



## PRESS RELEASE

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### MT BACHELOR PARTNERS WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TO BUILD LIFE SKILLS IN 'LEARN TO RIDE' SETTING FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS

(Bend, Ore)– Mt Bachelor is partnering with SOS Outreach, a Colorado-based organization that builds character and confidence for underserved youth through snowsports. The professionally instructed 5-day program emphasizes core values and positive adult interaction. Clothing, equipment and lift tickets are provided while participants learn to ride within a curriculum focused on character development.

“The mountain environment is such a powerful setting for personal growth. It is very rewarding to be able to offer this opportunity to at-risk youth in our community,” says Amy Ohran, Ski School director at Mt Bachelor.

Courage, discipline, integrity, wisdom and compassion are the guiding values of SOS Outreach, now celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> season. The program will begin March 1 and is designed to instill solid values, strengthen character and fortify social abilities both on the hill and in everyday life. Successful ‘Learn to Ride’ graduates are eligible to continue with the SOS Outreach University program, a four-year program focused on community service, mentoring, and life skills workshops.

Mt Bachelor’s program will host 21 at-risk local youth. The pre-selected participants, between ages of 12-18, were chosen by local youth agencies namely the Cascade Youth and Family Center, Oregon Family Support Network and The Tamarack Center. The experience for these participants is a team effort between Mt Bachelor, SOS Outreach and several industry suppliers who have provided clothing. Among lift tickets and equipment, Mt Bachelor will provide selected instructors with expertise in youth development who will be strong role models and stewards of the SOS mission.

Lindsay Davis, regional program director for SOS Outreach NW says, “I’m extremely excited about the opportunity to have local Oregon residents participate in our program at Mt Bachelor. We’re truly grateful to have support for the program and I can’t wait to see the smiling faces of the kids.”

*About SOS Outreach:*

*SOS Outreach was founded in 1993 in Colorado’s Vail Valley. As a nonprofit organization, our programs build character and self-esteem in youth through outdoor activities and the SOS curriculum. Each SOS program integrates the five core values of our organization: Courage, Discipline, Integrity, Wisdom and Compassion. Our curriculum includes consistent adult mentors, community service opportunities, and the adult mentor relationships that are central to its programs. [www.sosoutreach.org](http://www.sosoutreach.org)*



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*About Oregon Family Support Network:*

*Oregon families supporting Oregon families with children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral, mental and/or physical challenges and special needs. <http://www.ofsn.org>*

*About the Cascade Youth and Family Center:*

*Established in 1968, J Bar J Youth Services is a private non-profit organization providing quality programs for youth and their families. "Innovative options for at-risk youth and families toward self-sufficiency and personal responsibility." <http://www.jbarj.org>*

*About the Tamarack Center:*

*The goal of Tamarack Center is to send these young people back into society better equipped to handle the challenges of growing into adult life. We appreciate the trust placed in us by the children, families and communities we serve. [www.tamarack.org](http://www.tamarack.org)*

*About Mt. Bachelor:*

*Celebrating its 50th anniversary during the 2008-2009 season, Mt. Bachelor is the sixth largest ski resort in North America, offering 3,683 acres of lift-accessible terrain. New this year, the connection of the back catch lines offers additional expert bowl and glade terrain to be explored. The mountain features 10 lifts, seven of which are Express Quads, plus two tubing lifts and wonder carpet and an average annual snowfall of 370 inches. Mt. Bachelor also features terrain parks, 56K of groomed and tracked cross country trails, snowshoeing, tubing and sled dog rides. For weather conditions, news and events visit [www.mtbachelor.com](http://www.mtbachelor.com).*