

# NBC’S AMERICAN CENTURY GOLF EVENT CREATES a SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA in TAHOE JULY 8–12

*Retired NHL superstar Joe Pavelski took home the \$150,000 top prize in 2025. Upwards of 100,000 fans cheered for their celebrity favorites during the five-day event.*

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA/NV – Summer’s premier event, the American Century Championship in South Lake Tahoe, takes place in July at the beautiful Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Stateline, Nev.

South Lake Tahoe is a fun place to visit in winter to ski, snowmobile and party or just enjoy the scenery of the snow-capped peaks surrounding the beautiful blue lake.

Summers, however, are spectacular and packed with activities. The Tahoe South comes alive each July with a star-filled celebrity golf event. Plan your summer Tahoe visit for NBC’s American Century Championship Celebrity Golf tournament, July 8-12.

The event will once again be televised live on NBC networks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Many activities begin mid-week on Wednesday, July 8, with Celebrity Pro- Am golf events. This gives the celebs a chance to warm-up to playing at the beautiful Edgewood golf course, which stands at 6,200 feet of altitude. It also gives the fans a chance to greet the celebs when they are more relaxed than when they are in the midst of the weekend competition.

In past years WWE’s The Miz played alongside fan favorites like Charles Barkley, Alfonso Ribeiro, Larry the

Cable Guy as well as NHL Stars Joe Pavelski and TJ Oshie. The 2024 and 2025 repeat Stanley Cup winner, Matthew Tkachuk, made his second appearance. Legendary sports broadcaster Joe Buck added to the roster again last year. Top notch Stand-Up comic Nate Bargatze also participated for his third time.

You might also rub elbows with athletes like NFL legend Jerry Rice, music greats like Jay DeMarcus, Jason Scheff or Jake Owen and TV stars like Jack Wagner who has played every year since the event began in 1990 and is the only non-athlete who has won the event. Wagner won in both 2006 and 2011. Many fans are able to take selfies with the celebrities.

The 2023 winner was NBA star Steph Curry, who skipped the 2024 event to prepare and win the USA Basketball Gold in the Summer Olympics. Curry finished in 5th place in 2025 with a +58 Stableford score. Mardy Fish, USA Tennis great and the defending ACC Champion, finished 9th also in 2025 with +53 Stableford points.

Last year, perennial top 10 finisher John Smoltz, retired MLB pitching great and now sportscaster, finished 2nd with +64 points. Newcomers to the top finishers were country music star Jake Owen who finished in 3rd place with +62

Stableford points and finishing in 4th place was MLS great and soccer announcer Taylor Twellman with +61 points. This very tight field separated 4th place from second by only three points. Legendary LPGA golfer Annika Sorenstam finished 7th with +55 Stableford points

In other news, Charles Barkley (NBA great, retired) beat the Caesar’s betting odds against him to finish 69th. This after his best score ever in 2024 with -4 Stableford points, tied for 52nd place. Last July, Barkley began his play on Friday with his best round ever, scoring an Eagle on the 2nd hole, worth +6 points, to finish the day with a +9 score in 24th. He slipped on Saturday and Sunday to 69th scoring -17. This was his second best finish since 2003 when Stableford scoring was adopted for the tournament.

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For photo essays from past American Century events and happenings on and off the Edgewood-Tahoe golf course, please visit [www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm](http://www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm)

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# The SNOW ANGEL FOUNDATION IS EXPANDING ITS MISSION from CAMPAIGN to MOVEMENT

THERMOPOLIS, WY – What began as a simple but powerful message has grown into a far-reaching safety movement across the ski industry.

The Snow Angel Foundation was born out of a tragedy in 2010 when a young man collided with Co-founder Kelli Johnson and her five-year-old daughter Elise while he was riding between 50 and 60 miles per hour. This event left Kelli with a severe traumatic brain injury while both Elise and the young man perished. In 2017, the Johnsons launched the Ride Another Day safety campaign, a grassroots effort focused on encouraging skiers and riders to take personal responsibility on the slopes. The campaign resonated deeply, helping spark conversations about speed, awareness and decision-making in mountain environments.

The Ride Another Day message quickly gained traction. Resorts recognized that the campaign was doing more than raising awareness. It was changing behavior. As a result, a handful of ski areas invited Chauncy and Kelli Johnson to share their personal story and safety insights at ski patrol refreshers and annual staff orientation meetings. These early presentations marked a turning point that led to the formation of the Snow Angel Foundation in 2023.

What followed was an evolution from a public awareness campaign into a comprehensive education and training organization.

Today, the Snow Angel Foundation provides structured training programs for resort leadership teams, ski patrol, instructors, guest services staff and other on-mountain departments. These programs focus on communication, collision prevention, bystander awareness and building a proactive culture of safety across resort operations.

Beyond resort staff, the Foundation expanded its reach to guests and families. Through youth-focused presentations, parent education sessions and community events, Snow Angel helps skiers and riders of all ages to understand not only how their choices impact not only their own safety, but also the safety of everyone sharing the mountain.

Recognizing that safe habits start early, the organization is now expanding into schools, ski clubs and race teams. These age-appropriate programs bring safety education directly to youth, teaching speed management, spatial awareness and respect for others in ways that resonate both on and off the slopes.

This growth reflects a broader shift in the ski industry. Safety is no longer viewed as a rulebook, but as a shared responsibility and cultural value.

Today, the Snow Angel Foundation works with well over 30 ski areas and resorts across North America, including resort groups, regional associations and partners in Canada. What began as a single campaign has become a collaborative movement, uniting resorts, families and young athletes around a common goal of helping everyone enjoy the mountain and ride another day.

About the Snow Angel Foundation

The Snow Angel Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing on-mountain collisions and fostering a culture of safety across ski resorts, communities and youth programs throughout North America.

For more info or to get involved, contact:  
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# PURGATORY RESORT: A COLORADO SKI RESORT for FAMILIES, BEGINNERS and BIG MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

DURANGO, CO – At Purgatory Resort, you will find an authentic Colorado ski experience where family-friendly fun meets big-mountain adventure. Nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Durango, this Colorado ski resort combines a welcoming atmosphere with terrain and activities that appeal to families, beginners and powder chasers alike.

A Reputation Stacking Up

Purgatory has been steadily earning recognition in the ski world. OnTheSnow users recently voted it the best ski resort for beginners in North America. That speaks directly to how newcomers and families experience the mountain and illustrates that learning to ski at Purgatory is approachable and rewarding.

Durango itself has also gained notice as one of Colorado’s most appealing ski towns, and Purgatory plays a central role in that reputation. Together, they create a destination that combines great skiing with a vibrant community and year-round attractions.

Terrain, Powder and Adventure

Purgatory offers more than 1,600 acres of varied terrain, from wide-open groomers to glades and challenging tree runs. The mountain averages 260 inches of snow each year, giving skiers consistent powder days.

One of the factors that makes Purgatory unique is its backcountry access. With 35,000 acres of guided terrain, Purgatory Snowcat Adventures is the largest snowcat skiing operation in Colorado. Skiers and riders can explore bowls, glades, and untouched powder with experienced guides leading the way.

Family Ski Vacations in Colorado

Few resorts make skiing as accessible for families as Purgatory does. The Kids Ski Free program is one of the best family ski deals in Colorado. Children 12 and under ski free every day of the season, with no blackout dates or fine print.

Wide beginner areas, gentle slopes and progression-friendly lifts give kids and first-timers confidence while keeping the experience fun.



DURANGO CO — Purgatory Resort is where families come to learn, explore, and enjoy authentic Colorado skiing, surrounded by some of the best views in the Rockies. Named Best Ski Area for Beginners in North America (OnTheSnow Visitors’ Choice Awards), Purgatory offers uncrowded slopes, an unpretentious vibe, and convenient access to historic Durango. Best of all, lift tickets start at \$9 and kids 12 and under ski free, no strings attached. Visit: [purgatory.ski](http://purgatory.ski)  
Photo courtesy of Purgatory Resort

Skiing is only part of the story. Purgatory also offers tubing hills, snowshoe adventures, and other winter activities that make the resort fun for everyone. Even if skiing or snowboarding is not your thing, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the mountain and the snow.

Durango: The Perfect Base

A trip to Purgatory is not just about skiing. Only 25 minutes away, Durango offers restaurants, breweries, shops and history that make the trip feel like a full Colorado ski vacation. Guests can ride the historic Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, soak in the Durango Hot Springs, or enjoy the lively downtown after a day on the mountain.

This blend of mountain adventure and small-city charm makes Purgatory more than just a ski resort. It is a complete Colorado experience.

Slopeside Lodging at Purgatory Resort

When the lifts close, Purgatory makes it easy to stay close to the action. Lodging in the base area includes ski-in/ski-out condos, townhomes and private homes, as well as units with fireplaces and mountain views.

Guests who want to be near dining and activities can stay within walking distance of restaurants, shops and après-ski fun.

Purgatory also partners with lodging providers in nearby Durango to offer a wider range of accommodations, often with the best rates and packages. Whether staying slopeside or in town, guests can count on comfort, convenience and options to fit every trip.

Why Purgatory, Why Now

Ski vacations in Colorado have become more expensive, and many resorts lean heavily on exclusivity and price. Purgatory offers something different. It delivers quality skiing, approachable pricing and a sense of welcome that is hard to find at larger mountains.

With recognition as the best ski resort for beginners, one of the largest snowcat operations in the country, family-first perks, slopeside lodging and activities for non-skiers, Purgatory is carving out a unique place among Colorado ski resorts. It is not about being the flashiest destination. It is about being the kind of mountain people return to year after year.

If you want a ski vacation that blends adventure, comfort and authenticity, Purgatory Resort should be at the top of your list.

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