

For Immediate Release

RI ARMSTRONG INDUCTED INTO THE COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME FOR LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTIVE SKIING AND VOLUNTEERISM

DENVER (APRIL 30, 2026) – The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) announced today that The Colorado Sports Hall of Fame (CSHOF) has announced the induction of Ri Armstrong, honoring his extraordinary five-decade impact on adaptive skiing, volunteerism, and the disability community. Armstrong, a three-track skier, one-time Paralympian, and one of the NSCD’s longest-serving volunteer instructors, was recognized at this year’s CSHOF celebration for his unmatched dedication to expanding access to Colorado’s mountains in Denver on April 16.

“Ri embodies the heart of the NSCD,” said Julie Taulman, president and CEO of NSCD. “His empathy, patience, and technical expertise have changed countless lives. He teaches our participants not just how to ski, but how to believe in themselves.”

Armstrong’s story is one of resilience, service, and transformation. At age seven he survived a devastating attack on his family’s military base in Vietnam, losing both his leg and his entire family. After being adopted by the American medic who cared for him, Armstrong was raised in Colorado, where he was introduced to the NSCD through Children’s Hospital in 1970. There, he learned to ski on one leg using outriggers, a skill that would shape the rest of his life.

He went on to compete for the United States in the 1980 Winter Paralympic Games, racing in downhill, slalom, and giant slalom. After retiring from elite competition, Armstrong returned to the NSCD as a volunteer instructor, a role he has embraced for 37 years, while maintaining a full-time engineering career.

Armstrong specializes in teaching three-track skiing, working with children and adults with amputations or mobility challenges. His personalized, one-on-one coaching has helped participants gain confidence, independence, and in many cases, progress from recreational skiing to competitive racing. One of his recent students, who began skiing with hesitation at age 14, is now training with hopes of joining the adaptive U.S. Ski Team.

Across more than five decades, Armstrong has been a participant, Paralympian, mentor, and volunteer – a rare full-circle legacy within the NSCD’s 55-year history. His leadership is rooted in quiet strength, inclusive mentorship, and a deep belief that adaptive sports should be accessible to all.



The CSHOF recognizes not only Armstrong's athletic achievements, but his profound and enduring impact on Colorado's adaptive sports community.

[Click here](#) to link to Ri's CSHOF video.

About the National Sports Center for the Disabled

The National Sports Center for the Disabled is a leading provider of adaptive outdoor recreation experiences committed to helping individuals with disabilities, their caregivers and the broader community rethink ability. Through the power of adaptive innovation, recreation and Colorado's great outdoors, we are transforming lives, families and communities and creating a world that celebrates each person's abilities. Our exhilarating adaptive outdoor experiences help participants make the very most of their passion, their talents and their aspirations. They discover a renewed sense of confidence, reignite the pure joy of play, and find motivation to try new things, meet new people and believe in their own abilities. With industry-leading adaptive equipment, renowned coaches, instructors and volunteers and unmatched mountain and metro programs, we change the perceptions of athletes of all levels and help them, and the world, [#RethinkAbility](#).

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