

SLADE BRIDGMAN

WPST Coach since 2010

Hometown: Berthoud, CO

When did you move to Colorado/Winter Park? I was born in Loveland, CO and I moved to Winter Park November 8, 2000.

Favorite thing about coaching: My favorite thing about coaching is hanging with and getting to be a part of these amazing kids' lives.

Favorite accomplishment in snowboarding: My favorite and probably most significant achievement in snowboarding would be my longevity. With 11 winters and counting snowboarding roughly 60-100 days per season has been an amazing gift for my life. Not a day goes by that I am not thankful, it has been a wonderful journey. Another thing that I'm proud of is that I got to go heli-boarding in Valdeez, Alaska. It was very expensive and I was a "one day wonder" meaning I could only afford to go one day, but it was so awesome! I really hope to that again.

Favorite trick or skill to coach: Carving, I like turning.

Favorite trick or skill to perform: Making turns on a blank, white mountainside in the "POWda," turning that mountainside into my canvas and painting the snot out of it.

Why did you get involved in WPST? I love hanging out with kids and doing one of my favorite activities with them and cluing them into the wavelength of life and learning through snowboarding was what I thought to be a perfect fit for me. The snowboard team was a great opportunity for me to do that and I was really excited to get this job.

Why do you love snowboarding? I love snowboarding because it's endless. There is always something new to learn and enjoy. Traveling to a new place that you have never been and experiencing all new terrain. Sailing off cliffs into bottomless powder and tasting the thrill of overcoming fear and the satisfaction of the commitment. I love learning about snow, watching the weather, avalanche forecasting, and traveling in the backcountry. The speed and cool wind in your face and exhilaration and anxiety just before the takeoff of a massive jump and the relief felt after landing on your feet. The learning process. For example the thought process I go through learning how to spin. What do I love about snowboarding? Everything.

What is something about you we may not know? Rock Climbing, mountaineering, and ice climbing are very interesting to me. One of my dreams is to become a certified mountain guide by the American Mountain Guides Association. I just took and passed my level 1 certification from SPRAT which is the Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians. I hope to get a job working on blade inspection and repair of wind turbines or perhaps working for a rock scaling company or high angle rigging for concerts or film. I'm not exactly sure, but something with heights and rope access and hopefully more money.

What other work you do? Professional whatever. Sometimes I feel like the "Pretender" of remedial tasks. You name it I've done it. I've been a cook, server, bus boy, dish washer, bartender, ski tech, ski tuner, salesman, snowmaker, groomer, lifeguard, building maintenance at the Grand Park Recreation Center, rock climbing instructor, climbing wall manager, skateboard instructor/coach, human maze builder, construction worker, painter, skate park building volunteer, pawn shop employee, gas station

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attendant, grocery store checker, and courtesy clerk at a Wal-Mart (no, not a greeter that's reserved for the elderly, I can only hope one day, I can score that job too. Maybe my first and last job could be for Wal-Mart). I was the guy who pushed carts and helped people out with heavy stuff like entertainment centers. One year I had 13 W2's! My professional life has been ridiculous.