



DECEMBER 2025

PLAYMAKER HONOREES

PLAYMAKER	DIVISION	PAGE
Max Tyler	Development & Planning	4
Suzanne Snell	Employee Experience	5
Igor Korpanty RALLY AWARD!	Employee Experience	6
Lindsey Kuligowski RALLY AWARD!	Employee Experience	7
Brian Shade RALLY AWARD!	Employee Experience	8
Eric Bankston RALLY AWARD!	Employee Experience	9
Adriana Ballon	Food & Beverage	10
Misol Galleguillos	Food & Beverage	11
Alejandro Hernandez	Food & Beverage	12
Akela Phillips	Food & Beverage	13
Cynthia Gray	Food & Beverage	14
Zachary France	Food & Beverage	15
Kevin Badillo	Food & Beverage	16
Jimmie Williams	Food & Beverage	17
Ari Avendano	Food & Beverage	18
Kat Beltran	Food & Beverage	19
Ana Moreno Vergara	Food & Beverage	20
Maggie Brennan	Food & Beverage	21
Jorge Gonzalez	Food & Beverage	22
Chelsea Graff	Food & Beverage	23
Gabby Krichling	Food & Beverage	24
Artemio Luna Ruiz	Food & Beverage	25
Max Matell	Food & Beverage	26
Lainey Morin	Food & Beverage	27
Carlos Rosales Gomez	Food & Beverage	28



DECEMBER 2025

PLAYMAKER HONOREES

PLAYMAKER	DIVISION	PAGE
Miguel Suazo	Food & Beverage	29
Kevin Berg	Food & Beverage	30
Edna Resendiz	Food & Beverage	31
Selvin Williams	Food & Beverage	32
Alexandra De Gregorio	Lodging & Resort Services	33
Mandy Page-Gazaway	Lodging & Resort Services	34
Chris Luetkens	Mountain Operations	35
Gracie Baker	Mountain Operations	36
Fionn Conway	Mountain Operations	37
Fionn Conway	Mountain Operations	38
Ann Findley	Mountain Operations	39
Roxi Holmes	Mountain Operations	40
Matt MacFarland	Mountain Operations	41
Riley Masterson	Mountain Operations	42
Ben Merkle	Mountain Operations	43
Nick Minadeo	Mountain Operations	44
Terry Patrick	Mountain Operations	45
Baylee Rice	Mountain Operations	46
Eric Tiede	Mountain Operations	47
Nick Tortorilla	Mountain Operations	48
Skyler Whiting	Mountain Operations	49
Loren Ziglin	Mountain Operations	50
Adam Bugrin	Mountain Operations	51
Alan Cunningham	Mountain Operations	52
Kyle Fisher	Mountain Operations	53



DECEMBER 2025

PLAYMAKER HONOREES

PLAYMAKER	DIVISION	PAGE
Ralph Knowlton	Mountain Operations	54
Jorel Martinez	Mountain Operations	55
Geoff Skews	Mountain Operations	56
Goose Grosjean	Mountain Sports	57
Alex Kerichman	Mountain Sports	58
Ryan Kunkel	Mountain Sports	59
Lizzie Messerschmitt PEAK AWARD!	Mountain Sports	60
Lizzie Messerschmitt PEAK AWARD!	Mountain Sports	61
Jeff Moritz	Mountain Sports	62
Syd Salzman	Mountain Sports	63
Isabelle Segel-Landon	Mountain Sports	64
Austin Simpson	Mountain Sports	65
Tom Thatcher	Mountain Sports	66
Jason Suenaga	Resort Operations	67
TEAM	DIVISION	PAGE
EDGE CAFÉ TEAM OF THE MONTH!	Food & Beverage	68



December
Playmaker 2025

Max Tyler

Planning & Construction Manager

Development/Planning

Former Copper Mountain Ski Patroller and current Manager of Mountain Planning and Construction at Copper Mountain, Max Tyler, raised the bar high when he served as Event Medical Director for the Alpine World Cup Ski Races held here over Thanksgiving week.

Max did an exceptional job developing a comprehensive, detail-oriented Medical Plan and coordinating with interagency paramedics, physicians, and medical professionals who supported the World Cup events. He created clear and informative slide decks to ensure staff fully understood the medical response protocols for injured racers. To further enhance preparedness, Max captured drone footage of the entire course—from the Super-G through the finish area—allowing staff to visualize ahead of time exact locations for medical positioning and response.

His communication throughout the planning process was clear, thorough, and well-organized. Max facilitated a Flight for Life helicopter training exercise and conducted small-group meetings with race patrol members to ensure they had the information and confidence needed to perform their roles effectively. He also oversaw other areas of operations with locations for medical tents, ambulance staging areas, helicopter landing zones, etc.

During and ahead of the event, Max set clear expectations and maintained strong communication throughout the races. He approached his responsibilities with professionalism and seriousness, managing a complex and high-stakes ski race with precision. His skill set, initiative, and thoughtful preparation played a critical role in the flawless execution of each event from the Men's Super G to Women's slalom, and the entire team was better prepared because of his efforts.

Add to all of this, Max was an absolute pleasure to work with on this event, and Copper Mountain is fortunate to have Max on their Team!

NOMINATED BY: Shauna Bocksch



December
Playmaker 2025

Suzanne Snell

Senior Employee Experience Manager

Employee Experience/HR

It comes as no surprise that Team USA's biggest fan stepped in to help make the Volunteer and VIP experience seamless. Suzanne demonstrated genuine heart and dedication throughout the World Cup volunteer setup—supporting uniforms, gifts, and logo distribution—and again while co-leading the VIP volunteers alongside Louise.

When the gift and logo process began to feel daunting, Suzanne immediately stepped in, identified the issue, and personally helped get things back on track so everything could continue moving without delay. Her response was quiet and humble, focused entirely on helping others succeed—an outstanding example of truly soulful leadership.

Suzanne's teamwork shone through in her support of cross-department efforts. Amid constant updates and fast-moving changes, she became a steady and reliable connector, ensuring everyone had the right information at the right time. She brought clarity, calm, and care to a stressful process, helping the entire team show up at their very best.

NOMINATED BY: Kim Casey



December
Playmaker 2025

Igor Korpanty

Employee Housing Maintenance Technician

Employee Housing

RALLY AWARD WINNER!

This month, we had our first-ever (and hopefully only-ever) full flame fire in The EDGE. In a building that sees its fair share of burnt popcorn, we are all used to the fire alarms going off, but this one was different, and Igor and Brian really went above and beyond to make sure the residents were safe and the situation was under control.

While conducting his normal tasks, Igor was on the third floor when he smelled something burning. He followed his nose to a room where smoke was coming from the door. Wanting to make sure there were no residents inside, Igor knocked and yelled for the residents. When he didn't get a response, he quickly cleared the room and then came to report the situation to leadership. After reporting, Igor was a huge help evacuating people from the building and stayed in the area to assist with anything that may have come up. Once the building was clear, Igor helped get fans upstairs to clear the smoke, talking to fire investigators and other assorted tasks that needed to get done.

It was a stressful day for everyone in the building, and Igor took several things off our plate and was incredibly helpful. Thank you for keeping calm and helping out Igor!

NOMINATED BY: Lindsey Kuligowski



December
Playmaker 2025

Lindsey Kuligowski

Employee Housing/Events Manager

Employee Housing

RALLY AWARD WINNER!

On December 2nd, while we were enjoying a quick break from the World Cup festivities, our quiet Tuesday was hit with fire alarms going off at the EDGE building and smoke billowing out from the 3rd floor. Luckily, our Housing team is a well-oiled machine, and Lindsey jumped into action with our evacuation procedures and getting everyone quickly moved to another location while the first responders came on scene. Through it all, Lindsey was calm, efficient, and had things quickly at hand for the fire department for everything they needed, from building blueprints to tenant occupancy reports. Her team had also done several proactive measures this past year, including labeling all of the units that had animals in them, so that was visible for situations like this, where we needed to clear the rooms and floors. Bravo Lindsey on such great proactivity and your work during a challenging situation; your leadership and attention to detail made a difficult situation go as smoothly as it possibly could!

NOMINATED BY: Kelly Renoux



December
Playmaker 2025

Brian Shade

Employee Housing Maintenance Supervisor

Employee Housing

RALLY AWARD WINNER!

This month we had our first-ever (and hopefully only-ever) full flame fire in The EDGE. In a building that sees its fair share of burnt popcorn, we are all used to the fire alarms going off, but this one was different, and Igor and Brian really went above and beyond to make sure the residents were safe and the situation was under control.

While conducting his normal tasks, Brian was on the third floor when he smelled something burning and then heard Igor banging on the door. Brian followed Igor down to the lobby, where he jumped into action. Brian helped clear the building and evacuate residents to the conference center. He then stuck around in case more help was needed. That's when firefighters needed to know what window the room was -- and luckily Brian has the almost useless talent for being able to know a room number just by looking at the window -- and it really came in handy that day. Brian also went over blueprints of the building with investigators, helped the fire department find electrical boxes, and more. Brian also immediately jumped into repair mode when it was time, getting fans, talking to fire investigators, organizing access to the unit for repairs, and other assorted tasks that needed to get done.

It was a stressful day for everyone in the building, and Brian took several things off our plate and was incredibly helpful. Thank you for keeping calm and helping out Brian!

NOMINATED BY: Lindsey Kuligowski



December
Playmaker 2025

Eric Bankston

Security Supervisor

Security

RALLY AWARD WINNER!

On December 2nd, we had a fire alarm go off in the building, which is a normal occurrence for the EDGE Building on a Tuesday; but this one was also accompanied by smoke and fire on our 3rd floor. Eric happened to be the Security Supervisor on duty that day and jumped right in to help coordinate efforts to get first responders quickly to where they needed to go to reduce any impacts to the building. In conjunction with the employee housing staff - Eric personally escorted fire and sheriff's officers to the appropriate stairwells and floors to help clear the building and get the necessary hoses and equipment to where they needed to be. Thank you Eric for your consistent calm and professionalism during a heightened situation that ended with a positive outcome!

NOMINATED BY: Kelly Renoux



December
Playmaker 2025

Adriana Ballon

F&B Crewmember

Aerie

Adriana is a 3rd year returning employee who has demonstrated entrepreneurial values by taking on the task of working in the kitchen over the busy holiday stretch. She has embraced change by learning new skills and being receptive to a different position. Her commitment to the success of the operation also shows her dedication to teamwork, by being willing to work a new job in order to help her fellow coworkers in the back of the house. This was valuable to her as well in terms of creating new relationships with other peers she may not normally interact with on a daily basis. She has received numerous compliments from guests on her ability to provide quick service with a helpful and friendly personality. Thank you, Adriana, for your continued support and for being a dependable employee for us!

NOMINATED BY: Ryan Putnam



December
Playmaker 2025

Misol Galleguillos

F&B Crewmember

Aerie

Misol has been a great addition to our team as a new employee at Copper Mountain. She is thoughtful of her decisions and takes the extra time to make sure things are organized and prepared for service. I really appreciate her attention to detail when restocking and rotating items, ensuring quality products for our guests. She often asks me for extra tasks to complete in down time, showing her enduring personality to make sure the operation can get through the long haul of business demands. Also, recently she volunteered to work in the kitchen doing prep work and working a station in the food court. This demonstrates her entrepreneurial values as she embraces change and is willing to accept new responsibilities while learning different skills. Thank you Misol for your commitment to teamwork and offering your assistance where and when it is needed.

NOMINATED BY: Ryan Putnam



December
Playmaker 2025

Alejandro Hernandez

F&B Crewmember

Aerie

Alejandro is a new employee to Copper Mountain and was the first international student to arrive at Aerie this season. Right away, I realized that he could be depended on to be a leader for the rest of the staff. By being here before the majority of the others, he had time to really learn the ins and outs of the operation on a more individualized level. He has used this knowledge to commit himself to our philosophy of guest service and has been enduring by teaching those values to new employees who came after him. He is often asking for more tasks to complete and offering his assistance to other members of our team, exemplifying the value of teamwork. He has great guest interactions while on cash register, and is confident in himself to offer assistance without seeking the help or guidance of others when not necessary. Thank you, Alejandro, for your positive attitude and dedication to our success. Pura Vida!

NOMINATED BY: Ryan Putnam



December
Playmaker 2025

Akela Phillips

Dishwasher

Banquets

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Akela came in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased her dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort she put into making this happen. Her culinary experience and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Cynthia Gray

Barista Lead Cashier

Camp Hale Coffee

Cynthia's commitment to Enduring Success at our Center Village Coffee Shop has been outstanding! She only needs to be taught things once, and she's got it - and she knows when it needs to be done again. She looks ahead to see what we're going to need before we need it - not just when we're out and need something immediately. She comes in on her days off, she preps out the floor while she's here, and she's making a huge effort towards building up our teamwork and our camaraderie. We're all so thrilled and so thankful to have Cynthia on the team!

NOMINATED BY: Elizabeth McCole



December
Playmaker 2025

Zachary France

F&B Foreperson

Conoco

Zach recently put in a work order to deep-clean the ice cream freezer at Conoco. Usually, when we receive work orders like this, it's asking my team to come and clean out the freezer, but Zach knew our team has been very busy and just asked for some guidance on how to turn the unit off and how to clean it. He could have easily waited for us to have time to clean it for him, but instead, he noticed something that needed to be done and did something about it. He did a fantastic job cleaning out the freezer! This is going above and beyond to make sure his equipment is taken care of. Well done, Zach!

NOMINATED BY: Kyle DeScenna



December
Playmaker 2025

Kevin Badillo

Advanced Cook

Downhill Duke's

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Kevin comes in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased his dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort he put into making this happen. His culinary experience and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Jimmie Williams

Kitchen Manager

Downhill Duke's

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Jimmie came in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased his dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort he put into making this happen. His culinary skills and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Ari Avendano

Advanced Cook

EDGE Cafe

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Ari came in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased her dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort she put into making this happen. Her culinary skills and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Kat Beltran

Advanced Cook

EDGE Cafe

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Kat came in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased her dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort she put into making this happen. Her culinary skills and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Ana Moreno Vergara

Advanced Cook

EDGE Cafe

With a very busy World Cup event, our turkey maker Cindi did not have time to work her magic for our team meal this year. That's where Ana came in, taking the time to make a meal that was not only fantastic in taste, but also showcased her dedication to ensuring we all had a wonderful meal on a very hectic day. We truly appreciate the time and effort she put into making this happen. Her culinary skills and kindness greatly enhanced our Thanksgiving celebration this year and truly made the day special. Thank you for contributing to our team's spirit and camaraderie.

The Copper Mountain Transportation Team

NOMINATED BY: Transportation Team



December
Playmaker 2025

Maggie Brennan

Host/Busser

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Maggie for the Playmaker award because of the remarkable speed at which she has mastered the front-of-house flow, embodying our Teamwork and Soulful values. Since joining, Maggie has transitioned from learning the basics to managing a complex door with total composure, consistently 'embracing change' during our busiest shifts. She has a natural gift for delivering memorable experiences from the moment a guest walks in, often anticipating seating needs before they are even voiced. By constantly seeking feedback and growing into her role with such passion, Maggie has become a vital part of the team's success and perfectly represents our commitment to Play Forever.

NOMINATED BY: Kathryn Patrick



December
Playmaker 2025

Jorge Gonzalez

Kitchen Lead

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Jorge for his exceptional leadership as a Lead Cook. Jorge embodies our Enduring value by consistently making great things happen for the long haul. As a leader, he doesn't just manage the line; he sets the pace and the standard for the entire back-of-house.

Recently, during a high-volume event, Jorge demonstrated incredible Teamwork by identifying a breakdown in communication between the front and back of house. He stepped up to bridge the gap, calmly directing traffic and re-prioritizing guest needs to ensure our Mission of delivering memorable experiences wasn't compromised by the rush. He takes his role seriously, mentoring junior cooks with patience and ensuring that our 'Commitment to Play Forever' is reflected in the way we maintain our equipment and respect our workspace. His leadership ensures that the kitchen operates at its peak, even under the highest pressure.

NOMINATED BY: Alex Taylor



December
Playmaker 2025

Chelsea Graff

Bartender

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Chelsea for her incredible Soulful approach and commitment to Teamwork. During our Christmas day rush, Chelsea noticed a guest who seemed overwhelmed by the crowd and noise. Despite having a full rail, Chelsea took thirty seconds to make eye contact, offer a calm recommendation, and make that guest feel truly seen—embodying our mission to enhance lives. Chelsea doesn't just sling drinks; she curates the atmosphere and brings out the best in everyone.

NOMINATED BY: Kathryn Patrick



December
Playmaker 2025

Gabby Krichling

Bartender

Forage and Feast

I want to recognize Gabby for her Entrepreneurial spirit. Recently, they took the initiative to redesign our garnish stations and fridge storage. This change has reduced our waste –aligning with our Responsible value regarding the planet—but has also shaved minutes off our ticket times. By taking the chance to suggest a new workflow, she has created an Enduring system that will benefit the bar for seasons to come. She consistently exceeds expectations by looking at the bar not just as a workspace, but as a business she is passionate about improving!

NOMINATED BY: Kathryn Patrick



December
Playmaker 2025

Artemio Luna Ruiz

Dishwasher

Forage and Feast

Artemio is a true Entrepreneurial spirit in our kitchen. He is always looking for ways to 'embrace change' and improve our efficiency. Recently, he noticed a recurring bottleneck in our mid-day prep transition that was slowing down ticket times. On his own initiative, he reorganized the station layout and proposed a new prep-flow system that has since reduced waste and shaved minutes off our wait times. This willingness to 'venture more' and take ownership of the kitchen's success has greatly contributed to our Commitment to Play Forever by making our operations more sustainable and efficient for the long haul.

NOMINATED BY: Alex Taylor



December
Playmaker 2025

Max Matell

Bartender

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Max for the Playmaker award because of the incredible speed at which he has adapted to his role, embodying our Soulful and Entrepreneurial values through his drive to learn and grow every day. Max has transitioned from a new hire to a cornerstone of the bar team in record time, consistently exceeding expectations by seeking out new responsibilities and refining his craft without being asked. By constantly 'venturing more' to improve his knowledge, Max ensures he is delivering memorable experiences that truly enhance our guests' lives and perfectly aligns with our commitment to Play Forever.

NOMINATED BY: Kathryn Patrick



December
Playmaker 2025

Lainey Morin

Host/Busser

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Lainey for her incredible growth and 'all-in' attitude, which perfectly reflects our Responsible and Teamwork values. Lainey has scaled the learning curve in record time, moving from learning the floor layout to proactively anticipating the needs of both the servers and our guests. She consistently exceeds expectations by identifying exactly where she is needed most during a rush, ensuring that we 'make great things happen for the long haul' by keeping the restaurant's energy and cleanliness at its peak. Her drive to 'venture more' and her dedication to bringing out the best in her teammates makes her a true asset to the Copper mission.

NOMINATED BY: Kathryn Patrick



December
Playmaker 2025

Carlos Rosales Gomez

Dishwasher

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Carlos for being exceptionally Responsible and thoughtful of both our people and our processes. Carlos is often the first one in and the last one out, ensuring that our kitchen meets the highest standards of safety and sustainability. He is responsible for the morale of the team; he checks in on his coworkers daily to ensure they are supported. His dedication ensures we can continue to deliver great experiences for the long haul.

NOMINATED BY: Alex Taylor



December
Playmaker 2025

Miguel Suazo

Dishwasher

Forage and Feast

I am nominating Miguel for his incredible display of Teamwork and his dedication to our Mission of delivering memorable experiences. During a recent peak Saturday rush, we were short-staffed on the line, and the pressure was high. Miguel didn't just focus on his station; he acted as the 'glue' for the entire kitchen. He proactively jumped in to help the prep team catch up. By staying calm and keeping the energy positive, he ensured every guest received their meal on time and at the highest quality. His ability to 'work hard to bring out the best for others' turned a potentially chaotic shift into a win for the whole team.

NOMINATED BY: Alex Taylor



December
Playmaker 2025

Kevin Berg

Kitchen Foreperson

Sawmill Pizzeria

The West Village Cafe team would like to nominate Kevin for helping us set up our pizza oven for the upcoming season. We called on Kevin when all other pizza oven experts were unavailable. He took the time out of his busy schedule to come visit West Village, disassemble, help clean, and reassemble our pizza oven, all the while patiently teaching us and answering our questions about how to operate the oven properly.

We appreciate him setting us up for success.

Thanks Kevin!!

NOMINATED BY: Paige Gifford



December
Playmaker 2025

Edna Resendiz

Advanced Cook

West Village Cafe

The West Village Cafe leadership team would like to nominate Edna Resendiz for providing her expertise and guidance to the incoming WVC BOH team for the winter season. As one of only two returning BOH team members, Edna was able to provide guidance and model how to operate the pizza station with efficiency and excellence for our incoming staff. We would not have been able to get our team off the ground with as much ease without her help.

Thank you, Edna, for your consistency and commitment to excellence and for being patient with our new team members!

NOMINATED BY: Paige Gifford



December
Playmaker 2025

Selvin Williams

Advanced Cook

West Village Cafe

The West Village Cafe leadership team would like to nominate Selvin Williams for providing his expertise and guidance to the incoming WVC team for the winter season. As one of only two returning BOH team members, Selvin's commitment to providing high quality food at West Village Cafe's busiest food station, the grill, was vital to properly guiding new staff in how to best operate a complex food station. Selvin has a detail-oriented work ethic, and he cares about the quality of our food. We appreciate the leadership he has displayed for our BOH staff.

Thank you, Selvin, for all of your hard work!

NOMINATED BY: Paige Gifford



December
Playmaker 2025

Alexandra De Gregorio

Resort Services Foreperson

Guest Services and Guest Experience

Mandy and Alex, our returning forepersons from last season, have been an incredible addition to the Guest Services team in A10 at Copper Mountain. Having them back this year has been amazing; it truly felt like they never left. They stepped right back into their roles with confidence and familiarity, which made the transition into the new season smooth for both leadership and the team.

They work exceptionally well with the rest of the staff and have played a key role in guiding and supporting the new trainees in A10. Mandy and Alex lead by example, always willing to answer questions, offer guidance, and step in where needed. Their experience and positive attitudes have helped build confidence in the newer team members and strengthened overall team performance.

Beyond their strong work ethic, they foster a fun, welcoming, and supportive environment that makes A10 Guest Services a great place to work. Their energy and teamwork have had a positive impact on morale, and I am truly proud to have both Mandy and Alex on my team again this season.

NOMINATED BY: Brenda Troyo



December
Playmaker 2025

Mandy Page-Gazaway

Resort Services Foreperson

Guest Services and Guest Experience

Mandy and Alex, our returning forepersons from last season, have been an incredible addition to the Guest Services team in A10 at Copper Mountain. Having them back this year has been amazing; it truly felt like they never left. They stepped right back into their roles with confidence and familiarity, which made the transition into the new season smooth for both leadership and the team.

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NOMINATED BY: Brenda Troyo



December
Playmaker 2025

Chris Luetkens

Electrical Maintenance Supervisor

Lift Maintenance

In the weeks leading up to the World Cup, our team and many other teams had a lot of work to get done prepping Copper Station and the East Village base area for the event. My team in particular, had some curveballs thrown our way, which involved some new equipment being installed. We had a new coffee maker brought in at the last minute for the F&B staff, and it had different power requirements than what was available. On top of everything else going on, Chris made time to get this taken care of, and we were able to get the machine fired up in time for the event. This no doubt made a huge impact on the F&B team, and we would not have had this equipment running for the event if it weren't for Chris. This is just one example that I was personally involved with. There were lots of other last-minute requests that came in, and Chris went above and beyond to make sure that Copper Station was as ready as it could be for the World Cup. A BIG Thank You Chris! Your help is invaluable to the building services team, and you help our team, and so many others more than most realize!

NOMINATED BY: Kyle DeScenna



December
Playmaker 2025

Gracie Baker

Advanced Patroller

Ski Patrol

Gracie has stepped up this season as part of the medical training team. Gracie knocked it out of the park at orientation training and helped train our rookies with medical scenarios. Gracie also has helped spearhead CE training in the duty stations and developed a schedule of topics to keep our patrollers fresh on medical training. Additionally, she has been excelling as an advanced patroller; she has a solid understanding of operations and is a trusted dispatcher, rookie mentor, and respected member of our team.

NOMINATED BY: Brent Beadles and Martha Loring



December
Playmaker 2025

Fionn Conway

Training Patroller

Ski Patrol

Fionn is having a very strong start to his second season on ski patrol, and it's been great to see how much he's grown in a relatively short time. He's coming into work prepared, engaged, and clearly motivated to keep improving. He carries himself with confidence in the areas he knows well, which helps him work efficiently and make good decisions in the moment.

At the same time, Fionn is eager to learn and isn't afraid to ask thoughtful, well-timed questions when something is new or unclear. Those questions show that he's thinking critically about the work and genuinely wants to understand the "why," not just the procedure. That mindset goes a long way on patrol.

It's clear Fionn is building a strong foundation as a patroller, and his attitude and work ethic are exactly what we want to see from someone early in their patrol career. He's contributing positively to the team and setting himself up for continued growth this season and beyond. Keep it rolling, Fionn!

NOMINATED BY: Trevor Lehto



December
Playmaker 2025

Fionn Conway

Training Patroller

Ski Patrol

Downhill Duke's would like to take a moment to recognize Fionn for his incredible act of calm, courage, and compassion. In a moment of real urgency, he stepped in without hesitation and quite literally saved someone's life. His quick thinking and steady presence turned a frightening situation into one of relief and gratitude. Fionn went far beyond his role, which speaks to the kind of person he is. His actions will not be forgotten, and he made a lasting impact with the Downhill Duke's staff. You rock Fionn!!!!

NOMINATED BY: Downhill Duke's Staff



December
Playmaker 2025

Ann Findley

Mountain Safety Patrol Lead

Ski Patrol

With a US Coast Guard 2nd Mate's license on oil tankers, cruise ships, and all sorts of military vessels, world traveler, and former six-year Copper Mountain volunteer ski patroller and MSP volunteer, it has not surprised me that it did not take Ann Findley long to show initiative in her new role as Mountain Safety Patrol Lead this season.

From the start, Ann has asked for projects to keep her busy and engaged in this job. One project she took on without being asked was to improve the tools available for the entire volunteer staff of around 120. Using a document created by MSP member, Ron Doyle, that was given to New Hires, to learn the mountain, Ann went on to individually create upwards of 100 Mountain Orientation Guides so that all our staff could benefit from this geography tool. This Guide was a big job to fulfill as she had to not only line up maps so that the guide would print correctly double-sided and flow correctly, but then color print, laminate, and spiral bound each of these individually. Challenges with layout and printers aside, Ann got creative and spent countless hours working on this Guide so that Mountain Safety Patrollers could be better prepared, knowing all of the trails and patrol names and phones at Copper Mountain.

This is just one area where Ann raised the bar and went above and beyond in her position at Copper. I have no doubt there'll be more areas where Ann succeeds in her new role to make MSP more professional.

NOMINATED BY: Shauna Bocksch



December
Playmaker 2025

Roxi Holmes

Training Patroller

Ski Patrol

Roxi is in her second season on patrol and has wasted no time finding her stride. She shows up every day ready to roll, brings a contagious positive attitude to whatever mission comes her way, and isn't afraid to ask solid questions and learn on the fly. Whether she's knee-deep in a medical scene or ripping through a work mission, Roxi is always looking for ways to jump in, lend a hand, and make the patrol stronger. Thanks, Roxi!

NOMINATED BY: Nick Yannett



December
Playmaker 2025

Matt Macfarland

Ski Patroller

Ski Patrol

In his third season on ski patrol, Matt has continued to take on more responsibility. He facilitates drills for our Avalanche Dog program, is a now certified CPR instructor, and is part of our medical education team. He has been an integral part in leading medical training at orientation, for the rookies, and at duty stations. As a member of Team Thrive, Matt supports our resilience efforts, and his thoughtful perspective is much appreciated. He continues to seek out opportunities to lead and contribute to all aspects of ski patrol.

NOMINATED BY: Brent Beadles and Martha Loring



December
Playmaker 2025

Riley Masterson

Ski Patroller

Ski Patrol

Riley embodied our Mission Statement completely on the weekend of December 6th. Leading up to our biggest storm cycle of the season thus far (2ft!), he came up with a comprehensive limited skiing plan for our natural snow trails on the Eagle and Excelsior pod and delivered memorable experiences to our skiing public in an organized and safe manner that also allowed for the trails to be curated well for the season, especially in a low snow year.

Thanks Riley for being Enduring, Thoughtful, and Soulful!

NOMINATED BY: Reed Ryan



December
Playmaker 2025

Ben Merkle

Advanced Patroller

Ski Patrol

For as long as I can remember, Ben has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to improving our Lift Evacuation systems, protocols, and procedures. This year, in his role as Lead Lift Evac Instructor, he has made a meaningful impact from day one. Most recently, Ben finalized a comprehensive compilation of lift evacuation incident command resources, significantly improving how our team prepares for and manages potential evacuation scenarios. This project was originally initiated by Ben and another patroller last season, and bringing it to completion required an exceptional level of dedication, organization, and attention to detail. Thank you, Ben, for taking ownership of this work and seeing it through.

NOMINATED BY: Nick Yannett



December
Playmaker 2025

Nick Minadeo

Advanced Patroller

Ski Patrol

Nick is an integral part of our medical education team. He has taken on the responsibility of training our patrollers on our medical devices and on our protocols, including High Performance CPR, and developing a tracking system to get patrollers' CE credits. During orientation, Nick ran engaging educational scenarios. He has also been a go-to for our Rookie Training-beacon training, rig running, and medical scenarios. As a Lead, I appreciate Nick's understanding of how a duty station should function to accomplish our goals on a given day. He is an excellent dispatcher and communicates very well. It is great to watch Nick take on new roles and expand his responsibilities on patrol.

NOMINATED BY: Brent Beadles and Martha Loring



December
Playmaker 2025

Terry Patrick

Volunteer Mountain Safety Patrol

Ski Patrol

Terry Patrick has been overseeing the upkeep of our locker room for several years and has always been trying to make it more user-friendly & appealing to the MSP. Every holiday, he decorates it with fun, cheery items. He has made shelves for our paper products, and this past summer he deep-cleaned and waxed all the floors; all of this at his own expense & time. I think all the MSPs appreciate having a well-maintained and clean locker room.

NOMINATED BY: Ann Findley



December
Playmaker 2025

Baylee Rice

Lead Ski Patroller

Ski Patrol

I am nominating Baylee Rice as a Playmaker for her top-notch dispatching these last couple of months. Seeing as Baylee is a Patrol Lead, I suppose it's somewhat odd to be writing her a playmaker for the work she's been doing as a dispatcher, but I've been more than impressed and believe she deserves the recognition.

Baylee has set an incredibly strong tone for our dispatchers and our lead crew this season. Her level of organization, communication, the improvements she's made to our existing protocols/procedures, and her ability to stay on top of our operation without seeing it herself is remarkable. In my mind, she's raised the bar of what can be accomplished from the "box" (as we call it).

Kudos Baylee, thanks for keeping the pedal to the metal in there! The funny part is, we'd expect nothing less.

NOMINATED BY: Nick Yannett



December
Playmaker 2025

Eric Tiede

Advanced Patroller Ski Patrol

Eric has been an asset for medical training and mentorship this season. During pre-season orientation, Eric led reviews of medical scenario protocols. He was called on several times for rookie training medical scenarios and rookie mentorship, and has gone above and beyond. Eric has contributed to the medical training team and planned on-mountain training and scenarios in our duty stations. He has also been a trusted mentor. As a route leader, Eric has helped train rookies and returning patrollers in beacon search drills and is a boot-packing workhorse.

NOMINATED BY: Brent Beadles and Martha Loring



December
Playmaker 2025

Nick Tortorilla

Ski Patroller

Ski Patrol

"Nick Tortorilla is an "extremely hard worker"" -Kanani, he is " Very deserving of a playmaker" - Trevor, "Nick is very driven, he is proactive, and he is eager to support his teammates. He is always willing to share his experience and expertise with those looking to learn." -Kyle

Nick Tortorilla came into this season eager to build on the knowledge he has gained in two seasons of patrolling and willing to build up the patrollers around him. Nick was assigned to lead the Saturday Incident Investigation (i.i.) team. Nick worked to build up the entire team and set a high standard for the rest of the Saturday team to strive towards. In the first month of patrolling, Nick has been a valuable resource on several challenging investigations and has worked hard to make sure that all the paperwork is in and done correctly and in a timely manner.

In addition to doing his own assigned work well, Nick has been an invaluable resource to those around him. He has made himself available to answer the questions of individuals new to the Incident Investigation team, regardless of whether they are working on his assigned day. Nick asks the right questions and retains the knowledge that he gains from his curiosity. He then makes himself available as a resource to help others.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention Nick's presence in a duty station. Nick brings light and energy to the duty station, welcoming newer patrollers and volunteers into the space, keeping the atmosphere friendly, and always being ready to get out the door at a moment's notice for an injured guest or a work mission that needs to be done.

Copper's Core Value of Teamwork states. "Work hard to bring out the best for others." Nick practices this core value every day, and he also works hard to bring out the best in others. Ski Patrol is made better by Nick's hard work, and I look forward to continuing the high-quality work we have been able to do with Nick's assistance.

NOMINATED BY: David Trautmann



December
Playmaker 2025

Skyler Whiting

Training Patroller

Ski Patrol

It often takes a patroller some time to get into the swing of things in their second season. Skyler dove in headfirst. Her energy is infectious. Her willingness to accept all work and take pride in getting the smallest task done well is a testament to her work ethic. She never shies away from a call and even when knee deep in paperwork, will slow down to share with a new patroller how to use the II matrix properly. Skyler seeks to understand, asks insightful questions, and adjusts quickly and without hesitation when required. Her day-to-day effort is never missed and appreciated.

NOMINATED BY: Michael Wagenseil



December
Playmaker 2025

Loren Ziglin

Volunteer Mountain Safety Patrol

Ski Patrol

Loren has been a Mountain Safety Patroller for 9 years and has always been a team player who is looking for ways to enhance our guests' experience. Whether on the hill or not, he is always available to assist those in need, and during the recent World Cup Races, he really showed what a team player he is.

With all the skiers coming down Skid Road wanting to see the race, we had an issue with getting them to take off their skis/boards to walk through the crowd. We sent a team over there to help, and Loren took on this task to a degree that helped ensure no one tried skiing/riding through the crowd, which could have caused issues and injuries. He volunteered to be at this area for most of the races and to train all the other MSPer's who came to assist. He ended up being the last line of protection for the crowds, and we were all very proud of what he did.

He should be recognized for all he did to make the guest experience memorable during the World Cup Races.

NOMINATED BY: Tom Meredith



December
Playmaker 2025

Adam Bugrin

CDL Driver

Transportation

Adam truly exemplifies the spirit of teamwork and commitment we value in our workplace. On Monday December 1st, Adam was done with his day and about ready to punch out when he saw Jorel and Kyle cleaning a Copper Subaru used for the Copper Cup. Instead of leaving for the day, he chose to stay and help Jorel and Kyle wash and clean that car.

Adam's decision to prioritize assisting his teammate not only reflects his strong work ethic but also his dedication to fostering a collaborative atmosphere within our team. His willingness to go above and beyond was commendable and demonstrated how much he values teamwork and mutual support. This kind of leadership by example is what inspires all of us to maintain high morale and work together effectively.

Thanks, Adam, for being a team player and getting the job done a little faster.

NOMINATED BY: John Gillespie



December
Playmaker 2025

Alan Cunningham

CDL Driver

Transportation

Alan's outstanding contribution to our team's newsletter, particularly for his innovative idea of introducing a new game called "Who's that bus driver?" to be featured in the upcoming addition, was brilliant. Pictures were taken of drivers while working, then blacked out, and you had to guess who the driver was in the picture. Alan's creativity and commitment have truly shined through in this project. His game concept not only enhances our engagement with our drivers but also reflects the spirit of teamwork and fun that we strive to promote within our department. Thank you, Alan, I am confident that your contributions will inspire others to think outside the box and contribute creatively to future projects.

NOMINATED BY: John Gillespie



December
Playmaker 2025

Kyle Fisher

CDL Driver

Transportation

Kyle truly exemplifies the spirit of teamwork and commitment we value in our workplace. On Monday December 1st, Kyle was done with his day and about ready to punch out when he saw Jorel cleaning a Copper Subaru used for the Copper Cup. Instead of leaving for the day, he chose to stay and help Jorel wash and clean that car.

Kyle's decision to prioritize assisting his teammate not only reflects his strong work ethic but also his dedication to fostering a collaborative atmosphere within our team. His willingness to go above and beyond was commendable and demonstrated how much he values teamwork and mutual support. This kind of leadership by example is what inspires all of us to maintain high morale and work together effectively.

Thanks, Kyle, for making someone's workday a little better.

NOMINATED BY: John Gillespie



December
Playmaker 2025

Ralph Knowlton

Transportation Foreperson

Transportation

Ralph consistently goes above and beyond to boost team morale and show appreciation for his drivers. On Tuesday, December 16th, Ralph arranged for each driver to take time during their shift to enjoy a break and pick up a treat.

This kind of thoughtfulness is typical of Ralph. He regularly finds ways to make the team happy and lift spirits, whether it's bringing Bundt Cakes from Denver or simply making sure his team feels valued.

What makes Ralph exceptional is his consistency. He doesn't wait for special occasions; he actively looks for opportunities to show his team they matter. His commitment to creating a positive team culture is inspirational and makes a real difference.

Ralph's efforts don't go unnoticed, but they deserve formal recognition. Thank you, Ralph, for everything you do!

NOMINATED BY: Jeff Rivera



December
Playmaker 2025

Jorel Martinez

CDL Driver

Transportation

Jorel is the driver who always finds things to do on his own if he doesn't have an assignment, like stocking salt, tissues, washer fluid, oil, and coolant in the transportation trailer, and is always following up on issues he has noticed with buses. He is willing to wash buses for long periods of time, even when it is windy, cold, and snowy, just to keep the wheels turning. He always has a positive attitude, and I know it lifts other drivers' spirits as well as mine. He gets along well with all his fellow workers and sets the example for others to follow by making sure his bus is ready to go and by helping backup drivers off the line so that they can get on the system safely. He has taken it on his own to write interesting facts on the information board, and I know I have learned more about animals and clouds than I ever thought possible in my job as a shuttle driver. Jorel has been a great addition to the team.

Thanks, Jorel, for lifting everyone's team spirit and morale.

NOMINATED BY: Geoff Skews



December
Playmaker 2025

Geoff Skews

CDL Driver

Transportation

For one of our December newsletters, Geoff wrote an article to help drivers better understand the options we have in the department for trash and recycling. Geoff has helped for as long as I can remember with the clean the mountain days we have in the summer and picking up trash on the mountain during his summer Woodward shifts. Geoff's article titled "Trash Talk with Geoff" was not only engaging but also filled with insightful commentary that resonates well with our drivers. His ability to blend humor with valuable information would undoubtedly make Jeff Grasser proud. Thank you, Geoff, for taking the time to pick up dirty, disgusting stuff from all over the resort in your travels.

This is the article Geoff wrote:

"One of my favorite things about living in this area is how beautiful it is. In spite of that beauty, I see people throw trash on the ground on a daily basis. Sometimes they even throw it on the ground right by a trash can! This summer, I picked up over a thousand pieces of trash in the Alpine parking lot just walking back and forth to work. For those of you that don't work here in the summer, when we stay on the mountain after dropping the Woodward Camp kids off, we spend a few hours picking up several 5-gallon buckets of trash off the mountain. In addition to this, Copper Mountain also sponsors a couple of clean the mountain days, where dozens of people are out picking up trash. Despite all this effort, there is still a lot of trash left on the mountain. If you don't know where to recycle in Transpo, there are receptacles for aluminum, plastic, and cardboard located just outside the office. It is only 13 steps further from the trash can that is just inside the break room door. It is 32 steps from the trash can by the TMT trailer to those receptacles. It is hard to change people's behavior, and I have learned in my many years on the planet that it is very difficult to make people care when they don't. But what we can do is to try to set the example for others to follow. So please dispose of your trash properly, and if you really care, recycle, reduce, and even follow John's example, reuse, even if it means dumpster diving! Okay maybe you don't have to go that far. Thanks!"

NOMINATED BY: John Gillespie



December
Playmaker 2025

Goose Grosjean

Ski and Ride School Training and Lesson Manager

Ski and Ride School

Chris “Goose” Grosjean joined our team this fall, and it didn’t take long to see the thoughtful leadership and genuine care he brings to everything he does. He jumped right in and proactively built out our training for the season—showing real entrepreneurial spirit by creating solutions and inviting input from others along the way.

Goose leads with humility and heart. His “feedback welcomed” mindset speaks to a soulful leader who truly values people and purpose, while still keeping programs moving forward in a meaningful way.

Behind the scenes, Goose consistently shows strong commitment—doing the detailed work that often goes unseen but is essential to keeping our training program strong and our team supported.

NOMINATED BY: Kim Casey



December
Playmaker 2025

Alex Kerichman

Teaching Instructor

Ski and Ride School

Alex consistently shows up to work on time and with the best, most positive attitude. I truly enjoy when he comes to work because he always brings the stoke and has so much passion for snowboarding. He ignites passion for snowboarding like no one I have ever seen in students of all ages. He always has a smile on his face and is ready to do whatever we need him to do at work. He always asks us how else he can help and continues to spark that same energy in his coworkers. Alex is continuing his education and pursuing his AASI level 2 this year and I cannot imagine a person more suited for this career than him. We are so grateful to have Alex at Copper Mountain and in ski school!

NOMINATED BY: Jackie Pelletier



December
Playmaker 2025

Ryan Kunkel

Teaching Instructor

Ski and Ride School

Ryan is back for her second season teaching at Copper and is already making a huge impact on our school! Ryan is someone that we can trust to make safe and logical decisions, and as a result, we have had her take numerous new hires as shadows this month. In fact, she has had a total of five shadows, giving each new hire she meets a supportive welcome. She has passed along her knowledge, as well as tips and tools for helping students learn. Our new hires have been lucky to learn from Ryan, and we are grateful to have her on our team!

NOMINATED BY: Maura Brubaker



December
Playmaker 2025

Lizzie Messerschmitt

Mountain Sports Business Manager

Ski and Ride School

PEAK AWARD WINNER!

In SRS, many of our daily operations are driven by a platform called Flaik—the system behind the red tags you see on our students. By scanning students and classes, Flaik provides a critical layer of safety, accuracy, and recordkeeping. We are incredibly fortunate to have Lizzie as our in-house expert on this system.

New this year, we transitioned to an entirely new scanner setup. Lizzie brought a calm, steady leadership style that made a complex change feel manageable. Her work setting up and rolling out the new Flaik scanners demonstrated long-term thinking and strong attention to detail. Those same qualities were evident when she walked all of us through the new system, helped up troubleshoot, and worked closely with our IT to find solutions—doing so with clarity, patience, and care.

Lizzie leads without ego—building strong systems, supporting others, and creating stability that carries forward season after season.

NOMINATED BY: Kim Casey



December
Playmaker 2025

Lizzie Messerschmitt

SRS Manager

Ski and Ride School

PEAK AWARD WINNER!

Lizzie Messerschmitt has been an absolute cornerstone of the Copper Mountain Ski & Ride School operation this season. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide extensive administrative support throughout the hiring and onboarding process for our new-hire instructor class. This role is often thankless and detail-heavy, yet Lizzie consistently executes it with precision, professionalism, and reliability. Her ability to manage countless moving parts without missing the mark has been instrumental in setting our new staff up for success.

In addition to her onboarding efforts, Lizzie has played a critical role in reviewing and determining the accuracy of our payroll on a near-daily basis. This responsibility often includes reviewing and approving pay for up to 180 staff members in a single day, an enormous task for one person. Her attention to detail and commitment to accuracy ensure that our team is paid correctly and on time, reinforcing trust and stability across the school.

Lizzie has also gone above and beyond to ensure the successful implementation and accuracy of our new Flaik scanner technology during daily lineups and operational functions. This technology is hugely important to the school, and despite technical hiccups and operational challenges, Lizzie has remained steadfast and solution-oriented. She has bent over backwards to streamline Flaik operations, troubleshoot issues, and help staff adapt to the system, all while maintaining a positive and determined attitude.

Lizzie's dedication, consistency, and willingness to take ownership of complex systems make her a true Playmaker within the Copper Ski & Ride School. Her work has had a direct and meaningful impact on the efficiency, accuracy, and overall success of our operation this season.

Thanks Lizzie!!!

NOMINATED BY: Mike McFarland



December
Playmaker 2025

Jeff Moritz

Adult Ski & Ride School Supervisor

Ski and Ride School

Jeff Moritz has consistently demonstrated exceptional versatility across a wide range of responsibilities, stepping confidently into whatever role is needed to support the success of the ski school. His ability to shift between operational demands, staff needs, and guest-focused priorities shows a deep understanding of the overall program and a strong commitment to team success. Jeff's flexibility and competence make him a reliable presence in fast-paced and ever-changing environments.

In addition to his operational strengths, Jeff has taken an active and thoughtful role in mentoring his new coworker on the supervisor team. He leads by example, offering guidance, context, and encouragement that help build confidence and accelerate learning. His willingness to invest time and energy into developing others reflects strong leadership qualities and contributes positively to team cohesion and long-term success.

Jeff also stands out for leading comprehensive and well-organized morning meetings that set a high standard for the day. His attention to detail, clear communication, and motivating presence help inspire ski school staff to rise to the occasion every morning. These meetings consistently provide clarity, alignment, and energy, reinforcing a culture of professionalism and pride that carries through to both staff performance and guest experience.

Thanks Jeff!

NOMINATED BY: Mike McFarland



December
Playmaker 2025

Syd Salzman

Teaching Instructor

Ski and Ride School

Syd is in her third season here at Copper Mountain, and over the past few years, I've seen tremendous growth in her teaching. That growth has given me the confidence to place her in a wide variety of lesson types, knowing she can adapt with flexibility and professionalism. She has also been incredibly reliable throughout the season. Thank you, Syd, for all the effort and commitment you bring to Copper Mountain.

NOMINATED BY: Devon Page



December
Playmaker 2025

Isabelle Segel-Landon

Teaching Instructor Ski and Ride School

Isabelle has been one of the most consistent instructors that we have in ski school this year. She is always on time and always asks for help/support when she needs it. She has expressed to me that she wants to make this her career, and I cannot think of a better, more capable person to be a ski instructor! She is so passionate about skiing and teaching students of all ages. I have seen her be able to differentiate her teaching style for so many different students. She is someone I cannot see this school without! Isabelle inspires other instructors around her to have that same passion for skiing as she does. She is pursuing another certification, and I cannot wait to see how she blossoms more in our ski school and at Copper Mountain! We are so lucky to have her! She is truly a gem.

NOMINATED BY: Jackie Pelletier



December
Playmaker 2025

Austin Simpson

Certified Adult Ski School Instructor

Ski and Ride School

Austin Simpson has shown outstanding engagement as a new instructor at Copper Mountain, taking an active and invested role in the training process. He consistently arrived prepared, asked thoughtful questions, and demonstrated a clear desire to apply feedback on snow. His positive attitude and commitment to learning have set a strong foundation for his growth and success as an instructor.

In the lesson environment, Austin has already distinguished himself through strong guest service skills. He is attentive, approachable, and responsive to guest needs, creating a welcoming and supportive experience for participants of all levels. His ability to communicate clearly and adapt to his guests has contributed to lessons that feel both effective and enjoyable.

Austin's impact is further reflected in the consistently positive outcomes he has delivered for his guests. Despite being new to Copper Mountain, he has already been requested multiple times by name, which speaks volumes about the quality of experience he provides. This early recognition highlights his potential and suggests a promising future as a valued member of the Copper Mountain Ski & Ride School team.

Thanks Austin!

NOMINATED BY: Mike McFarland



December
Playmaker 2025

Tom Thatcher

SRS Youth Manager

Ski and Ride School

At the end of last season, the SRS team reviewed our curriculum and realized our Pre-K programming needed a refresh. Since this age group is the foundation of our school, Tom jumped in to improve the progression—building on what had worked in the past while adding modern, age-appropriate teaching styles.

The updated progression creates strong early skill foundations, supports consistent teaching through PSIA/AASI and the Teaching Cycle, and sets kids up for safe, positive first experiences that last across multiple seasons.

The curriculum embraces change by introducing playful, child-centered methods and encouraging instructors to adapt creatively to each child and the terrain.

This update strengthens instruction, boosts coach confidence, and improves the guest experience for our youngest learners—while clearly living our SRS and Copper values.

NOMINATED BY: Kim Casey



December
Playmaker 2025

Jason Suenaga

Lift Operator

Lift Operations

Since day one, Jason has been an outstanding employee. Jason is always willing to help where it is needed, is a great coworker, and is amazing at guest service! On the morning of January 2nd, we needed to move Jason from Excelerator to the tubing hill because of call outs. He arrived at the tubing hill before his fellow operators and took it upon himself to clear the ENTIRE carpet by himself. We want to recognize his amazing work ethic! Keep it up Jason!

NOMINATED BY: Matt Schreckenhofer



December
Playmaker 2025

EDGE Café

Food & Beverage

TEAM OF THE MONTH!

The EDGE Cafe staff have done an amazing job this season. Kyle, Ari, Anna, Kat, and Wilson have gone above and beyond to create a consistent, quality-driven breakfast and lunch program for all of our departments. Whether it is our daily breakfast specials, lunch specials, or additional scratch desserts -- the cafe team takes great pride in all that they do. Their teamwork has created an enduring concept that has created more employee loyalty -- they are Busy! They have also partnered very well with our Play Forever team with consistent messaging around composting and recycling. The EDGE Cafe has a solid restaurant vibe, Kyle's music selection keeps it jammin', and his team follows that up with great service and quality food! Thank you for all your hard work!

NOMINATED BY: Justin Peterson