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U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team Athletes Inspire Bay Area Children

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San Francisco, CA - In October, members of the U.S. Ski Team and U.S. Snowboarding had the unique opportunity to visit the Willie Mays Boys & Girls Club during a short visit to San Francisco. The group, which included Olympic gold medalist Jonny Moseley, X Games gold medalist Steve Fisher (Breckenridge, CO), U.S. downhill and super G champion Stacey Cook (Mammoth, CA) and four-time Paralympian Monte Meier (Park City, UT), took time to answer the questions of the children at the Boys & Girls Club about what they do as winter athletes.

"It was interesting. I hadn't been to a Boys & Girls Club before, so it was definitely a really unique experience to see what it was all about and how much help they really give those kids in those neighborhoods," Fisher said. "It was neat meeting some of the kids and seeing what kind of a world they live in compared to what we do."

According to Cook, her favorite part of the visit was the children's interest in Meier.

"The kids were all really interested in Monte," Cook said. "I thought it was really cute that they could tell how talented of an athlete he is, but that they were so interested in his disability and how he overcame it."

Meier, who was asked how he "hurt" his leg, which is fitted with a prosthesis for day-to-day life, enjoyed talking to the audience.

"For me, it's great. I think those questions are good. Kids are always curious about things and they don't hold those questions back," Meier said. "With them asking questions they get more knowledge and hopefully as they grow up they can spread the word. It gets the disabled sports movement out there more."

Following the question and answer session, the athletes joined the children for a barbeque and some face-to-face interaction.

"Those kids were super cool. They didn't really know much about snow sports because they didn't really grow up around it or have the ability to know a whole lot about it," Fisher said. "It was fun talking to them and helping them to better understand what it is that we do."

For Meier, he was happy to be able to try and motivate the children to reach for their dreams.

"I always love hanging out with kids and trying to inspire them to follow their dreams, or even just get dreams, and just broaden their views a little bit. I think it's a great opportunity for an athlete like myself," Meier said.