



kid's eye view

By Breanna Mannis Demont

Utah Snowboarding Rocks!

I love winter! I simply love everything about it. When I started snowboarding, I immediately fell in love with it because it was another sport that I could do to take advantage of this lovely time of the year and it was a break from skiing. Well, I don't think that I'll be going back to skiing any time soon because I just don't seem to want to get off my board!

A couple of years ago, I went skiing with my dad to a resort in Utah called Deer Valley. It was simply an amazing trip and I immediately fell in love with Utah's winter scene and in the back of my mind I had always wanted to return. Well, lucky for me, my mom wanted to ski in Utah and I couldn't have been more thrilled when she surprised me with the news!

Now, this was the same year that I had decided to try to master snowboarding. I couldn't help but jump up at the news of going back to Utah, but at the fact that I wouldn't be going back there as a skier, but as a snowboarder! And to think, it was only my first year of snowboarding and I was already on my way to ripping up the mountains! That's pretty amazing if you think about it! So we packed our bags and hopped on the plane, ready for a trip of pure bliss; my mom and me in a winter wonderland. What could be more awesome?

Now, each resort that we went to had its own special features. The first place that we went to was Solitude. My favorite part of that area was where we stayed. It had a very Western feel to it

on the inside, and it felt more like a home to me. I still remember having lunch in the ski lodge and gazing out of the humongous window at the most beautiful mountains that I've ever seen in my life.

Also, my instructor, Aristoi, helped me a lot with my boarding. He was really good at getting me back to where I left off and he really worked with me on my toe turns (the only thing that I seem to have a tough time getting good at), and I really improved!

The next place we went to was the Park City Mountain Resort. I would have to say that it was my favorite out of all of the resorts that I snowboarded at. The reason why? My instructor, Shaun! After taking an all day private lesson with him, I got ten times better at snowboarding than when I came! At Solitude, Aristoi got me feeling comfortable with my toe turns, which I could never really feel before, but Shaun, well, he got me to the point where I mastered them!

The entire staff of instructors at the Park City Mountain Resort are willing to work with you at your pace, so that you can be the best snowboarder/skier that you can be, and they are so patient! For example, the stance on my board wasn't quite fitting how I board, so Shaun sat down with me right smack dab in the middle of the hill and fixed my stance! I'm serious! I literally gave him my screwdriver, he took apart my board and started changing my stance, **RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HILL!** You want to know the best part about it? I'm a much better boarder because of my new stance!

Another fun example is that he took me on moguls for the first time, and let me tell you, I was scared to death! But he helped me overcome my fear and I made it the entire way down; still managing to squeeze in the fun factor! It was unbelievable!

The third resort that my mom and I went to was Powder Mountain, which is said to be the biggest ski/snowboard

resort in Utah. Let me tell you, that is no joke whatsoever—it's definitely true! The great part about this resort is that you get the best of both groomed and powder runs, so everyone in your group can enjoy whatever kind of skiing/snowboarding they want! Also, if you're looking for more challenging terrain, this resort is a fantastic pick!

As for the instructors, they're great! My instructor's name was Michelle, and she helped me get to the point where I was able to link my turns smoothly and just fast enough that, after a little more practice, I could almost carve my turns—which is my big snowboarding goal.

After we left Powder Mountain, my mom and I went to the Ogden Union station for dinner and a tour of the historical railway system museum. The food was great, and the tour was very interesting, especially the car museum and the model trains.

The final resort on our skiing spree was Wolf Mountain, and I was glad that it was our final one because it wasn't as overwhelmingly huge as the other three, and it was fairly easy terrain, giving me a chance to practice what I had learned during my trip.

Experiencing Utah as a beginner snowboarder was totally different than experiencing it as an intermediate/advanced skier. It was probably one of my favorite trips that I've gone on in my life. It is an excellent place to go to pick up a winter sport, and an excellent place to go to period! The scenery makes it all the more fascinating, and during the winter, it is really what people like to call a "winter wonderland!" I am so fortunate that I got to experience Utah at least once, but going there a second time was just so amazing!

I plan to go to the winter wonderland many more times in my life. And hey, maybe I'll be carving the next time!