



VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME

Pierre Millette, QC



Sprints, Eastern Canadian Championships, 2011

1. What type of organizations do you volunteer for?

Basically, I work for Skinouk Club, in Gatineau, Quebec. I am Vice President, Events. I look after the organizational aspects of events that the club hosts, I work to develop new opportunities, and I act as a representative for our club with race organizers who have similar interests. Because our club has both cross-country skiing and mountain biking programmes, I organize races for the club in both these sports.

Among my other responsibilities, I have been Chief of Competition for the Skinouk Cup since 2006. The Skinouk Cup is a regional-level race that takes place in Gatineau Park and attracts more than 250 racers. I was Chief of Competition for the Eastern Canadian Championships in 2007, 2009 and 2011, and in 2013, I co-chaired the event with a colleague from Nakkertok. As for mountain biking, I organized the competitions for the Jeux du Québec in 2010, as well as one Coupe du Québec since then.

I also volunteer at other events; I like trying out a variety of roles in race management. I was a volunteer at three World Cup competitions: Canmore in 2008, Callaghan Valley in 2009 and Quebec City in 2012, as well as the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. I've also volunteered at several Jeux du Québec. For mountain biking, I volunteered at the 2010 World Championships, at Mont Ste-Anne, and the Canada Games 2013 in Sherbrooke.

I am a Level 3 official for cross-country skiing and I am working on finishing Level 4. So I am the provincial technical delegate for Ski de fond Québec, and a few times I have assisted at several national races. In mountain biking, I am C commissioner in Quebec.

Last thing to mention: I have also organized some cross-country races, a roller-ski race and a cyclocross race for Skinouk.

2. What is the most rewarding part of volunteering?

Basically, I get a kick out of any kind of sporting event. I like being there, as a spectator, participant, volunteer or organizer. Being a volunteer gets you the best seat in the house. It's kind of a selfish pleasure.

Besides that, there is the camaraderie – my skiing friends are a second family to me. What a great feeling to experience an intense event among a group of friends who you really get along with. And there's a satisfaction that comes with a job well done. It's really great to see the athletes, parents and volunteers having fun at an event that you have spent so much time preparing. Sometimes there's fatigue and stress – but when that happens, you have to remind yourself why you are doing it. And you see that when the racing kicks off: you have given the athletes a chance to perform in optimal conditions: a fair, safe and fun race. And when it's all over, they thank us...nothing feels quite like that!

3. What do you have to say about all the volunteers who make events possible?

Hey, without them, nothing would be possible. They should be thanked for what they give of themselves. But the other thing to take into account is that if people volunteer, they do so because they want to. Everybody who participates, in whatever way, shape or form, gets something out of the experience. So from the point of view of the organizers, we have to make sure that the volunteers' participation gives them some gratification, so that they will be inclined to volunteer again in the future. We're not talking gifts or material rewards here – rewards are important – but volunteers get the most pleasure and the best memories out of accomplishing their tasks surrounded by others with whom they've had a good time and a good laugh, and also out of the satisfaction of feeling that they played an important role in the success of the event.

4. Finish this sentence: I volunteer because.....

... it's exciting, fun, gratifying and enriching!



Jury duty, Val Cartier, 2010



With my daughter, in Quebec: I attend her races or she volunteers with me



At the start line for qualifying rounds of the Quebec World Cup



At the Olympic Games, Callaghan Valley (second from right)



Sometimes, I get my hands dirty – Final of the Jeux du Québec, Gatineau 2010