

Open Trails Nordic Gear Scholarships Recipients 22-23

Congratulations to the six recipients of the Open Trails Nordic Scholarship! Whether you are a seasoned Nordic (XC) skier or just getting started, we know that it's not easy to pursue our love of Nordic Skiing. That's why we've decided that in addition to our two XC Ski Clinics this season we wanted to put together a gear scholarship. Recipients were chosen for their dedication to their community and their passion to help increase diversity and accessibility in XC Skiing.

The 22-23 Cohort gear scholarship was supported in partnership with Salomon. Salomon strives to empower our communities to reshape what outdoor sports experiences will become for the greater good, taking a leap ahead in terms of inclusivity and sustainable practices. [Learn More Here](#)

Six individuals were selected to receive: -A XC Ski package (boots, poles, and skis w/bindings). Want to help support next year's Open Trails Nordic Clinics and future Gear Scholarship? [Click here](#)

Learn more about the 22-23 recipients below!

Victoria Mann:



I grew up in the south and have been into the outdoors and hiking in GA and SC. However, I never really had the opportunity to get involved in winter sports. My first experience with POC Nordic was great because of the supportive group leaders patience and teaching techniques. I'm excited to do more XC skiing because it gives me the experience of hiking but in a totally different environment.



Elizabeth Shin



I have nomadic roots, and found myself moving to the land of the Duwamish last year. While I've spent a lot of time in mountains trail running, hiking, and camping, I'm slowly learning how to approach snow. I'm excited to extend my season in the mountains through nordic skiing. I'm grateful for this opportunity to build a stronger community for folks who are underrepresented in this sport.



Karen Caudillo



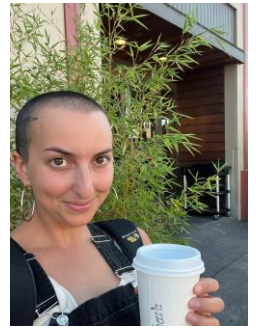
I grew up in the South and the outdoors always seemed out of reach for me. POC Nordic allowed me to learn a new sport that helps my mental health and healing. I'm excited to continue growing my connection to the land while practicing XC Skiing on Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians lands and other native lands. I'm grateful for this equipment and look forward to seeing more people like myself outdoors! We deserve to reclaim the outdoors.



Lindsey Sadlou



From my childhood watching Puget Sound fishermen with wide-eyed curiosity, to learning ecology in the mixed-deciduous forests of Vermont, my relationship to nature has always been one of my great loves. In 2021 I began surfing thanks to Feel Good Surf Club, which was a gateway to building my confidence and craving to get out to the mountains in the winter. I'm so grateful to Salomon & POC Nordic for equipping me to hit the XC trails with awesome gear and affirming community.



Rachel Nagrecha



Like many children of immigrants, I didn't learn how to recreate outside until I became an adult. And until moving to Central Oregon, I'd never lived anywhere with snow! By learning to cross-country ski, I've discovered a profound joy and appreciation for the beauty of winter. Skiing reduces my anxiety and depression, allows me to share new adventures with others, and enables me to experience tremendous gratitude for this planet. Thank you for this opportunity to grow a community of BIPOC xc-skiers who can help each other feel safe, welcome, and included in the outdoors.



Denise Lopez



Full of gratitude and joy for this scholarship and the team who put this together! As a kid in Oregon, I would spend most of winter waiting for our 1 or 2 snow days not realizing winter recreation existed. It's wild to think how close I lived to the mountains as a kid without access or opportunity. Also very grateful to the BIPOC community groups here and especially how welcoming and open



SALOMON