

Ira Edwards has decided that It is time to start giving back and see about helping others who may be in a similar physical situation as him, but without all the friends and connections to make it easy. After the snow melted, Ira started talking to the Anchorage School District Special Education office to see if there was interest and students that would benefit from a sitski program. There was, so he decided to make something happen!

CXC Adaptive is giving Ira 8 adjustable sit ski frames, and he is helping out by providing 8pr of skis from Rossignol and his knowledge and labor to put everything together. Other help has come from Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (AMH). Some of the ASD staff has volunteered to help on the assembly line once everything shows up and the program will start on October 28, when Ira will give a clinic to the Special Ed Phys Ed teachers on how to fit and use the equipment.

In order to complete this project, Ira is in need of a few more items:

1. 16pr of SNS profile bindings. They can be new or old, and we only need the heads, and not the center rail. 3 screws per binding would be really helpful, but we have a few spares in my shop. Each sitski requires 2pr of bindings. As long as they open and close that is the important thing. we don't need flexors or anything else that may be missing. The CXC sitski is designed ONLY to work with SNS bindings...
2. Lots and Lots of ski poles... We figure to get 3pr of poles per sit ski. A Short, Shorter and Really short pole set per ski to allow for the different sized skiers out there. They do not have to be high quality, and only have to have a functional Basket and grip/strap set. We will be cutting these babies down, and so they will be naturally stiff, even if they are not an all carbon race pole. It is possible that some poles may be broken, and so we am sure that we will need more than the 24 pole minimum... Look through your gear shed for all those singles or the ones where you broke the shaft up high. Ira is 6'4" and will be using a 125-130cm pole. We are planning on making most of them much shorter. These poles will not have to be matched, we just need them the same length...

If you don't have any extra gear lying around, but would still like to help make this happen, you can donate to Ira's gear fund by clicking the PayPal link at <http://roosterskier.com/the-roosterskier-gear-and-adventure-fund/>. He will use any funds received to buy bindings and poles from his ski industry connections and get the most for the money. This equipment can be made available to the community if there is a need, but the primary focus will be to help disabled students become more active and find a new venue in which to enjoy winter. Thanks all, and hopefully some of these students will get inspired to get out more, and maybe even join the school ski teams! There are Olympic and now Paralympic dreams available for everyone with a love for winter!