



Contact Information

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Foundation Receives U.S. Olympic Committee Grant

Thanks in part to an urban development grant from the U.S. Olympic Committee (U.S.O.C.), the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation will be working with the Minnesota Biathlon Association on a new program this fall. The program, tentatively titled “Shooting Stars,” is a high-level biathlon/skiing program designed to take students who have learned to ski through Loppet programming and give them an opportunity to really hone their skills.

The ten lucky students – likely to be chosen from the student body at Anwatin Middle School in Minneapolis – will meet three days per week through the fall and winter. They will receive ski equipment and coaching, they will learn the basics of ski racing and biathlon and will participate in several racing events throughout the winter. The hope is that some of these students will go on to successful high school, college or even Olympic careers in skiing or biathlon – perhaps changing the complexion of the sport . . .

The United States Biathlon Association is excited about the opportunity: “This program gives us a chance to really expand our horizons,” commented Piotr Bednarski of the U.S.B.A. “The work that the Nordic Ski Foundation has done developing talent in the inner-city over the past few years is truly unique. This program will give us a chance to bring some of those kids to another level – this is something that has not really been done before and we are really excited to be a part of it.”

Foundation youth programming Coach Brandan Ostroot, who grew up going through the Minnesota Biathlon Program, will be leading the efforts. “This will be a new challenge for me. I have enjoyed working with the kids for the Foundation, but this will be more intensive and, hopefully, more fun as the kids will really have a chance to learn the sport.”

To learn more about, or to volunteer for, this or other Foundation programming, visit www.loppet.org or call the Loppet hotline at 612 604-5330.

The Loppet:

- Runs over 25 kilometers of wooded trails;
- Under six bridges;
- Over one Interstate and under another highway;
- Through one tunnel;
- Over five frozen lakes;
- Through two frozen channels;
- Over two roads;
- Around one island; and
- Finishes in the heart of Uptown, Minneapolis!

For more information, call the Loppet Hotline at 612 604-5330 or visit www.cityoflakesloppet.com .

The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation . . .

- Outfits over 300 Minneapolis area youth with skis and coaches each year;
- Improves ski trails in the Minneapolis area;
- Has worked to add snowmaking to Theodore Wirth Park; and
- Runs various events designed to keep people active and enjoying the outdoors throughout the year. Events include:
 - City of Lakes Loppet Cross Country Ski Festival
 - City of Lakes Tri-Loppet: a paddle-trail run-mountain bike triathlon
 - City of Lakes Trail-Loppet – a half-marathon and 5 K run on trails

For more information on the Foundation visit www.loppet.org or call 612 604-5330.