

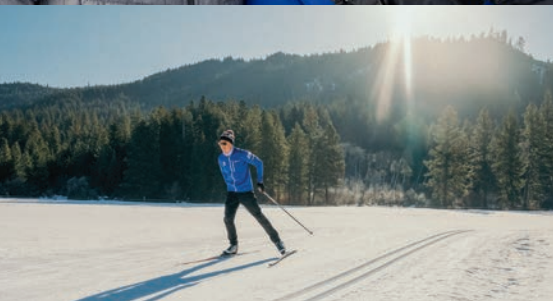
# Plain Valley Ski Trails



## MISSION DRIVEN

We create and sustain a high-quality ski trail system that serves the community and funds barrier-free ski educational programs that motivate individual and team achievement.





Thank you for an epic winter!



Christie Saugen

PVST DIRECTOR

The 2022–23 Winter Season was the longest season on record for Plain Valley Ski Trails! We opened November 8th and closed April 2nd! That's nearly five months of awesome skiing!

Thank you, Plain Valley Landowners for donating the use of your land to the community trails!

Thank you, Plain Valley Ski Trails Skiers!

We sold almost 400 season passes and over 5,000 day passes! The net proceeds from our trails and adult programs support the Plain Valley Nordic Team (PVNT), our youth ski education program which provides barrier-free opportunities for youth from preschool through high school. With the incredible support of this community through donations, grants and over 60 program volunteers, PVNT runs year-round programming to develop the kids in our program as people as well as skiers. We empower our youth to

define their goals and equip them to achieve their aims, which range from developing a life-long love of the outdoors to skiing in national and international races. We have seen incredible growth this season in our youth and in the community that supports them, and we appreciate each and every one of you.

I am also beyond thankful to be a part of this incredible community and look forward to the years to come. 🙌

Cover photo is of PVST's new PistenBully grooming the race stadium.





## THANK YOU TO OUR PVST WINTER TEAM!

### PVST GROOMERS:

Rob Dilling, Josiah Johnson, Jason Boyes, Gus Peterson, Caleb Swart, and Rob Whitten

### PVST INSTRUCTORS:

Cyndy Bostrom, Karen De Jongh, Jackson Douglas, Faith Everest, Lien Hagedorn, Lindsey Kiesz, Gabe Norby, Peter Norby, Steve Pate, Elijah Walker, and Terri Weiss.

### PVST BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Board President & Chair, Joel Werdell  
Secretary, Terri Weiss  
Treasurer, Jon Karpoff  
Landowner Committee Chair, Jaimi Krenz

### PLAIN VALLEY SKI TRAILS STAFF:

PVST Director, Christie Saugen  
PVST Trails Manager, Rob Whitten  
PVST Mechanic, Caleb Swart  
PVNT Program Director & Head Coach, Pierre Niess  
PVNT Assistant Coach, Gabe Norby  
PVNT Devo Coach, Jeff Layton

We are grateful for the years of care given by Anne Worden to the Plain Valley Nordic Team and Ski Trails. Anne is moving on from the role of PVST Marketing Director and Registrar. Anne and her family remain an active part of PVNT. We wish her the best!



Half the team traveled to races across the state and beyond. PVNT skiers competed according to their level, ranging from the Washington Nordic Cup to Nationals (Junior and Senior).



## Pierre Niess

**PVNT PROGRAM DIRECTOR & HEAD COACH**

As the season ends, I want to personally thank you all for your support. I am so proud of the diversity of opportunities we can provide for our (ski) community; a community that we helped to create and a community that keeps morphing alongside us. You all play such an important part in its development. The sheer amount of people from all backgrounds that found an identity through PVNT and revolve around it in so many ways is probably the most amazing feature of the team over the last eight years.

Plain Valley Nordic Team and Trails became an intricate web of support that is focused on a central idea: Be competitive/Be relevant in a specific environment, challenge that environment, adapt and be relevant once more, stay competitive. That is our core as an education program. Challenge, learn, repeat.

It is also true at an organizational level. Traveling back from the Nationals, I had a lot of time to think. The tone we initially set and the culture we developed really resonated with a growing team. It is easier to be inclusive and supportive when you are the underdog. During the races, I got so many messages of support that were focused on just results. It is obviously something to cherish, yet, it also made me wary. It was a new environment. It made me wary of the potential impact on our team culture. We must be very cautious about the way we communicate. Our culture is fragile in an environment in which it has not been challenged yet. (YES, the organization is like one of our skiers, crazy stuff.) It is a new challenge; we must learn!

*Challenge, learn, repeat.*

In other words, through exciting times, people will root for something special. A national champion is obviously a highlight. People did not necessarily





PVNT's Senior Racers rose to the top team in the Pacific Northwest division and ranked 11th in the US with multiple All-American skiers (top ten finish at US Junior Nationals).



Quinten Koch and Silas D'Atre skied to a US Junior National Championship and a top five in the U16 Skate Sprint! A new milestone for PVNT!



Leavenworth Winter Sports Club and PVNT's alumni skier, Derek Richardson elevated himself to a National Championship and has been named to the US Ski Team!

previously understand the level of our skiers, although we have four that are probably in that ballpark. I want to make sure that we keep communicating appropriately. There were a lot of kids overcoming challenges this winter. These challenges are all valid and we empower all of them. That is what creates adherence to the sport (our vessel for education). The more diverse

*The more diverse challenges we can provide, the more kids we can keep involved.*

challenges we can provide, the more kids we can keep involved, not just in sheer numbers but mostly over time. That is what will make us relevant and keep us relevant. The usual word is pipeline, but pipeline gives that idea of a unidimensional funnel towards a singular goal. I do not think it is appropriate for us. I think we are a trail system of challenges/opportunities, with a lot of possibilities. PVNT skiers all start at the base area and funnel around a similar valley, yet there are a lot of different ways to navigate around it and we do not all need to reach the same destination. Hopefully, you get the metaphor.

We all created something so special, it is fragile, growing yet powerful. So, let's keep inviting challenges, and learn from them. It will define a large part of our lives. ❄️



### HOW IT ALL STARTED



Plain Valley Ski Trails was founded by Rob Whitten, owner of Plain Hardware, in 2011, in collaboration with the landowners of Plain Valley, to create a trail network with the intent of supporting its youth. This vision would not be possible without the incredible support of this community!



# Gabe Norby

**ADT LEAD COACH**

The Advanced Devo Team (ADT) had an amazing and truly memorable winter season—from skiing our local ski trails to traveling as far as Park City, Utah, for the U14 Championships! As the ADT coach, I try to push all of my skiers to have fun and challenge themselves in different environments. The main environment we use is ski racing, though that is far from the only one.

I had one skier this winter who didn't really want to try racing because he had never done it before. After talking to him and encouraging him to step out of his comfort zone, he decided to try a couple of races. His last race of the season was a classic mass start and he was super nervous about it. I told him to focus on the things he could control like his warm up and the food he ate before the race, to push as hard as he could, and not worry about anyone else.

After his race, he came up to me and said that it was the best race of the season and he was so happy that he competed. Helping skiers overcome their challenges and grow, not only in nordic skiing but also in so many other ways, is one of the most incredible things I have experienced as a coach. ❄️



# Jeff Layton

**DEVO LEAD COACH**

After the Devo winter season concluded, kids were given the opportunity to enroll in “bonus practices” to stretch their skills. One of the big challenges offered to the advanced skiers was an opportunity to climb Grizzly Peak.

Skiing “Griz” is no joke, even for experienced adults. The trail has a ridiculous ascent that requires a slow herringbone climb, followed by a stomach-in-your-throat plunge where you have no choice but to point your skis downhill and send it. But the reward at the summit is a view into Glacier Peak Wilderness. For the 20 Devos who made the climb, it was a highlight at the end of a stellar season.

*Exhausted and bursting with pride is how you would describe them at the finish.*

didn't sit well with them. By the time the larger group began to climb, several kids had chased down the faster group and demanded the chance. They simply didn't want to miss out and wanted to summit even if it took all night. Their perseverance was rewarded with making it to the top.

Did they struggle? Of course. But everyone succeeded. Exhausted and bursting with pride is how you would describe them at the finish. ❄️



ADT at the U14 Championships in Park City, Utah

*Helping skiers overcome their challenges and grow is one of the most incredible things I have experienced as a coach.*



Newly launched Little Shredders ski program for preschool kids ages 2-5 through a partnership with Mountain Sprouts Children's Community Preschool.



Installed wildlife information signs on our most popular ski trails to inform the public of the local fauna through a partnership with Beaver Valley Elementary.



Devos atop Grizzly Peak.



✦ ✦ *We have met 75% of our 2022–23 fundraising goal!*

We have until the end of our fiscal year on October 31st to bring in the additional 25%

During this fiscal year, PVST has been awarded grants through Washington State Tourism, North Central Accountability for Community Health and The Rotary Foundation! These grants, along with our PVST Business Sponsors, PVST Founders Club, Plain Valley Adventure

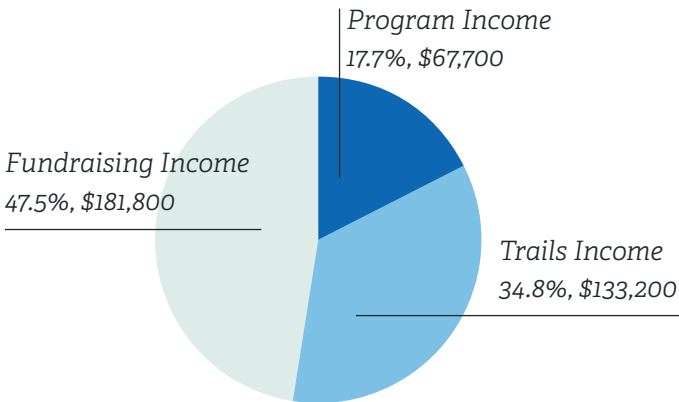
Women, our dedicated donors and generous landowners makes our mission possible!

Thank you for your support of Plain Valley Ski Trails!

## 2022–23 PVST Projected Budget

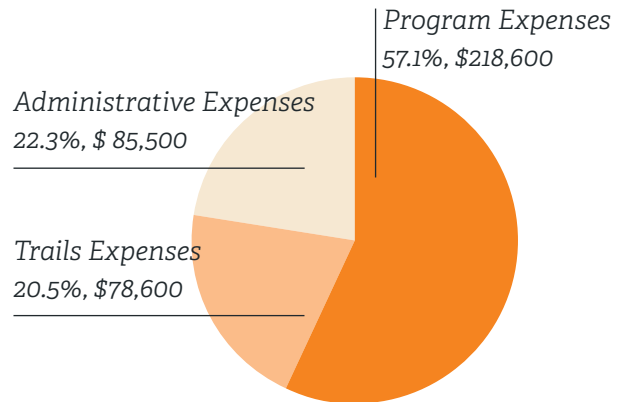
### PVST 2022–2023 BUDGETED INCOME

Total: \$382,700



### PVST 2022–2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES

Total: \$382,700



126

Youth skiing in the winter Plain Valley Nordic Team

61

Volunteer coaches for winter 22–23

47

Women skiing in the Plain Valley Adventure Women

Donors and volunteers make the world go round



Plain Valley Adventure Women (PVAW) offer summer and winter programs that bring women together learning about our environment, exploring the arts and improving our outdoor skills in a fun and supportive environment.



Jeff's vision of music, hot cocoa and firepit became the local hang out for a lot of parents and supporters. It is something to witness!

### Thank you PVST Business Sponsors for providing operational support!

- Plain Hardware
- Mountain Springs Lodge
- Rainier Construction

### Thank you PVST Founders Club!

The Founders Club is a group of people, open to all, who believe in the mission of PVST and are committed to the Plain Valley Nordic Team's youth through providing the funding that directly supports the youth program!

**Rob Whitten and Deborah Sinclair,**  
Founder of Plain Valley Ski Trails & Plain Valley Nordic Team

**Alex and Ali Allen**

**Jeff Layton and Amanda Gatlin**

**Jon Karpoff and Chrystell Flota**

**Ed and Nancy Tobey**

**Terri and Kris Weiss**

**Joel and Amanda Werdell**

### Thank you Plain Valley landowners!

### Thank you PVST Volunteers!

We had 61 volunteer coaches supporting our 126 youth skiing on the Plain Valley Nordic Team this past winter!

Over 30 community members volunteer with our new PVST Trail Ambassador Program. This program was a huge success providing a warm welcome and information to our skiers at our popular trailheads on weekends and holidays.

11 PVST Instructors volunteered their time to lead the Plain Valley Adventure Women Ski Program for over 45 women!

## Challenge. Learn. Repeat.

### A FEW PARTING PROMPTS

As we enter the summer after closing a successful winter chapter, here are a few prompts for reflection. Feel free to write your thoughts in the lines provided.

How did you challenge yourself this year?



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What did you learn?



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How will you show up in your community this year?



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### Make a donation today



#### QR CODE DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

Open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your phone or tablet. Tap Donate to get started.

Visit [skiplain.com/donate](https://skiplain.com/donate) to make a gift today.





You help transform lives.