

Charity seeks ski instructors for handicapped

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors writer

Joyce Thomas thinks local skiers are so enthusiastic about their sport that they will want to teach others.

Ms. Thomas is with the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., in Pontiac. She's looking for volunteers to teach the physically handicapped.

"Experience in physical therapy or therapeutic recreation is preferable, but not necessary," she told me. "You must be an intermediate-plus skier. Please call me at 338-9626."

Volunteers will go through a clinic on how to teach the handicapped. If accepted, they will be asked to put in one evening a week or so—depending on the need.

Instruction will be at Pine Knob resort, 7777 Clarkson Clarkson Road, Clarkston.

"JAN STOKOSA, a young man from the Lansing

area, will teach the volunteers," Ms. Thomas went on.

He's director of the Institute for the Advancement of Prosthetics. Jan has been teaching skiing to new amputees and the physically handicapped for some time. He is the only one we have heard of who is truly qualified to handle the handicapped, both mentally and physically.

"The problem is that the program is catching on, and Jan is only one person, and there are not enough hours in the day to comply with all the demands on his time." Hence the need for volunteers.

"Matt Loricchio of Pine Knob has ordered six sets of outriggers for our students and teachers and is donating the lift tickets to our handicapped skiers," Ms. Thomas said.

PINE KNOB will also be the site of a competition for the handicapped called Super Ski Weekend Jan. 27-28.

The rest of us can help by making a pledge when a handicapped skier asks. The participant who

turns in the most pledges has a chance to win a ski trip to Colorado.

The proceeds will go to the tri-county Easter Seal Society.

There are other prizes, mainly equipment, for winners of the various divisional competitions.

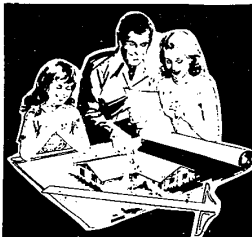
KENSINGTON Metropark has indoor and an outdoor events for you this weekend.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, a park naturalist will conduct a "fireside chat" in the nature center, taking on a wide range of questions about nature.

At 9 a.m. Sunday, park naturalist Dave Molianen will lead a two-hour, four-mile cross country nature ski tour around park trails, starting from the nature center.

Both programs are free, but advanced reservation is necessary for the jaunt; call the park office at 685-1561.

Park admission is \$2 per car or \$7 for a season pass. The nature center can be reached by taking the Kensington Road exit from the I-96 freeway.



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