Purchasing Nordic Equipment

Ski fit is extremely important when purchasing equipment. Because of this it is important to get your skis fit by someone who really knows nordic skiing and how to properly fit them. This can be done at a Nordic skiing specific shop or one of the ski swaps. Suggested ski swaps and ski shops are listed on the back.

A ski shop or one of the suggested ski swaps can help you through all of these different components of ski equipment but here are the basics and some of our suggestions.

Boots

Try on different brands of ski boots. They all fit slightly different. Find the boot that fits you the best and pick your bindings based on the brand. A ski shop can easily help with this. There are different boots for skate and classic but a combi boot will work well for both and can save you money by only having to purchase one pair of boots.

Bindings

There are 3 types of bindings. NNN, Prolink, and Pilot. We suggest purchasing either NNN or Prolink over Pilot bindings given the choice. This is because NNN and Prolink are interchangeable and Pilot bindings are slowly being phased out. If purchasing boots at a ski swap you will have less choice in the binding type as it will be dependant on the boot you pick. All binding types work great so any will be fine. Make sure to match the binding with the boot you pick.

Skis

There are two different ski techniques. Skate and Classic. These two types of skis behave very different from each other. Skate skis are stiffer and shorter, while classic skis flex more and are longer. Because of this, it is best to purchase a pair of skate skis and classic skis. There are combi skis out there but the problem with them is they try to bridge the gap between the two techniques. This results in a ski that is not very good for skate or classic.

Poles

With the two different techniques brings two different pole lengths. Skate poles are a little longer and should go up to about a skier's mouth while standing in shoes or ski boots. Classic poles are shorter and should go up to about a skier's shoulders while standing in shoes or ski boots.

Any Mahtomedi coach is happy to field specific equipment questions if they arise.
Below are a few good options for making sure to get fit with the proper equipment.

Ski Swaps

There are two good ski swaps to find used equipment.

Nov. 13th – 14th Pioneer Midwest. Osseo, MN. 8:00-4:00

This is a smaller ski swap but there will be expert ski fitters there to make sure the skis fit the athlete correctly. While this is a 2 day event, most good equipment will be gone by mid-day on the 13th so come early

Nov. 13th MYSL Annual Ski Swap. Minneapolis, MN.

This is a much larger ski swap. Because of that there is a larger selection but also a lot more people. A line starts forming several hours before the doors open.
https://mysl.org/events/skiswap

Ski Shops

It is best to get skis from a ski shop as opposed to a sporting goods store because they can be properly fit for you. Ski shops also offer high school pricing. Just ask and they will give you a good deal. With these deals, ski shops are less expensive, even if the sporting goods store has a sale, and you will get better fitting equipment when you buy from a ski shop. Below is a list of ski shops in the Twin Cities.

Finn Sisu. Lauderdale, MN

- Closest to Mahtomedi

Pioneer Midwest. Osseo, MN

- See Matt Liebsch for ski fitting if going here.
- Has a trade up program to trade in equipment after 1-2 years of use for credit towards new equipment. Good option for growing skiers. More information at: https://www.pioneermidwest.com/resources/high-school-and-jr-skierresources/high-school-junior-trade-in-trade-up-program/

Gear West. Long Lake, MN

Boulder Nordic Sports. Bloomington, MN