge Nordic Center and the BOEC are important parts of the fabric of the Town of Breckenridge. His vision for training interns to serve disabled skiers and wilderness adventurers has extended the impact of the BOEC far beyond the town limits. The school's internship graduates serve adaptive ski, visually impaired, and other clients with all abilities all over North America and as far away as Japan. Our students typically come from all over the US and an average of 6 other countries.

I recommend Gene to you without reservations.

Thank you for considering him for entry to the Colorado Ski & Snowboarding Hall of Fame.

Yours truly,



Aris Sophocles, MD

January 2, 2018