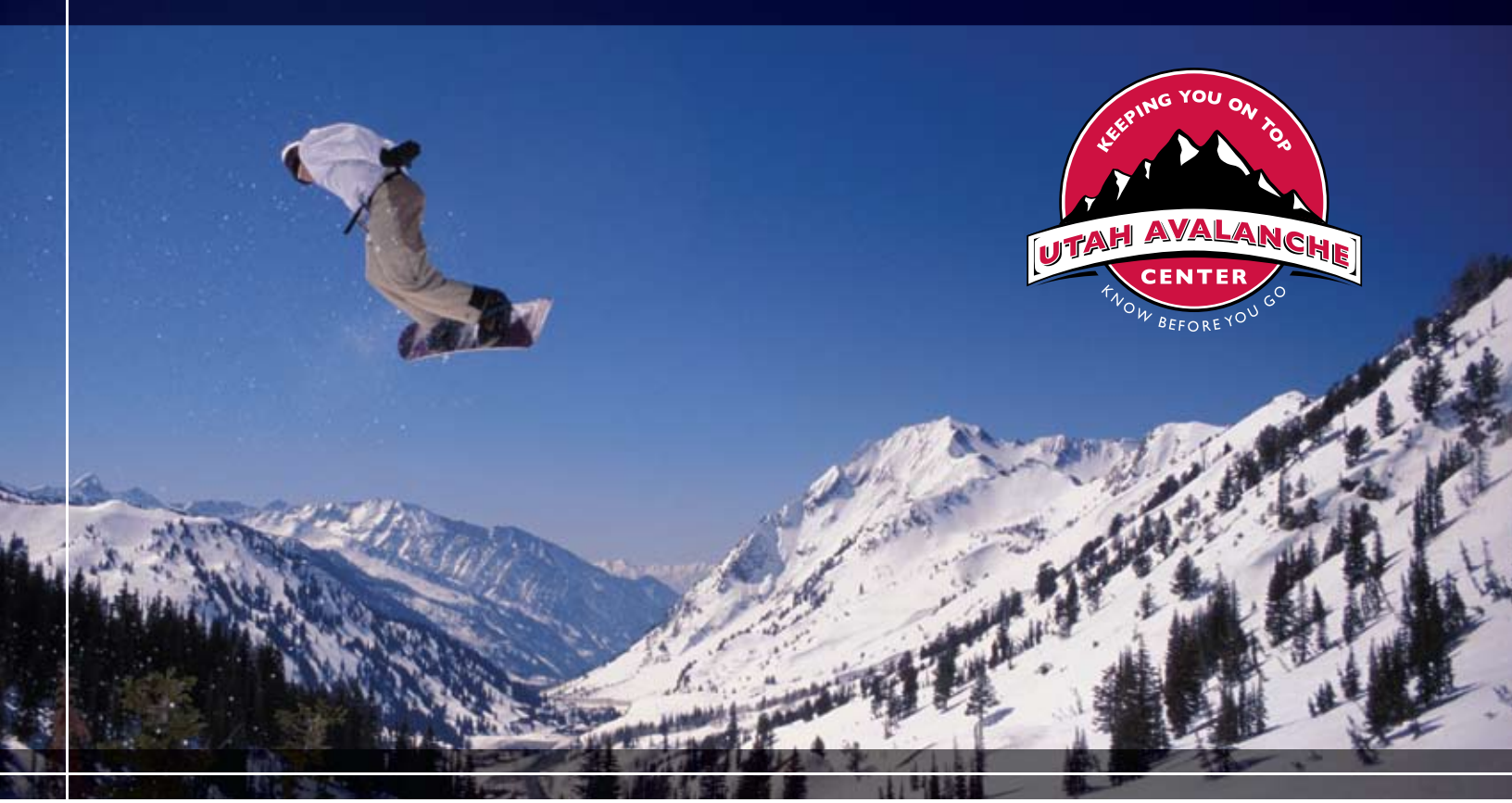


KNOW  
BEFORE  
YOU GO

20  
08

# Utah Avalanche Center



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

20  
08

KNOW  
BEFORE  
YOU GO



**Know Before You Go is made possible by the generous donations from our sponsors.**



## The Byrne Family Foundation



## Know Before You Go Year End Summary 07-08

We're proud to say not one teen that has seen the KBYG program has been injured or killed in an avalanche.



**UNLIKE A SCENE** from a second rate sci-fi thriller or a James Bond movie, avalanches don't strike without warning. As a matter of fact, plenty of clues to unstable snow usually present themselves and most avalanche accidents are preventable. That's the good news. The bad news is these clues are often ignored due to lack of basic avalanche awareness skills. Now you don't need to be a snow scientist to enjoy the mountains during the winter and most recreationists either don't have time or aren't interested in becoming a snow geek. That's ok because in many cases just a little bit of avalanche knowledge can help people make life saving decisions. With this in mind, basic avalanche education is perhaps the biggest single component in keeping winter backcountry users alive.

The Know Before You Go (KBYG) program, initiated under the direction of the Friends of the Utah Avalanche Center (FUAC) to combat the rise in teen related avalanche fatalities, wrapped up its fourth season this year. Both the impact and sheer numbers of people viewing the program are nothing short of staggering. In four short years we've averaged over 100 state-wide presentations per year, educating nearly 75,000 young adults to the dangers of avalanches. It appears our efforts are making a difference. Prior to KBYG's existence, teens were making up the growing statistic of backcountry users likely to get caught and killed in avalanches. While the number of backcountry users grows exponentially each year, we're proud to say not one teen that has seen the program has been injured or killed in an avalanche. ❄️

## A Review of This Year's Highlights

**THIS SEASON WE GAVE** 129 KBYG presentations reaching out to over 17,000 winter enthusiasts. Our basic message is for all user groups and the fast-paced, dynamic presentations are well received. Proactive programs often have difficulty showing how they save lives, but KBYG has a proven track record and we can see the results not only in the decline of teen avalanche fatalities, but also with the tangible skills students take away with them. This past winter, three quick thinking teens received an American Red Cross award for helping find a young man caught and buried in an avalanche. They remembered the KBYG program from a school assembly and recalled what to do during a rescue. The three sophomore aged girls assisted an organized rescue and struck the buried skier with a probe. Their participation along with what they learned from the avalanche assembly helped save a young man's life.

We decided early in the season to focus more on rural users who might not get the opportunity to receive avalanche education in a convenient or timely fashion and this year it really paid off. While the total number of viewers was down slightly, we felt it was imperative to reach out to mountain communities who may not even know where to find current avalanche information. New areas we branched out to included both middle and high schools in Rich, Duchesne and Carbon Counties. These counties have witnessed first hand, the devastating effects of avalanche fatalities and embraced the program with open arms. Of course the program wouldn't be so successful if it were not for the highly knowledgeable staff, who along with their jobs as ski patrol and snow safety personnel, find time and energy to present the program. We're grateful to all our participating ski area partners who allow their staff to help out with the presentations. ❄️

The KBYG presentations reached over 17,000 winter enthusiasts.



An article appearing in Utah's Salt Lake Tribune recognizes the efforts of three teens and the influence of KBYG, both of which helped save a young man's life.

## Program Development

Established in the summer of 2004, the Know Before You Go program is funded solely by donations and in-kind support.

**PRIOR TO ITS PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL** first year, KBYG was a tough sell and working diligently to open the door of the school system wasn't always an easy task. After all, we were up against some stiff competition. The only programs welcomed by the Utah schools on a massive scale before were those that taught drug, alcohol and tobacco avoidance. This was a different type of program. However, once on the road, the presentations dynamic message along with a very active avalanche year of 2004-05, propelled the program into the Utah schools spotlight.

With a seasons worth of presentations under our belts, we regrouped; saw what worked and what didn't and made the necessary tweaks to the original PowerPoint presentation. In addition, the original video was re-edited over the summer of '05, adding a few more interviews and new avalanche footage. This fall we plan to put the finishing touches on a new video, along with providing online resources for students. ❄️

## Partnerships & Funding

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

**ESTABLISHED IN THE SUMMER OF 2004**, the Know Before You Go program is funded solely by donations and in-kind support. However, like any new product to hit the market, financial support hasn't been all that cut and dry.

Preliminary funding from the FUAC got the project off the ground, but it took visionary partners who trusted us to come on board and partner with this innovative program and take it to the next level. Fortunately, Backcountry.com saw the need and planted the first seed monies, getting the venture through its initial stages. They trusted the reputation of the Utah Avalanche Center (UAC) and thought we had the expertise to give this program the attention to detail it deserved. Little by little, donations started to come in as people began to hear about this exciting new program. R.E.I. who has been a partner with the FUAC for many years, were next to come on board with another generous donation.

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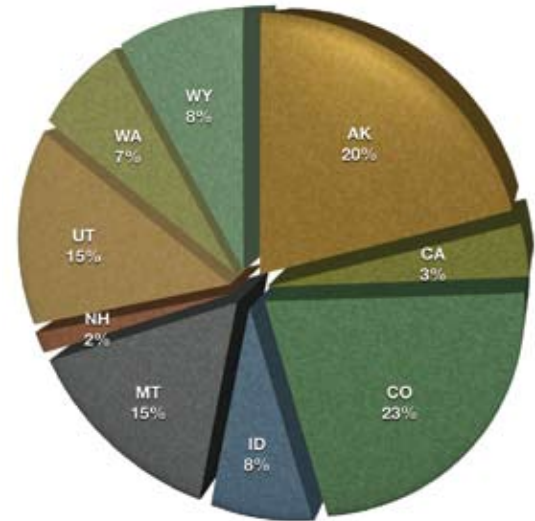
Also, over the years, we've developed great working relationships with the Utah Snowmobile Association (USA) and wanted to get them involved. Bridging the gap between motorized and non-motorized users, the USA stepped up to the plate and applied for an education grant from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA). ISMA represents the four major snowmobile manufacturers and allocates grant monies for certain projects, usually education or safety related. We were awarded a grant which was a major breakthrough for the program, showing the strong commitment the snowmobile community has to avalanche safety and the well developed partnership between the UAC and USA.

In the fall of 2004, the Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation stepped up to the plate as a partner, donating more money than all the other donors combined! The productive, fruitful relationship with State Parks and particularly Fred Hayes, the OHV coordinator, goes back several years. This significant donation was vital to the longevity of the program and all the hard work that went into it.

A few new ski industry partners came to our rescue in the summer of 2005. First was Brighton Ski Resort, a long time partner of the UAC in avalanche education. While previous in-kind support included lift tickets and parking for the FUAC three day Level One avalanche awareness courses, two years ago Area Manager Randy Doyle agreed to help the program out financially. In addition, Brighton's proactive approach to avalanche education with their employees is a benefit to anyone working there. For the past four years, Brighton invites Craig Gordon to provide an avalanche awareness presentation to its employees. There's a twofold benefit to everyone attending. Not only do attendees take with them life saving skills, at the end of the talk they're also rewarded with a free day pass at the resort. Positive incentives like this help us to further spread the avalanche message and pack the house with several hundred employees each year. In addition to the in-house education Brighton provides, this year we offered on the snow training for employees and local riders. A more in depth evening talk was followed by a day of looking at

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### U.S. FATALITIES BY STATE 1992-2007



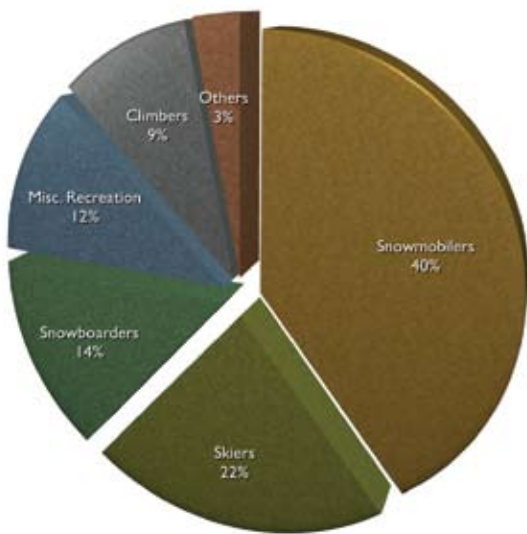
Ski areas are an important partner in the avalanche equation and we're pleased to see the additional, on-going financial support from local resorts and Ski Utah.

snow, training with rescue gear and route finding. The supplemental class was very well received and we plan to continue this next level of basic avalanche education next winter as well.

Ski areas are an important partner in the avalanche equation and we're thrilled to see the additional, on-going financial support from Deer Valley, The Canyons and Ski Utah. Bob Wheaton, Mike Gore and Nathan Rafferty respectively, were instrumental in getting their organizations to donate monies and we look forward to their continued partnership. In 2005 grant monies from the Park City Chamber of Commerce helped supplement a number of Summit County talks and defray video re-editing costs. Also that year, Kennecott Copper donated funds to help with avalanche presentations on the west side of the Salt Lake valley.

In-kind donations from Wasatch Backcountry Rescue (WBR) help facilitate the program on the road. WBR contributed a PowerPoint projector in 2004 and purchased a laptop computer for the 2005 season. For the past two winters WBR and Dean Cardinale have presented the program with a total of \$4000.00. Support from valued partners like WBR help make this program a success.

**U.S. AVALANCHE FATALITIES BY ACTIVITY 1997-2007**



In addition, John Byrne has generously donated a total of \$10,000.00 helping the programs financial sustainability. We want to thank the Byrne Family Foundation for their partnership and an altruistic vision- helping us keep backcountry riders of all disciplines educated and safe.

We constantly seek new partnerships and this summer two very proactive industry leaders, Recco and Backcountry Access came on board to support the KBYG program. Along with a \$5000.00 donation, Recco also supplied us with new footage and interviews with well respected athletes from their White Book DVD. This additional footage will go into the new KBYG video helping us keep the message fresh and up to date. Along with new rescue footage, Backcountry Access will donate both financially and with in-kind support. The national and international vision these partners embrace mirrors our own message and the future of avalanche education is exciting. ❄️



## Video Development, Editing and Re-editing

**THE INTRODUCTORY AVALANCHE AWARENESS VIDEO** is a tremendous hit not only with students, faculty and administrators, but also with other avalanche professionals. After premiering a rough cut version at the 2004 Jackson Hole ISSW, every regional avalanche center wanted a copy. A finished version was available in November and about 150 copies were issued to snow professionals not only in the US, but in Canada, New Zealand, France, and the Netherlands. Our first go around was an international hit!

Original high quality footage came from TGR, Steve Kroschel, Steve Winter, and Richard Cheski. We also had some good rescue footage donated by KTVX News 4 Utah and KSTU Fox 13 News Utah. Jim Phelan, David Craig and Greg Painter chipped in with some amazing snowmobile footage that's always a crowd pleaser. New footage for the re-edit came from Ben De-Jong, Andy Jacobsen, Tahoe Films, and Canadian Mountain Holidays. All the footage was donated for non-profit avalanche education.

Seeing the need to fill in some gaps, we conducted interviews with some of the world's top riders- Kasha Rigby and Jeremy Nobis world renowned extreme skiers, and Doug Andersen a radical snowmobiler featured in a number of popular action sports films. In addition to some exciting new footage, two young avalanche survivors were interviewed, putting a local face to a near catastrophic event.

After all the interviews were shot and additional footage gathered, it was off to the editing bay where the raw footage was sifted through and rough edited. We wanted to maintain the flavor of the original video and didn't have the funds or time to re-invent another version. Sounds simple on paper, but in reality it was an all encompassing, time consuming project. Once completed the new video was distributed to avalanche centers and educators in the U.S. and abroad and met with rave reviews.

This summer and fall, Craig re-edited the video with another non-profit, Spy Hop Productions in Salt Lake City. The basic theme of the original video still rings true, though new footage, interviews and a rockin' soundtrack make the video seem like a new product. We plan on distributing the new DVD both nationally and internationally. ❄️

This summer and fall, Craig re-edited the video with another non-profit, Spy Hop Productions in Salt Lake City. The basic theme of the original video still rings true, though new footage, interviews and a rockin' soundtrack make the video seem like a new product.

## The Phenomenal Staff Behind the Program

**THE PROGRAM IS WELL REPRESENTED WITH SNOW PROFESSIONALS** from Ogden to Payson and Park City to Salt Lake City. Covering the presentations up north are ski patrol personnel from Snow Basin- GR Fletcher and Doug Wewer. In the Salt Lake area Dean Cardinale, Mike Morris, and Ralph Whatley from Snowbird as well as Gabe Garcia and Dave Richards from Alta help to cover a bulk of the talks. Darce Trotter who worked as snow safety and ski patrol director at Sundance for nearly two decades provided immeasurable assistance by handling talks in the Heber Valley, Park City and Provo areas. In Park City, a natural choice is Jake Hutchinson. He's the snow safety and ski patrol director for The Canyons. Jake's local expertise was utilized in both Summit and Salt Lake Counties. In addition, both Sam Lee and Derik Spice both veteran ski patrollers, helped by adding their dynamic personalities along with many years of experience giving the program a fresh approach. Finally, Grant Helgeson was hired by the FUAC late in the season to help Craig out with forecasting and education duties. Grant is a unique gift to this program. A young, energetic big mountain skier with a diverse snow and business background, Grant focused his energies on helping Craig spread the avalanche gospel. This dynamic team of dedicated snow professionals deserves a tremendous amount of credit. It is their hard work and commitment to avalanche education that makes the program so successful.

### GR FLETCHER

A 13 year veteran from Snowbasin, GR Fletcher has held the position of assistant snow safety for the past 5 years. His personal professional avalanche education experience includes American Avalanche Institute levels 2 and 3 and AIARE level 3. Not only is GR an experienced climber and mountaineer, he also taught English as a second language to both adults and children in Taiwan for three years.



### DOUG WEWER and SYRINGA

Doug started out ski patrolling in Pennsylvania, worked as a winter caretaker and volunteer patroller in Tuckerman Ravine, and then moved to Utah in 2000 to learn about avalanches and, of course, ski real powder. In addition, he worked the medical side of things on the Olympic downhill courses. In the winter, you might find him patrolling at Snowbasin, sending backcountry observations to the UAC, teaching at a Level I course or training his search dog, Syringa. In between storm cycles, he works as an engineer for the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden.

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### **MICHAEL MORRIS**

Mike has been in the ski industry for 17 years, currently working as Assistant Ski Patrol Director at Snowbird Ski Resort. Mike is a world traveler and adventurer, working as a guide both in the Grand Canyon and Nepal for 15 years. He was on top of the world in 2002 with a successful ascent of the SE ridge of Mount Everest. When he's not bagging big peaks, Mike enjoys playing with his son Max and the newest addition to the family, his daughter Olive.

### **RALPH WHATLEY**

Ralph started his ski patrol career at Snowbasin in 1985 and has worked as a professional patrolman for 24 years, 20 of them at Snowbird where he is the military weapons coordinator and training facilitator. Before settling in at the 'Bird, he worked in New Zealand and in France, at Chamonix les Grands Montets. Ralph brings a tremendous amount of experience and energy to the program.



### **GABE GARCIA**

Gabe has been a pro ski patroller for 28 years and with KBYG since the beginning. For the first three years of his career he worked at Beaver Creek Colorado, before settling in at Alta for the next 25 years. He's been involved with the snow safety program for sixteen years and avalanche education for seventeen years. In addition to his duties at the ski resort, Gabe is a certified avalanche rescue dog handler with WBR, currently working with his dog Binx.

### **DAVE RICHARDS**

For the past seven years Dave has worked as a full-time Alta ski patroller and a part time helicopter ski guide for Wasatch Powderbird Guides. He is also an avalanche rescue dog handler and member of WBR. Prior to his career at Alta, Dave traveled around the world competing extensively as a professional big mountain free-skier. He has been featured in countless films and magazine covers and brings a vast amount of knowledge and an edgy approach to the KBYG program.



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**DARCE TROTTER**

Darce worked with the Sundance Ski Patrol from 1979-2001 and was patrol and snow safety director from 1987-2001. After 22 years in the ski business, Darce went back to school and is now a registered nurse. He hasn't left the snow completely and still gets out a few days a week, providing backcountry snow and avalanche observations for the UAC. Darce has spent many years as an avalanche educator, teaching with KBYG since the inception of program.

**JAKE HUTCHINSON**

Jake is Director of Ski Patrol and Snow Safety at The Canyons, Vice-president of WBR, and the only level 'A' validated dog team in Utah with 5 legs instead of 6. In addition, he's a certified AAA instructor, working for American Avalanche Institute in his spare time. When he doesn't have his face buried in the snow somewhere, he can be found biking, bagging peaks, wandering the desert, or fly-fishing somewhere high in the Uinta's.



**SAM LEE**

Sam Lee patrolled for eight years at Kirkwood, Whakapapa, and The Canyons. After a year-long sabbatical Sam is in back at The Canyons and is also in the process of applying to medical school. Along with being a competitive big mountain skier, she's sponsored by Alta Ski Area, Roxy, and Surefoot at The Canyons. Her best ski competition result is 3rd place at the New Zealand Nationals in 2005.

**DERIK SPICE and ROXY**

Derik Spice is a former ski patrolman and rescue dog handler for The Canyons Resort. He now guides for Utah Mountain Adventures during the winter months and is an integral part of a river running company in The Grand Canyon during the summer. Derik is new to the program, but brings loads of experience and an infectious enthusiasm that audiences feed off of.



**GRANT HELGESON**

Grant Helgeson joined the team midway through the 07-08 winter, but he quickly got up to speed and was teaching avalanche awareness talks to hundreds of students in no time at all. An active ski mountaineer from Montana, for the past two years Grant lived just outside of Jasper, Alberta, logging hundreds of backcountry ski days. Last year Grant moved to the Park City area, becoming a project manager for Backcountry.Com. We're happy his career path took a different direction mid season and can't wait for him to rejoin the crew this winter. ❄️

## Future Direction

**UTAH'S STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION (USOE)** recognizes the importance of this program and we're excited to work in conjunction with the USOE to provide life skills for generations of Utah's students. Physical Education Specialist Frank Wojtech is a visionary leader who cares deeply for quality education and realizes this program is vital to the safety of our youth. On the heels of another successful season, we expect we'll be busier next year as even more schools have expressed interest in the program. In addition, we're working on an internet accessible version of KBYG.

Finally, we will develop a curriculum for the program during the summer of 2008 so it can pilot as a state-wide, 8th grade physical education elective for the 2008-09 school year. This would be the first of its kind in the nation and could act as a successful model for other mountain communities to follow. The future for Know Before You go looks bright, the message is well received and we're saving lives. ❄️

On the heels of another successful season, we'll be busier next year as even more schools have expressed interest in the program.



Dave Richards demonstrating snowpit stability tests to a small group of Brighton season pass holders and employees.

## 2007 Presentation Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	TURNOUT	# OF TALKS
8/27/2007	Davis High School	Gordon	72	1
10/15/2007	Mountain View High School	Gordon	13	1
10/31/2007	Viewmont High School	Richards	350	4
11/1/2007	Viewmont High School	Wewer	350	3
11/10/2007	Tri-City Centerville	Gordon	67	1
11/12/2007	AMES School	Gordon	108	1
11/14/2007	Granstville Middle School	Gordon	721	1
11/15/2007	Butler Elementary	Richards	120	1
11/16/2007	Alta Rustler Lodge	Gordon	62	1
11/19/2007	Alta Goldminer's Daughter	Gordon	60	1
11/19/2007	Treasure Mountain Middle School	Garcia	187	4
11/20/2007	Treasure Mountain Middle School	Morris	175	4
11/21/2007	Maeser High School	Gordon	97	1
11/28/2007	Park City Academy	Gordon	38	1
11/29/2007	Park City High School	Richards	258	4
11/30/2007	Park City High School	Morris	200	4
12/1/2007	Tri-City Springville	Gordon	52	1
12/4/2007	Bonneville Junior High School	Spice	950	1
12/5/2007	UVSC	Trotter	8	1
12/6/2007	Churchill Jr. High	Richards	247	1
12/6/2007	REI- Sandy	Gordon	61	1
12/7/2007	Evanston High School	Gordon	332	1
12/7/2007	Evanston Middle School	Gordon	324	1
12/7/2007	Evanston-Davis Middle School	Gordon	339	1
12/11/2007	South Davis Jr. High School	Whatley/Garcia	476	6
12/13/2007	Pleasant Grove Jr. High School	Spice	64	1
12/14/2007	Indian Hills Middle School	Morris	1252	2
12/17/2007	Our Lady of the Snows	Garcia	3	1
12/18/2007	Park City Rotary Club	Gordon	81	1
12/19/2007	Rio Tinto	Gordon	13	1
12/19/2007	North Summit Middle School	Spice	332	1
12/19/2007	North Summit High School Coalville	Spice	313	1
12/19/2007	South Summit High School- Kamas	Spice	450	1
12/27/2007	Snowbasin Ski Foundation	Wewer	18	1
1/3/2008	Hillside Middle School	Spice/Richards	611	7
1/3/2008	Rowland Hall St. Marks	Cardinale	532	1
1/5/2008	Westminster College	Gordon	35	1
1/8/2008	REI- 33rd South	Gordon	101	1
1/9/2008	Willow Creek Middle School	Gordon	537	1
1/10/2008	Brighton Ski Resort	Gordon	225	1
1/11/2008	Weber County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Wewer	33	1
1/12/2008	Weber County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Wewer	35	1
1/14/2008	Clayton Middle School	Whatley	562	1
1/14/2008	St. Ambrose Church	Whatley	21	1
1/16/2008	Snowbird Steeps Camp	Gordon	11	1
1/17/2008	Wasatch Co. Search and Rescue	Gordon	98	1
1/17/2008	REI- Sandy	Whatley	55	1

1/21/2008	Kearn River Engineering	Gordon	31	1
1/22/2008	Soda Springs Mine	Scroggin	26	1
1/23/2008	Itineris Early College High School	Spice	129	1
1/23/2008	Alpine Scout Group	Whatley	37	1
1/23/2008	University of Utah	Gordon	16	1
1/23/2008	N. Salt Lake Scout Group	Spice	23	1
1/24/2008	Olympus Junior High School	Richards	873	1
1/24/2008	Chalk Creek Snowmobile Club	Scroggin	27	1
1/28/2008	Grace Lutheran	Whatley	63	1
1/29/2008	REI- Sandy	Richards	27	1
1/31/2008	Altamont High School	Gordon	129	1
1/31/2008	Altamont Middle School	Gordon	146	1
1/31/2008	Duchesne Co. Search and Rescue	Gordon	39	1
2/1/2008	Entheos Academy	Morris	52	1
2/5/2008	Brighton Backcountry 101	Gordon	12	1
2/6/2008	Brighton Backcountry 101	Gordon/Richards	10	1
2/6/2008	Heber Scout Group	Gordon	28	1
2/7/2008	River View High School	Lee	817	2
2/7/2008	Academy at Canyon Creek	Lee	18	1
2/7/2008	Utah County Search and Rescue	Gordon	59	1
2/8/2008	Entheos Academy	Morris	47	1
2/8/2008	Oakley School	Gordon	112	1
2/11/2008	Midvale Middle School	Whatley	792	1
2/11/2008	Solomon Sports- Ogden	Gordon	33	1
2/11/2008	Weber County Library	Gordon	41	1
2/13/2008	Toole County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Kobernik	25	1
2/13/2008	Heber Scout Group	Spice	37	1
2/15/2008	Snowbird Steeps Camp	Gordon	21	1
2/16/2008	Toole County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Helgeson	22	1
2/20/2008	Canyon View Junior High School	Helgeson	235	1
2/20/2008	San Rafael Junior High School	Helgeson	289	1
2/20/2008	Sandy Scout Group	Whatley	41	1
2/21/2008	Davis County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Hardesty	38	1
2/23/2008	Davis County Search and Rescue	Gordon/Helgeson	12	1
2/25/2008	Clarke Johnson Jr. High Tooele	Helgeson	1151	1
2/26/2008	Snowbird Patrol Level 1	Gordon	11	1
2/26/2008	Rich County High School	Spice	111	1
2/26/2008	Laketown Junior High School	Spice	152	1
2/26/2008	Heber Scout Leaders Roundtable	Helgeson	18	1
2/28/2008	Backcountry.Com	Gordon	37	1
2/28/2008	Roosevelt High School	Helgeson	200	1
2/28/2008	Roosevelt Public Talk	Helgeson	20	1
3/1/2008	Backcountry.Com Field Day	Gordon/Helgeson/Scroggin	62	1
3/2/2008	Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs	Gordon	10	1
3/5/2008	Utah State Board of Education	Gordon	49	1
3/6/2008	Orion Junior High School	Richards	213	4
3/10/2008	West Hills Middle School	Garcia	37	1
3/22/2008	Oakley School Field Day	Helgeson	8	1
4/9/2008	Snowbird Patrol Level 2	Gordon	9	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,444</b>	<b>129</b>

# Park City Academy

March 13, 2008

Utah Avalanche Center  
2242 W. North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to thank you for providing a wonderful avalanche safety presentation to our middle school students. Mr. Craig Gordon and his counterpart Derek did an excellent job presenting this serious topic to our students.

I think this presentation is a must for students who live in Utah. As ski movies show how fabulous backcountry skiing can be, students need to know how dangerous it can be. Several of our students talk about how this presentation has affected where they choose to ski at local resorts in Park City. Some have even remembered the slide that happened just out of bounds near the Canyons Ski Resort just a couple of years ago. My students now assure me that they will not be ducking ropes in or out of a ski area any time soon.

I hope that we can arrange to have this presentation every year at our school.

Sincerely,

Mark Nuetzel  
Director of Outdoor Education  
Park City Academy

Hi Craig:  
Thank you so very much for sending Grant. He was very good, the presentation was great. It was different with a mostly-adult group as we had some back-country enthusiasts that had good experience and good questions. All questions were acknowledged as important or good and were expertly answered.

Be safe out there,  
Paul

February 17th, 2008

Ralph,  
Thanks so much for the timely avalanche training you did for us on January 23rd, 2008. The adult leaders and young men found the information useful and your presentation excellent.

Best regards,

Alpine 3rd Ward

Alpine 10th Ward

Lone Peak Ward

Ben Hale

Thanks - Corey Miller

Brett Hosleton

Jason Butler

Jason Cottrell

Benjamin J. Denny

Sam Potts

Jan [unclear]

Thanks American  
Chance Miller

Paul [unclear]

Chad [unclear]

Joseph Waddams

Don [unclear]

Gordon Wallace

THANKS for that great lecture Will [unclear]

For the last two days Viewmont has brought the PE/Cond/Yoga/Dance classes together in the gym for the KNOW BEFORE YOU GO presentation by the Utah Avalanche Center. It was an excellent use of time, very informative, interesting and educational. Dave and Doug, the presenters, both did a great job. We were glad to have this program brought to our attention at our District meeting in August and highly recommend it to others.

Jane- Viewmont High School





## CANYON VIEW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Larry W. Davis, Principal  
550 North 400 West  
P.O. Box 250  
Huntington, Utah 84528

Phone (435) 687-2295  
Fax (435) 687-9546  
Website: www.cvjh.emery.k12.ut.us

Feb. 21, 2008

Craig Gordon  
Utah Avalanche Center  
2242 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Craig:

It took a while to bring it all together, but it was very much worth the wait. Thank you so much for including our school in your avalanche awareness tour. We held the program yesterday, and it was amazing.

Grant Helgeson made a presentation that was not only entertaining, it was relevant to our students and faculty who very much enjoy snowmobiling, skiing and just playing in the back country during the winter months. The video footage was incredible and really emphasized just how dangerous snow conditions can be. The entire presentation was skillfully done.

In addition, Grant related very well to our students, and his question and answer session was a real bonus for these young adults. Most of the girls were gaga over his charm, and several had fun getting their picture taken with him after the program.

In short, everything went perfectly. It was a fun, educational experience for our students, faculty and staff. Thanks a lot of making it happen, and I hope that we can hook up again in the future. Thanks for all you do to keep our beautiful mountains and back country safe, and for all you are doing for kids.

Sincerely yours,

Larry W. Davis, Principal  
Canyon View Jr. High School  
Huntington, Utah 84528

Hey Craig and Grant,  
Thanks so much for making last Saturday such a success with the Oakley Students. Craig, I think I'd mentioned to you that I was not with the school anymore, but I was asked to sub and had the opportunity to go along with the intro to backcountry group of students and it was great! Opportunities like this for the students are really special and sometimes have a greater impact after the 'event'. Thanks guys!

Be in touch,

Jaimie

## Clayton Middle School

1471 S 1800 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
Phone- 801-481-4810  
Fax -801-481-4884

**RIGHTS-RESPONSIBILITIES-RESPECT**

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Dear Craig,

Thank you for putting together such an incredible and stimulating educational program on avalanche awareness. The students and faculty at Clayton Middle School found the presentation fascinating. The footage of the avalanches was riveting, the stories and commentary heart felt, emotional, and real. The educational information was straight forward, uncomplicated, and important for all snow recreationists to learn and understand.

Once again, the Know Before You Go program was successful in educating and informing people about the dangers that they need to be aware of before venturing out into the back country and the proper precautions that people need to take in order to help prevent and limit the possibilities of getting caught in an avalanche while enjoying recreating in the mountains.

I have had the privilege of being able to watch this program for the past four years and every year I learn and relearn important information. I randomly asked my students what they thought of the presentation and they overwhelmingly responded with words like "Awesome" and "Cool". I strongly believe that every Junior and Senior High School student should watch this program. Every year people die here in Utah due to avalanches and if this program can help save one student's life, now or in the future, it is worth it.

Sincerely yours,

Reid Anderson

P.S. Ralph Watley was an incredible presenter. His professionalism and knowledge on snow safety was an added bonus.

Hi Craig,

The students and staff raved about your presentation and created lots of productive conversations with the on-snow classes.

I will do my best to make one of these days work for us. I'll talk with Tad to find out which day would be best. Thank you again to extending so much to us.

We are working on a donation for the UAFC for all you do for us. We will make the donation on behalf of the education department of the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center.

Thanks again and I'll be in touch soon,

Bethany

## Additional thanks go out to the following supporters

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