

# 2024 Season Preview

**AMTRAK  
WINTER PARK  
EXPRESS**

**ColoRail  
Volunteer  
Host Program**



Photos from Friends of Winter Park Express FB: D Zimny-Schmitt, E Lindgren, L McIntyre, D Brown, J Wollenweber



# 2024 Season - Topics

- COLORAIL Strategic Imperatives (Primary areas of focus)
- WPE 2024 Plan
- Partners / Support / Teamwork
- Wrap-up





# COLORAIL – Strategic Imperatives



- Stabilize and Improve the Amtrak Southwest Chief passenger train and expand its service to Pueblo
- ***Sustain and Improve Winter Park Express ski train service to Winter Park Resort***
- Restore Passenger Rail service to the Colorado Front Range

<https://colorail.org/>







# 2024 Plan, From Amtrak

- 36 trips (Friday, Saturday, Sunday January 12 through March 31)
- Possible Extra Service including holidays MLK and Presidents Day
- Same consist as 2023 4 bilevel coaches and Sightseer Lounge
- Amtrak targeting mid-November to announce season and open inventory for sale





# Winter Park Express Host Program

## COLORAIL COORDINATIONS

Peter Barkmann: In Season Host Scheduling Coordinator:

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Daniel Zimny-Schmitt: Social Media Coordinator and Assist with Scheduling

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Sean Flannery: System Operations Coordinator

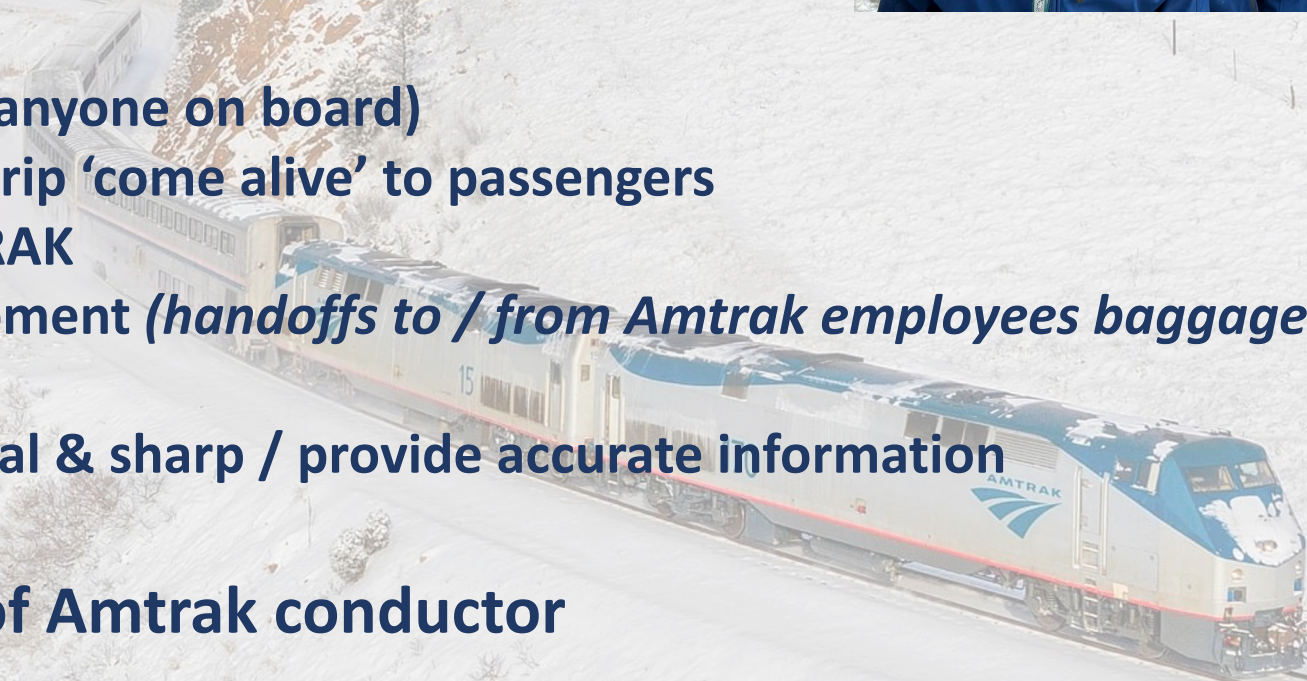
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# COLORAIL 2024 “WPE Train Host” Operation

- All volunteers (51 returning this season)
- Openings for 12 new hosts
- Minimum 3 round trips per season
- Request for bios soon
- Primary Roles
  - Safety! (No injuries to anyone on board)
  - “Docents” – make the trip ‘come alive’ to passengers
  - Ambassadors for AMTRAK
  - Load / unload ski equipment (*handoffs to / from Amtrak employees baggage cars*)
  - Guest Assistance
  - Look and be professional & sharp / provide accurate information
- Work under direction of Amtrak conductor





# Host Operational Requirements

- Be **ON TIME (6:00AM)** for Briefing!!! – Be at WP boarding area by 4PM.
- Be **SAFE** (yourself and for passengers).
- Wear appropriate uniforms (zipped jackets / gloves / safety glasses/ lanyards)
- **New jackets** for this year-required for new hosts, optional for returning
- Be at your car doors 5 minutes before departure. (*safety*)
- Enroute, stay in Assigned Car.
- Communicate (issues, concerns, personal needs) on timely basis to Lead host.



D Brown



# Train Host Roles

## Know The Route and Area

- **MAKE THE TRIP SPECIAL, ENJOYABLE AND SAFE FOR PASSENGERS.**
- **Help in boarding, seating, orientation to cars. Hand out ride guides – be Engaging.**
- **Now have QR code link to Colorail, WPE Guide, WP maps**
- **Be ‘present’ on board with your passengers (route, destination & Amtrak). You are the face of the WPE.**
- **ASK if you don’t know (bad information is worse than no information).**
- **Safety!!!**

### ON BOARD

**LOUNGE CAR:** Snacks and drinks are available in the cafe on the lower level. Seating to enjoy the panoramic views can be found on the upper level. Please be mindful of fellow passengers and limit your time to allow others to enjoy the view!

**STORAGE:** Located on the lower level of each coach car.

**STORAGE:** Bags and personal items can be stored at your seat or on the luggage shelves on the lower level of each coach car. You may leave your items on board during the day but you will not have access until the train returns for boarding.

**SAFETY:** The entire train is non-smoking. This includes the restrooms and vestibule areas.

Be prepared for any unexpected movements of the train at all times.

Please be wearing shoes at all times.

Except in an emergency, passengers are not allowed to open the exterior windows or doors.

Passengers are prohibited from entering the Winter Park platform until the gates are opened and passengers are allowed on by car hosts or Amtrak personnel.

Please address any concerns to your car host or Amtrak personnel.

### THE MOFFAT ROUTE

The route of the Winter Park Express is part of prominent Denver businessman, David H. Moffat's dream of connecting Denver and Salt Lake City by rail. Beginning in 1904, the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railroad built west out of Denver, crossing the Continental Divide at an elevation of 11,660 feet. The 23-mile Rollins Pass section presented many challenges including fierce winds and snowstorms which stranded trains for days or weeks at a time. David Moffat passed away suddenly in 1911 with the railroad only reaching as far as Steamboat Springs. By 1915 the railroad was reorganized as the Denver & Salt Lake Railway. Construction on the 6.2-mile-long Moffat Tunnel under Rollins Pass started in 1923 with the first train through in 1928, at the time it was the longest railroad tunnel in North America. In 1934 the Railroad was acquired by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. Moffat's vision was finally realized when the D&RGW built the Datsaro Gulch to connect Moffat's Line to their own Tennessee Pass Line coming from Pueblo, finally connecting Denver and Salt Lake City. In 1959, the Rio Grande railroad bought the Southern Pacific and in 1996 both became part of the Union Pacific Railroad, the largest railroad system in the world. Today the route hosts Union Pacific and BNSF freight trains along with Amtrak's California Zephyr and Winter Park Express. Before Moffat's death, he was gifted a "Loving Cup of Admiration" as thanks from Colorado residents and businesses for his tireless efforts. The cup is made from pure silver and weighs over 200 pounds. It is on display inside Denver Union Station, next to the Amtrak ticket office.

### COLORAIL

Would you like to see more services like the Winter Park Express throughout Colorado? If so, be sure to support The Colorado Rail Passenger Association! Colorail focuses on passenger rail advocacy and seeks to expand passenger rail services to more Colorado residents! The Winter Park Express is just the first step in that goal. Ask your Colorail car host for more details!

Visit our website: <http://colorail.org>

### WELCOME ABOARD!

#### OFFICIAL RIDE GUIDE

DENVER-WINTER PARK RESORT

Cover photos by John Cissard, inside photo by Noah Spanable  
Map illustration by Erik Lindgren

**Winter park RESORT**

f AMTRAK WINTER PARK EXPRESS

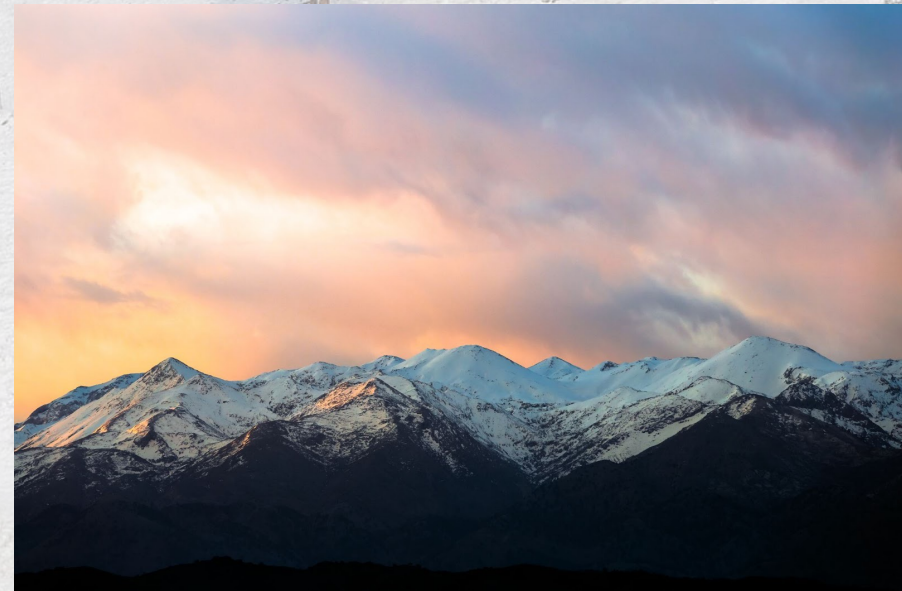
@WINTERPARKEXPRESS

[WWW.AMTRAK.COM/WINTERPARKEXPRESS](http://WWW.AMTRAK.COM/WINTERPARKEXPRESS)



# A Ride on the WPE and “Consideration”

- *Obvious perk is ride on WPE!*
- *Plus-One lift ticket ‘chit’ per trip at briefing good for any day in season (have to be on time!).*
- *Ticket is called ‘consideration’ for your services (not “compensation”).*
- *You may NOT sell ticket (grounds for dismissal).*
- *Redeem ‘chit’ for a lift ticket at any Winter Park Resort ticket window.*





# ***Have Fun and Be Professional***

- Share your joy and information about our one – of – a kind rail service and ski area (#1)
- Make it fun and enjoyable for your passengers
- Know your passengers – and what they want
- Safety / Safety / Safety





# Partners / Support / Teamwork

- **Winter Park Resort**
  - Train greeters and overnight assistance (on platform)
  - Backup funding
- **AMTRAK**
  - Corporate support
  - On board staff (Brad and others)





# Enhancement Opportunities for 2024

- Continue to promote groups and special charters
- **Publicize, publicize, publicize!**





# QUESTIONS???

