

Copper Country

SKI



TIGERS

Youth Cross Country Ski Program

All Ages and Abilities

## Thank You Volunteers

A big thanks to all of the coaches, assistant coaches, parents and community volunteers who make Ski Tigers the premier Nordic ski program in the Midwest. We are only as strong as our members are, and this year's season was only possible because of you. Please consider continuing to volunteer your time or skills, no matter how much you are able to offer.

## Board Meeting April 12

The next Ski Tigers (virtual) board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., April 12. All Ski Tiger parents and coaches are welcome to attend. We need your help to keep Ski Tigers responsive to the needs and wants of its families. Come and tell us how the season went and consider joining the Board so you can help plan for next year. Contact [bobbi@skitigers.com](mailto:bobbi@skitigers.com) for the link to the Zoom meeting.

The Annual Ski Tiger Membership Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 10th. The purpose of this meeting is to look back at the 2020-21 season and forward to the 2021-22 season, as well as elect Ski Tiger board members for the upcoming year.

## Ski Tiger Girls

### 2021 State Champions

The Copper Country girls competition team placed first, and the boys placed second at the 2021 Michigan State High School Cross-Country Ski Championships. The combined Copper Country teams placed a close second (with 586 points) to the Traverse City VASA Ski Club (593 points), which is coached by Ski Tiger alumna Ruth Oppliger, breaking an eight-year winning streak by the Ski Tigers competition team. Seven teams consisting of 61 athletes participated in the event hosted by Copper Country Ski Tigers at our very own Michigan Tech Ski Trails.



The championship included pursuit races: a skate race on Friday, and a classic style race on Saturday. Racers' times for the two races were combined to determine the final pursuit standings.

In addition to the pursuit race, the skiers also competed in a classic style sprint race in the afternoon on Saturday. All races were individual starts to assure safe distance, due to pandemic restrictions.

Ingrid Seagren paced the Copper Country girls team with a third-place individual finish in the pursuit races and second place in the classic sprint race. Kora Johnson placed fourth in the pursuit races and was followed by Autumn Eles, Sage Resh-Chimner, Robin Kisiel and Jaden Sarefin in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> places, respectively. Aster and Wubbie Anderson were 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, in the skate race.

Mike Fraley paced the boys team with a second place finish in the pursuit races. Eric Weiss and Cyrus Hamlin placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in the pursuit races, and Birk Seagren was 10<sup>th</sup>. Quentin Niemi came in 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Ilya Velat, Augie Hamlin and Grant Fredrickson in 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Ben Hiller rounded out the team placing 34<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Fraley won the sprint race in a blazing time of 3 minutes and 30 sec. Marie Velat won the adaptive sprint race.

Thank you to all Ski Tiger families and community members who volunteered their time and energy to make this event a reality. Thanks also to all of the generous sponsors of this event!

## Anabel Needham competes in NCAA Championships

Jackson, NH - Ski Tiger alumna Anabel Needham qualified for, and competed in, the 2021 NCAA Championships as a member of the Michigan Tech team this past month. The NCAA Championships is the highest level of competitive events for a

collegiate skier. Participants are selected on a regional basis from the Central, Eastern, and Western regions of the U.S. Only the very best skiers from each region qualify to compete in this event.

Anabel placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the 5 km classic race and 26<sup>th</sup> place in the 15 km freestyle event. Michigan Tech Nordic ski coach Tom Monahan Smith said, "Anabel had two strong performances and had an incredibly respectable 19<sup>th</sup> place finish in the classic."



Anabel also won the classic 5 km race on when Michigan Tech hosted the NCAA Central Regional Championships on February 27, 2021.

## Tiger Games

Youth skiers were greeted with beautiful blue skies for our annual Tiger Games. This year's event included scooter soccer, bopper tag, space ball, an obstacle course, grab-a-beanie, moguls (always a favorite) and more. [Tiger Games Highlight Video](#) compliments of David Green (US Ski & Snowboard). It was an awesome event!

## Kilometer Club

Congratulations to all Ski Tigers who logged their kilometers this year! Ski Tigers collectively logged over 4394 km this year. That is equivalent to skiing from Houghton to Alaska! Visit [Kilometer Club Page](#) to see leaderboard.

**We Count Kilometers because Kilometers Count!**

## CXC Grant/Adaptive Skiing

The Copper Country Ski Tigers (CCST) received a grant for \$500 from the Central Cross Country Skiing (CXC) organization to use as needed. However, the spirit of the grant is to promote adaptive skiing. We are considering using the grant to fabricate a sit ski for Ski Tigers. If you would like to donate your time or materials to assist with this project, please reach out to anyone on the CCST board. A new Sit Ski costs on the order of \$2,000.



Go Maria!

## Jr Bear Chase

**Jr Bear Chase - what a great day for a race!**  
The Junior Bear Chase race was hosted in a new location this year - the Great Bear Chase stadium! Fifty-five skiers, ages 4 to 16, raced on a sunny evening last weekend. Although everyone wore masks, we sensed huge smiles on everyone's faces. Thanks to the Great Bear Chase organizers for

allowing us to use their location, and a huge thank you to our Ski Tiger families for supporting this year's event by volunteering, cheering, and going with the flow!

Top skiers from each event are listed below:

Race Name	Age	Gender	Skier Name
1K Classic	U6	M	Thomas Brueggeman
	U8	F	Lily Simmons
	U8	M	Corben Jukuri
2K Classic	U8	F	Lillian Champion
	U8	M	Cameron DePue
	U10	F	Sophia Lawson
	U10	M	Jonathan Eikenberry
	U12	F	Ruby Petersen
2K Freestyle	U12	M	Vincent Gemelli
	U10	F	Emma Jukuri
	U12	F	Molly Kisiel
	U12	M	Brenden Jukuri
4K Freestyle	U14	M	Joshua You
	U16	F	Madalynn Simmons
	U16	M	Byron David

Visit <https://www.skitigers.com/jr-bear-chase1.html> for complete results.

## Great Bear Chase

Members of the Ski Tigers Competition Team also had a great showing at the Great Bear Chase with many overall race winners and age-specific podium finishes! The overall places and names of Ski Tigers in the various races are listed below.





Men	Women
<b>10 km Freestyle</b>	<b>10 km Freestyle</b>
1 Cyrus HAMLIN	1 Sage RESH CHIMNER
2 Illya VELAT	<b>10 km Classic</b>
3 Skyler BROWNING	1 Ingrid SEAGREN
5 Benjamin HILLER	9 Wubbie ANDERSON
<b>10 km Classic</b>	10 Aster ANDERSON
1 Birk SEAGREN	<b>25 km Freestyle</b>
3 Augie HAMLIN	9 Robin Kisiel
4 Grant FREDRICKSON	
<b>25 km Classic</b>	
1 Mike FRALEY	
2 Eric WEISS	

Great Bear Chase finishers

## Ski Tigers Seniors!

Two longtime Ski Tigers skiers, Kora Johnson and Mike Fraley, are seniors in high school and just completed their last season of skiing on the Ski Tigers Competition (Comp) Team. Fellow Comp Team skier Ingrid Seagren caught up with Kora and Mike and asked them a bit about their experiences in Ski Tigers and their plans for the future.



Kora



Mike

**Q: When did you first start skiing?**

**Kora:** When I was four or five, after I got too big for my parents to carry in a backpack.

**Mike:** Probably when I was four, maybe five, after I moved to Houghton from Minnesota.

**Q: How old were you when you joined Ski Tigers and what was your first color group?**

**Kora:** I was eight when I joined red group.

**Mike:** I joined green group when I was four or five.

**Q: What are some of the highlights in terms of your performance on the race teams (Devos and Comp Team)?**

**Kora:** I was really proud to qualify and compete at Junior Nationals in Alaska as a U16. It was such a great experience and a great opportunity to meet other skiers.

**Mike:** Getting fourth at the Hodag Meet and beating Jakob [Craig] by a second! Also qualifying and racing at NENSAs [New England Nordic Ski Association U16 Championships] and Junior Nationals in California [as a U18 skier].

**Q: You have been really successful at Nordic skiing. What factors do you think contributed most to your success?**

**Kora:** Having a really supportive team and community around me who are just as excited as I am to ski and race.

**Mike:** Being dedicated to the sport by making sure I got out for a ski on the off-days.

**Q: What post-Ski Tigers plans do you have? Do you plan to continue skiing competitively as a club or team member?**

**Kora:** After graduation I'll be at Michigan Tech for environmental engineering. I plan to continue skiing competitively on the Michigan Tech Ski Club Team.

**Mike:** I plan to go to Michigan Tech and then into the Army, after that I'd like to start a business. I'm planning on skiing for an Army Ski Team post college.

**Q: Classic or skate?**

**Kora:** Skate even though I learned classic first!

**Mike:** 100% classic!

**Q: The pandemic obviously changed many aspects of Ski Tigers racing, travel, and even practice. What did you miss the most this past year?**

**Kora:** I miss cooking meals and big team meetings and traveling together, fighting over who has to clean the dishes or who gets the bigger bed. We're a really small, close-knit team and we're always so supportive of each other. I also really miss being able to hug my teammates and others racers at the finish line. Cross country skiing is unusual in that even your competition becomes your friends because it's such a niche, grueling sport.

**Mike:** Definitely our team ski trips.

**Q: Do you have any advice for Ski Tigers skiers who are considering joining the Devo or Comp Team next year?**

**Kora:** You'll learn a lot more than just skiing. I had so much fun on both teams, and I have lots of really good memories especially from a time when a group of us (Ski Tigers and alumni) skied on the edge of Lake Superior from McClain State Park all the way up to Eagle River, MI.

**Mike:** Being on the Ski Team is loads of fun. The trips are amazing and we really bond together as teammates. You will have to work hard, but it pays off in the end.

**Q: Favorite Ski Tigers quote?**

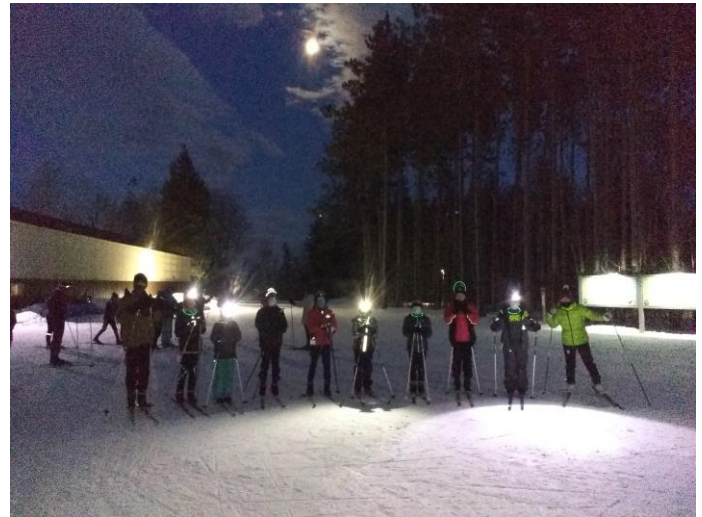
**K:** "I will never be your superglue dealer!"

**M:** "Is this lemonade caffeinated?"

Kora and Mike will be sorely missed on the Comp Team, but we are thrilled that we will get to see them on the local ski trails for a few more years!

## Full Moon Ski

The Adventure Group, Thursday Tigers & Competition team took advantage of the February full moon to go on a night skiing adventure!



## Run the Keweenaw to Benefit Ski Tigers

Come join us for an exciting weekend on the beautiful and rugged trails of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Events include the 6K Mt. Baldy Summit Run, 10K Copper Harbor Trails Challenge, 10K Copper Harbor Trails Non-Competitive Run/Hike, 2K Junior Trail Run, 25K Carl Olson Memorial Adventure Run, and 50K Keweenaw Trail Ultra. If running isn't your thing, it is also a lot of fun to spend a day in the Copper Country with friends volunteering for this event. Contact [mikey@charter.net](mailto:mikey@charter.net) for more information or visit <https://calendar.ultrarunning.com/event/run-the-keweenaw>

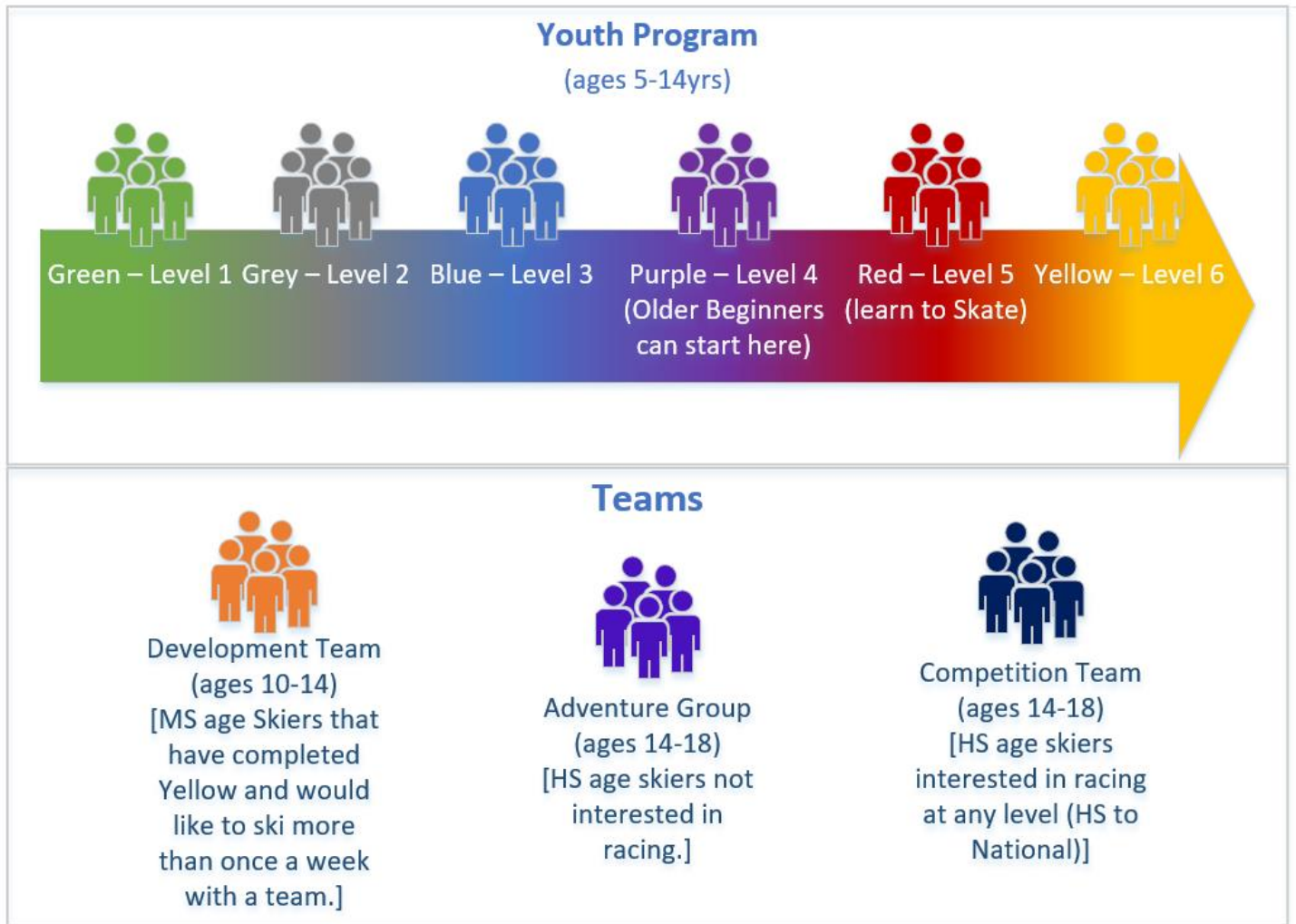
## Job Postings

Ski Tigers has openings for race team coaches and possibly an administrative assistant. If you are interested or know someone please contact any [board member](#) or [bobbi@skitigers.com](mailto:bobbi@skitigers.com).

## Mission Statement

Copper Country Ski Tigers (CCST) is dedicated to introducing local youth to Nordic (cross country) skiing and sustaining their development and enjoyment of the sport of skiing through outdoor adventures or competitive skiing for middle and high school aged skiers. CCST accomplishes this mission through age-appropriate instruction, skills and technique development, and fun and games on Nordic skis.

### Copper Country Ski Tigers Program



Skiers interested in joining one of our Ski Tiger Teams should contact the [Race Team Manager](mailto:bobbi@skitigers.com) or [bobbi@skitigers.com](mailto:bobbi@skitigers.com).

Copper Country Ski Tigers is a charitable non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 tax status. All gifts are tax deductible <https://www.skitigers.com/donate.html>

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