



WEST MOUNTAIN --RACING

As we near the end of the 20-21 season, I reflect on the last year—a year we will never forget. I think back to opening 20-21 WMR team registration during the early stages of the shutdown/pandemic not knowing what would happen with the program or the race season. All I knew was that I had to keep pushing forward and I had to stay positive. It was the first season we were offering our Academy program. Would anyone join? There was a pandemic happening. To my amazement, we had over 30 athletes register for the newly launched 20-21 Academy program, and most were registered early in the spring during the shutdown. I was relieved and hopeful.

As weeks and months went on, I continued strategizing with Alpine Race Director Steve Lathrop on activities we could offer over the summer and fall that would keep our athletes outdoors and active if/when they were approved by NY State. As soon as the state approved summer day camps in June, we opened registration for our WMR Open Summer Conditioning Camps for Ski Racers slated for July as well as our WMR Open Fall Sunday River Day Camp at Sunday River, Maine scheduled for November with all the safety guidelines in place. Fall conditioning was also added to the WMR calendar. They were all well attended and enjoyed by many of our athletes. Everything was moving along. All our athletes were having fun and staying safe doing organized activities that kept them active and outdoors all summer and fall. This meant we were going to have a normal winter racing season, right?

It was not until late November early December when it looked like the alpine ski racing season was going to happen. Again, I was relieved. We were only going to compete within our division, State and Eastern Championships were cancelled. Nevertheless, I was happy our athletes were going to be able to travel and compete--all 105 of them--a WMR membership record. After operating West Mountain all summer and fall safely, I knew we could operate West Mountain safely in the winter, giving our WMR athletes and visiting athletes a safe environment to train and race.

After months of preparation following all US Ski & Snowboard, NYSSRA, NY State, and local guidelines, we welcomed our WMR athletes to West Mountain for their first day of 20-21 training on December 19, 2020. I am happy to report all WMR age groups maintained a normal training and travel schedule all season. Watching all our WMR coaches, parents, athletes, and staff persevere through this pandemic has been amazing to watch. They have all remained positive and have worked together making the WMR program even stronger. I am grateful to them and my incredible staff at the mountain. We are stronger together.

Thank you,

Sara Montgomery, Program Director, West Mountain Racing and General Manager, West Mountain

WMR 21-22 Team Registration is now open at westmtracing.com. I look forward to a renewed season with a refreshed logo (as shown above).