



Annual Conference – Canmore AB
April 8-10, 2026

(last update 4/1/26)



Wednesday, April 8

12:30pm Meet at the Canmore Nordic Centre lodge.

1-2:30pm **Snowmaking Workshop**

The **Canmore Snowmaking Workshop** is a walking, on-the-ground session that offers a behind-the-scenes look at how snow is made and managed at **Canmore Nordic Centre**. Participants will tour the snowmaking system, including the pump house, snow gun placement, and supporting infrastructure, while also viewing trail work such as culverts, vegetation management, and canopy considerations. The walk concludes with an overview of the snow storage methods Canmore has successfully used for years. Designed as an informal, moving workshop, this session encourages conversation, questions, and networking along the way.

(Reminder - it is your responsibility to keep up with the group so you can hear and participate in the conversation)

2:30- 4pm **Grooming Workshop**

The **Grooming Workshop** at **Canmore Nordic Centre** is a hands-on, collaborative session designed to share real-world grooming knowledge. The workshop begins with a shop tour, after which attendees break into four small groups, each paired with a lead, an operator, and a grooming machine. Guided by the lead and group discussion, the operator will work through a range of grooming situations, with conversation starting at pre-shift inspection and naturally flowing into techniques and decision-making. Topics include pushing, blading, tilling, intersections, and tiller floating, with an emphasis on machine settings and practical approaches. The session wraps up with a relaxed happy hour at the Canmore Nordic Centre Bar, providing time to continue the conversation and connect with peers.

4:00-5:00pm Reception at the Canmore Nordic Centre

6:00pm Cocktails leading in to dinner at the Coast Hotel

6:30pm Welcome Dinner at Hotel

8:00pm Fireside Chat

Thursday

- 7:30am Conference Registration
- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast at Hotel
- 8:15am CCSAA Welcome
Canmore Welcome
- 9am Ski and groom at Nordic Center
- Coffee on your own at the lodge
 - Groomer Demos
 - Demo Mr Snow Synthetic Ski Surface
- 10:00am 30 min 1 on 1 conversations - [sign up](#) - Canmore Nordic Centre
- 10:30am World cup course prep walking discussion with Mike Norton – Meeting Location TBD
- 11am **Right Seat/Left Seat Grooming Experience/Discussion - Sign up only**
This is your chance to get in a machine with another experienced groomer. You will each have 30min driving. [Sign Up](#)
- Noon Lunch at Hotel
- Noon – 6pm Expo Open
- 1pm **Attendee and vendor introductions** - Let's take some time to make new connections. Introductions to include name, ski area or company, and anything else short that they want to say. Please be brief.
- 2-3pm** **Session #1 – Keynote** - The Canmore history and business model from inception to now and moving forward.
- Social/Expo Break**
- 3 – 4pm **Session #2 – Panel Discussion – 2 concurrent discussions**
Panel #1 – Community Connections – Getting your local community involved, from leveraging volunteers to hosting community events, we'll discuss a variety of ways to stay connected with the community.
- Panel #2 – Maximizing Nordic Pulse** – learn about current capabilities and hear from some power users of the software. Come prepared to share what would you like to see added to Nordic Pulse functionality.
- Social/Expo Break**

4 – 5pm **Session #3 – (4 topic discussion groups)**
Group #1 – Working with the Forest Service

- Permits, reporting and more

Group #2 – Risk Management - This roundtable will discuss risk from the business, operations, and insurance side of running an XC ski area. Come prepared with questions or solutions for the small group discussion.

Group #3 – Landowner Relations - Easements, agreements, permits and leases, Federal. This small group discussion will allow time to focus on issues and solutions of skiing and grooming on someone else's land.

Group #4 – Is tracking snow depth right for you? Industry partners will join this discussion to talk about technology and practices to understand and manage the snow under your groomer.

CCSAA Annual Meeting

5:15pm Happy Hour
6:30pm Dinner
8pm Fireside Chat at host hotel



Friday, April 11

7:30 – 8:30am Breakfast at Hotel
8:15am Daily update

9am Ski and groom at Nordic Center

- Coffee on your own at the lodge
- Groomer Demos
- Demo Mr Snow Synthetic Ski Surface

10:00am 30 min 1 on 1 conversations - [sign up](#) - Canmore Nordic Centre

10:30am Facility Tour - Beyond the scenes tour and event flow discussion – Meeting Location TBD

11am **Right Seat/Left Seat Grooming Experience/Discussion - Sign up only**

This is your chance to get in a machine with another experienced groomer. You will each have 30min driving. [Sign Up Here](#)

Noon Lunch

Noon – 6pm Expo Open

1 - 2pm **Session #4 – Snow Forecasting Modeling - The Engine**
AI Modeling presentation from data scientists at the NSF funded Advanced Sensing and Computation for Environmental Decision-making (ASCEND) Engine in Colorado and Wyoming. More details to come.

Social/Expo Break

2 - 3pm **Session #5 – Panel Discussion**
Panel #1 – Staff Training – Staff training varies drastically from ski area to ski area. What are you doing, what are others doing
Panel #2 – Safety – Ski Patrol, Injuries, Extraction, Trail Markings and First Responders. Hear input from Canadian and US ski areas on how they prioritize safety at their ski areas. Join the conversation.

Social/Expo Break

3 - 4pm **Discussion Groups – (Choose one to participate in)**
Group #1 – Season Passes, Punch Passes and Memberships - What's the best approach to keeping your revenue growing.

Group #2 – Operating under a Government Umbrella: Municipal, County, and Provincial Parks learnings from working collaboratively with government partners.

Group #3 – Operating as a non-profit: From fundraising to working with your board, come ready with what's working and not from your community ski area.

Group #4 – Pet Friendly Skiing, trail marking and Signage: Come ready to share your successes and questions around dog friendly grooming, signage, designated trails, leashes and more

Social/Expo Break

5pm Happy Hour

6:30pm Dinner on your own

8:30pm Fireside Chat

Thank you to our great sponsors!



Vendor Expo Attendees

- PistenBully
- Prinoth
- Ski Cat Snowcat Rentals
- SMI Snowmakers
- Inter-Mtn/Mr Snow
- Nordic Pulse
- Nordic Group International
- Best Nordic Ski Great Escapes
- TechnoAlpin Canada
- Yellowstone Track Systems
- Pro Alpine Ventures – Alpina
- Path Payments
- Nicholas Hill Group