

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation will host public celebrations at Soldier Hollow Nordic Center and Utah Olympic Oval, Saturday February 4, 2017

January 25, 2017 (Park City, Utah) – In honor of the 15th anniversary of the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation will be hosting a special Team 2002 public celebration at Soldier Hollow Nordic Center on Saturday, February 4, during the USANA FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships featuring a special appearance by Mitt Romney and Fraser Bullock. During the 15th anniversary, three 2002 Olympic venues will also be hosting international competitions including the VISA FIS Freestyle World Cup, Aerials, Moguls & Dual Moguls events at Deer Valley Resort, February 1-4, 2017, a further testament to Utah's thriving Olympic legacy.

The vision of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City was to create a perpetual legacy of programs for the youth of Utah through creation of world-renowned athletic venues and athletic programs for boys and girls. The Olympics provided a platform for improving key transportation and communications infrastructure in the state, showcasing Utah to the world as a major tourist destination.

But the heart of the success of the Games came from the tens of thousands of volunteers, local communities and sports programs all coming together as a part of Team 2002. Now, 15 years later, Utah is more recognizable around the globe and winter sport youth programs are thriving on the same Olympic venues where medals were won 15 years ago. The Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation wants to honor those efforts and celebrate that legacy by commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The festivities at Soldier Hollow Nordic Center will kick off at 10:00 A.M. with a family friendly, community event during the biggest sporting event at Soldier Hollow since 2002. The first 500 attendees are invited to pick up a voucher valued at \$20.02, redeemable towards activities at three Olympic venues: Soldier Hollow Nordic Center, Utah Olympic Park or Utah Olympic Oval.

Spectators are invited to watch future Olympians compete from 40 nations, on the famed Soldier Hollow cross country trails. A special appearance by Mitt Romney and Fraser Bullock will take place from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Event activities include face painting, photo booth, music, food trucks and a host of family friendly activities.

In addition to the celebration at Soldier Hollow, the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation is honoring the anniversary beginning at 1:00 P.M. at the Utah Olympic Oval by offering the first 100 patrons wearing 2002 Olympic apparel a free Oval key chain and voucher valued at \$20.02, redeemable towards activities at three Olympic venues: Soldier Hollow Nordic Center, Utah Olympic Park or Utah Olympic Oval throughout the day, Saturday, February 4.

The public is also invited to celebrate and watch Olympians and elite athletes, from across the globe, as they compete at three Olympic venues —Soldier Hollow Nordic Center, Utah Olympic Park and Deer Valley Resort—the first week of February 2017. From January 30 to February 5, Utah Olympic Park will be hosting the ski jumping events for the USANA FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships and Soldier Hollow Nordic Center will be hosting XC ski races. Deer Valley will be hosting the VISA FIS Freestyle World Cup, Aerials, Moguls & Dual Moguls events February 1 thru February 4, 2017.

Quotes:

Colin Hilton, President & CEO of Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

“What a great way to celebrate Team 2002 and the 15th year anniversary. Three 2002 Olympic Winter Games venues are hosting world class, international competitions January 30 – February 5. We invite the public to join in the festivities commemorating our Olympic legacy.”

Fraser Bullock, Chief Operating Officer of the 2002 Games and former chairman of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

“As many as 65 percent of winter Olympians train here in Utah, but for 40 percent, this their home. We are the leading producer in our country of winter Olympians, and it’s because of the legacy of the Games.”

Tiger Shaw, President & CEO United States Ski and Snowboard Association

"The vision of the Salt Lake Olympic bid committee over a century ago was to build a legacy for kids here in Utah. Today, 15 years after the Games, that legacy is alive with thriving youth programs that have helped inspire a new generation of winter sports athletes."

Bob Wheaton, President and General Manager of Deer Valley Resort

“Deer Valley Resort continues to keep the Olympic legacy alive by hosting a freestyle ski World Cup annually. Since the Games, Deer Valley has welcomed freestyle athletes from around the world to compete on the 2002 Olympic mogul and aerial runs. We look forward to celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Salt Lake City Olympics by hosting the VISA Freestyle International World Cup February 1-4, 2017.”

For additional information:

[utaholympiclegacy.org/2002legacycelebration/
deervalley.com](http://utaholympiclegacy.org/2002legacycelebration/deervalley.com)

About Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

The Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation is a Utah nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization responsible for managing and maintaining world-class facilities and providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate and excel in winter sport. Inspired by the success and momentum of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games – considered by many the most successful Winter Games ever staged – the Foundation has placed a focus on embracing, engaging and involving Utah’s youth in winter sport. The Foundation supports national sport organizations and community recreational winter sport programs, as well as subsidizes the operation of three Olympic venues: Utah Olympic Oval, Utah Olympic Park, and Soldier Hollow. For more information, please visit UtahOlympicLegacy.org or call 435-658-4200.

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