

USA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING OLYMPIC HISTORY

US Olympic History: The United States has never had a strong tradition in cross-country skiing. The sport was one of the original Winter Olympic sports, debuting at the first Winter Olympics in 1924 at Chamonix. US men have competed in the sport at each Winter Olympics since, with only one medal to show for that, which was a silver medal won by Bill Koch in 1976 at Innsbruck in the 30 km, an event no longer contested at the Olympics.

Koch was an innovator in cross-country skiing, however. In the early 1980s he pioneered the skating technique of skiing, later called freestyle, and used it to win the 1981/82 World Cup title, and place third that year at the World Championships in the 30 km.

Women's cross-country skiing debuted at the Winter Olympics in 1952, but the US did not enter any women in the sport until 1972, fully missing five Winter Olympics, which is unusual for the United States, which usually participates in all sports, men and women. The 1972 US women's team were pioneers, led by Martha Rockwell, who placed 10th that year in the 10 km event. The other team members were Barbara Britch, Trina Hosmer, Margie Mahoney, and Alison Owen-Spencer.

US women have yet to win an Olympic medal, although Kikkan Randall is threatening to do so in Sochi. Randall specializes in the sprints and could medal in either the individual sprint or team sprint. To date the best finish by US women was 6th in the team sprint at Vancouver by Randall and Caitlin Compton. The best individual finish has been 8th by Randall in the 2010 sprint.

Cross-Country Skiing Olympic Program

| Event | Class | 1924 | 1928 | 1932 | 1936 | 1948 | 1952 | 1956 | 1960 | 1964 | 1968 | 1972 | 1976 | 1980 | 1984 | 1988 | 1992 | 1994 | 1998 | 2002 | 2006 | 2010 | 2014 | Games |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 10 kilometre | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | | | | 3 |
| 15 kilometre | M | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | x | x | x | x | 13 |
| 18 kilometre | M | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| 30 kilometre | M | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | 13 |
| 50 kilometre | M | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 22 |
| Relay | M | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 19 |
| Pursuit/Skiathlon | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 7 |
| Sprint | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | 4 |
| Team Sprint | M | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | 3 |
| 5 kilometre | F | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | 10 |
| 10 kilometre | F | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | x | x | x | x | 14 |
| 15 kilometre | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | | | | 4 |
| 20 kilometre | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | 2 |
| 30 kilometre | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 7 |
| Relay | F | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 16 |
| Pursuit/Skiathlon | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 7 |
| Sprint | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | 4 |
| Team Sprint | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | 3 |
| Totals | M | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 90 |
| Totals | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 67 |
| Totals | All | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 157 |

Notes: There have been multiple format changes to these events over the years. The women's relay was originally a 3x5 km race, but changed to 4x5 in 1976. The pursuit has changed formats for both men and women several times, and is no longer strictly a pursuit race, but rather a combination of classical and freestyle and is now termed the skiathlon. The standard individual races on the program now alternate between classical and freestyle at each Winter Olympics. The short men's race was 18 km through 1952 when it was changed to 15 km.

US Cross-Country Skiing Competitors by Year

| Year | Site | Men | Women | Both |
|------|------------------------|-----|-------|------|
| 1924 | Chamonix | 4 | --- | 4 |
| 1928 | St. Moritz | 3 | --- | 3 |
| 1932 | Lake Placid | 7 | --- | 7 |
| 1936 | Garmisch-Partenkirchen | 5 | --- | 5 |
| 1948 | St. Moritz | 5 | --- | 5 |
| 1952 | Oslo | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 1956 | Cortina d'Ampezzo | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 1960 | Squaw Valley | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| 1964 | Innsbruck | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 1968 | Grenoble | 7 | 0 | 7 |

| | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1972 | Sapporo | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| 1976 | Innsbruck | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| 1980 | Lake Placid | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 1984 | Sarajevo | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 1988 | Calgary | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 1992 | Albertville | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 1994 | Lillehammer | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| 1998 | Nagano | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 2002 | Salt Lake City | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| 2006 | Torino | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 2010 | Vancouver | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Gross Totals | 140 | 66 | 206 |
| | 1 Olympic Winter Games | 52 | 26 | 78 |
| | 2 Olympic Winter Games | 25 | 12 | 37 |
| | 3 Olympic Winter Games | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| | 4 Olympic Winter Games | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Actual Totals | 89 | 43 | 132 |

Most Appearances, USA, Men

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | Bill Koch (1976/1980/1984/1992) |
| 4 | Tim Caldwell (1972/1976/1980/1984) |
| 3 | Larry Damon (1956/1964/1968) |
| 3 | Carl Swenson (1994/2002/2006) |
| 3 | John Bauer (1992/1998/2002) |
| 3 | Todd Boonstra (1984/1988/1994) |
| 3 | Theodore Farwell, Jr. (1952/1956/1960) |
| 3 | Mike Elliott (1964/1968/1972) |
| 3 | Mike Gallagher (1964/1968/1972) |
| 3 | Justin Wadsworth (1994/1998/2002) |
| 3 | Kris Freeman (2002/2006/2010) |
| 3 | Torin Koos (2002/2006/2010) |

Most Appearances, USA, Women

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Nina Kemppel (1992/1994/1998/2002) |
| 3 | Lynn von der Heide-Spencer-Galanes (1976/1980/1984) |
| 3 | Kikkan Randall (2002/2006/2010) |
| 3 | Dorcas DenHartog-Wonsavage (1988/1992/1994) |
| 3 | Leslie Thompson (1988/1992/1994) |
| 2 | Margie Mahoney (1972/1976) |
| 2 | Martha Rockwell (1972/1976) |
| 2 | Alison Owen-Spencer (1972/1980) |
| 2 | Leslie Bancroft-Krichko (1980/1988) |
| 2 | Nancy Fiddler (1988/1992) |
| 2 | Betsy Youngman (1988/1992) |
| 2 | Ingrid Butts (1992/1994) |
| 2 | Suzanne King (1994/1998) |
| 2 | Laura McCabe (1994/1998) |
| 2 | Karen Petty (1994/1998) |
| 2 | Laura Wilson (1994/1998) |
| 2 | Wendy Wagner (2002/2006) |

Youngest Competitor, USA, Men

| | |
|--------|---|
| 18-003 | Tim Caldwell (1972-15 kilometres, *4 February 1954) |
| 18-009 | Caldwell (1972-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *4 February 1954) |
| 19-174 | Ronny Yeager (1972-15 kilometres, *16 August 1952) |

20-100 Pete Vordenberg (1992-30 kilometres, Classical, *2 November 1971)
 20-112 Vordenberg (1992-50 kilometres, Freestyle, *2 November 1971)
 20-213 Jon Lufkin (1968-30 kilometres, *9 July 1947)
 20-226 Charlie Akers (1960-15 kilometres, *12 July 1939)
 20-243 Bill Koch (1976-30 kilometres, *7 June 1955)
 20-246 Koch (1976-15 kilometres, *7 June 1955)
 20-249 Koch (1976-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *7 June 1955)
 20-252 Koch (1976-50 kilometres, *7 June 1955)
 21-048 Theodore Farwell, Jr. (1952-18 kilometres, *1 January 1931)
 21-053 Farwell, Jr. (1952-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *1 January 1931)
 21-060 Warren Chivers (1936-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *12 December 1914)
 21-062 Chivers (1936-18 kilometres, *12 December 1914)
 21-067 Karl Bohlin (1960-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *20 December 1938)
 21-070 Larry Martin (1972-15 kilometres, *29 November 1950)
 21-076 Martin (1972-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *29 November 1950)

Oldest Competitor, USA, Men

39-115 Anders Haugen (1928-18 kilometres, *24 October 1888)
 36-248 Bill Koch (1992-30 kilometres, Classical, *7 June 1955)
 35-312 Carl Swenson (2006-50 kilometres, Mass Start, Freestyle, *20 April 1970)
 35-305 Swenson (2006-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *20 April 1970)
 35-298 Swenson (2006-15/15 kilometres Pursuit, *20 April 1970)
 35-100 Anders Haugen (1924-18 kilometres, *24 October 1888)
 35-085 Sven Johanson (1960-30 kilometres, *25 November 1924)
 34-247 Nils Backstrom (1936-50 kilometres, *13 June 1901)
 34-152 Berger Torrissen (1936-50 kilometres, *16 September 1901)
 34-149 Torrissen (1936-18 kilometres, *16 September 1901)
 34-147 Torrissen (1936-4 x 10 kilometres Relay, *16 September 1901)
 34-071 Larry Damon (1968-50 kilometres, *8 December 1933)
 34-064 Damon (1968-15 kilometres, *8 December 1933)
 33-349 Ragnar Omtvedt (1924-18 kilometres, *18 February 1890)
 33-262 Robert Reid, Sr. (1932-50 kilometres, *27 May 1898)

Youngest Competitor, USA, Women

19-031 Alison Owen-Spencer (1972-10 kilometres, *5 January 1953)
 19-034 Owen-Spencer (1972-5 kilometres, *5 January 1953)
 19-037 Owen-Spencer (1972-3 x 5 kilometres Relay, *5 January 1953)
 19-046 Kikkan Randall (2002-5/5 kilometres Pursuit, *31 December 1982)
 19-050 Randall (2002-Sprint, *31 December 1982)
 19-101 Betsy Haines (1980-5 kilometres, *5 November 1960)
 19-269 Margie Mahoney (1972-10 kilometres, *12 May 1952)
 19-272 Mahoney (1972-5 kilometres, *12 May 1952)
 20-005 Beth Paxson (1980-5 kilometres, *10 February 1960)
 20-008 Paxson (1980-10 kilometres, *10 February 1960)
 20-011 Paxson (1980-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *10 February 1960)
 20-316 Barbara Britch (1972-5 kilometres, *30 March 1951)
 20-319 Britch (1972-3 x 5 kilometres Relay, *30 March 1951)
 20-358 Leslie Bancroft-Krichko (1980-5 kilometres, *22 February 1959)
 20-361 Bancroft-Krichko (1980-10 kilometres, *22 February 1959)
 20-364 Bancroft-Krichko (1980-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *22 February 1959)
 21-093 Twila Hinkle (1976-10 kilometres, *9 November 1954)
 21-095 Hinkle (1976-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *9 November 1954)
 21-122 Nina Kempffel (1992-5 kilometres, Classical, *14 October 1970)
 21-122 Kempffel (1992-5/10 kilometres Pursuit, *14 October 1970)
 21-225 Lindsey Weier (2006-7.5/7.5 kilometres Pursuit, *2 July 1984)
 21-229 Weier (2006-10 kilometres, Classical, *2 July 1984)

21-237

Weier (2006-30 kilometres, Mass Start, Freestyle, *2 July 1984)

Oldest Competitor, USA, Women

| | |
|--------|---|
| 38-183 | Sarah Konrad (2006-30 kilometres, Mass Start, Freestyle, *26 August 1967) |
| 38-177 | Konrad (2006-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *26 August 1967) |
| 36-000 | Nancy Fiddler (1992-30 kilometres, Freestyle, *21 February 1956) |
| 35-361 | Fiddler (1992-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *21 February 1956) |
| 35-357 | Fiddler (1992-5 kilometres, Classical, *21 February 1956) |
| 35-357 | Fiddler (1992-5/10 kilometres Pursuit, *21 February 1956) |
| 35-353 | Fiddler (1992-15 kilometres, Classical, *21 February 1956) |
| 34-171 | Jana Hlavaty (1976-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *25 August 1941) |
| 34-169 | Hlavaty (1976-10 kilometres, *25 August 1941) |
| 34-166 | Hlavaty (1976-5 kilometres, *25 August 1941) |
| 33-284 | Suzanne King (1998-30 kilometres, Freestyle, *12 May 1964) |
| 33-280 | King (1998-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *12 May 1964) |
| 33-272 | King (1998-15 kilometres, Classical, *12 May 1964) |
| 32-201 | Betsy Youngman (1992-30 kilometres, Freestyle, *4 August 1959) |
| 32-197 | Youngman (1992-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *4 August 1959) |
| 32-114 | Wendy Wagner (2006-Sprint, *31 October 1973) |
| 32-110 | Wagner (2006-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *31 October 1973) |
| 32-108 | Wagner (2006-10 kilometres, Classical, *31 October 1973) |
| 32-106 | Wagner (2006-Team Sprint, *31 October 1973) |
| 32-004 | Fiddler (1988-20 kilometres, Freestyle, *21 February 1956) |
| 32-000 | Fiddler (1988-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *21 February 1956) |
| 31-361 | Fiddler (1988-5 kilometres, Classical, *21 February 1956) |
| 31-358 | Fiddler (1988-10 kilometres, Classical, *21 February 1956) |
| 31-349 | Laura McCabe (1998-30 kilometres, Freestyle, *8 March 1966) |
| 31-345 | McCabe (1998-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *8 March 1966) |
| 31-339 | McCabe (1998-5/10 kilometres Pursuit, *8 March 1966) |
| 31-338 | McCabe (1998-5 kilometres, Classical, *8 March 1966) |
| 31-291 | Martha Rockwell (1976-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *26 April 1944) |
| 31-289 | Rockwell (1976-10 kilometres, *26 April 1944) |
| 31-286 | Rockwell (1976-5 kilometres, *26 April 1944) |
| 31-133 | Nina Kemppe (2002-30 kilometres, Classical, *14 October 1970) |
| 31-130 | Kemppe (2002-4 x 5 kilometres Relay, *14 October 1970) |
| 31-124 | Kemppe (2002-5/5 kilometres Pursuit, *14 October 1970) |
| 31-121 | Kemppe (2002-10 kilometres, Classical, *14 October 1970) |
| 31-118 | Kemppe (2002-15 kilometres, Mass Start, Freestyle, *14 October 1970) |
| 30-201 | Ingrid Butts (1994-5 kilometres, Classical, *30 July 1963) |
| 30-201 | Butts (1994-5/10 kilometres Pursuit, *30 July 1963) |

Medals Won by Countries

| RankUS | RankEuro | NOC | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Totals |
|--------|----------|----------------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | Norway | 35 | 36 | 25 | 96 |
| 2 | 4 | Finland | 19 | 22 | 32 | 73 |
| 3 | 3 | Soviet Union | 25 | 22 | 21 | 68 |
| 4 | 2 | Sweden | 27 | 17 | 19 | 63 |
| 5 | 6 | Italy | 9 | 12 | 13 | 34 |
| 6 | 5 | Russia | 13 | 7 | 8 | 28 |
| 7 | 9 | Germany | 2 | 9 | 3 | 14 |
| 8 | 8 | Unified Team | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 12 | Czech Republic | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 10 | 7 | Estonia | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 11 | 13 | Austria | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 12 | 16 | Switzerland | 1 | - | 4 | 5 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 13 | 17 | Czechoslovakia | - | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 14 | 10 | German Demo. Rep. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 15 | 14 | Kazakhstan | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 16 | 15 | Poland | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 17 | 11 | Canada | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| =18 | =18 | France | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| =18 | =18 | United States | - | 1 | - | 1 |

Medals Won by Countries, Men

| RankUS | RankEuro | NOC | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Totals |
|------------|------------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | Norway | 29 | 26 | 14 | 69 |
| 2 | 2 | Sweden | 22 | 13 | 17 | 52 |
| 3 | 3 | Finland | 11 | 13 | 19 | 43 |
| 4 | 4 | Soviet Union | 11 | 8 | 12 | 31 |
| 5 | 5 | Italy | 4 | 7 | 7 | 18 |
| 6 | 6 | Russia | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 11 | Germany | - | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 8 | Austria | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | Estonia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 10 | 9 | Kazakhstan | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 11 | 10 | Switzerland | 1 | - | 3 | 4 |
| 12 | 12 | Czech Republic | - | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| =13 | =13 | France | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| =13 | =13 | German Demo. Rep. | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| =13 | =13 | United States | - | 1 | - | 1 |

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING – THE EVENTS / USA

Men

Sprint

Best Finish, USA

16th Andy Newell (2006)

Youngest Competitor, USA

21-128 Kris Freeman (2002, *14 October 1980)

Oldest Competitor, USA

31-305 Carl Swenson (2002, *20 April 1970)

Team Sprint

Best Finish, USA

9th USA Team (2010) (Torin Koos, Andy Newell)

Youngest Competitor, USA

22-077 Andy Newell (2006, *30 November 1983)

Oldest Competitor, USA

29-218 Torin Koos (2010, *19 July 1980)

15 kilometres

Best Finish, USA

6th Bill Koch (1976)

Youngest Competitor, USA

18-003 Tim Caldwell (1972, *4 February 1954)

Oldest Competitor, USA

39-115 Anders Haugen (1928, *24 October 1888)

50 kilometres

Best Finish, USA

13th Bill Koch (1976)

13th Bill Koch (1980)

Youngest Competitor, USA

20-112 Pete Vordenberg (1992, *2 November 1971)

Oldest Competitor, USA

35-312 Carl Swenson (2006, *20 April 1970)

Skiathlon/Pursuit

Best Finish, USA

14th Kris Freeman (2002)

Youngest Competitor, USA

21-123 Kris Freeman (2002, *14 October 1980)

Oldest Competitor, USA

35-298 Carl Swenson (2006, *20 April 1970)

Relay

Best Finish, USA

5th USA Team (2002) (John Bauer, Kris Freeman, Justin Wadsworth, Carl Swenson)

Youngest Competitor, USA

18-009 Tim Caldwell (1972, *4 February 1954)

Oldest Competitor, USA

35-305 Carl Swenson (2006, *20 April 1970)

Women

Sprint

Best Finish, USA

8th Kikkan Randall (2010)

Youngest Competitor, USA

19-050 Kikkan Randall (2002, *31 December 1982)

Oldest Competitor, USA

32-114 Wendy Wagner (2006, *31 October 1973)

Team Sprint

Best Finish, USA

6th USA Team (2010) (Caitlin Compton, Kikkan Randall)

Youngest Competitor, USA

23-045 Kikkan Randall (2006, *31 December 1982)

Oldest Competitor, USA

32-106 Wendy Wagner (2006, *31 October 1973)

10 kilometres**Best Finish, USA**

10th Martha Rockwell (1972)

Youngest Competitor, USA

19-031 Alison Owen-Spencer (1972, *5 January 1953)

Oldest Competitor, USA

34-169 Jana Hlavaty (1976, *25 August 1941)

30 kilometres**Best Finish, USA**

15th Nina Kemppel (2002)

Youngest Competitor, USA

21-237 Lindsey Weier (2006, *2 July 1984)

Oldest Competitor, USA

38-183 Sarah Konrad (2006, *26 August 1967)

Skiathlon/Pursuit**Best Finish, USA**

29th Nancy Fiddler (1992)

Youngest Competitor, USA

19-046 Kikkan Randall (2002, *31 December 1982)

Oldest Competitor, USA

35-357 Nancy Fiddler (1992, *21 February 1956)

Relay**Best Finish, USA**

7th USA Team (1980) (Alison Owen-Spencer, Beth Paxson, Leslie Bancroft-Krichko, Lynn von der Heide-Spencer-Galanes)

7th USA Team (1984) (Susan Long, Judy Rabinowitz, Lynn von der Heide-Spencer-Galanes, Patricia Ross)

Youngest Competitor, USA

19-037 Alison Owen-Spencer (1972, *5 January 1953)

Oldest Competitor, USA

38-177 Sarah Konrad (2006, *26 August 1967)

USA Olympic Cross-Country Skiing Medalist

Cross-Country Skiing – Men

Koch, Bill. *7 June 1955. 1976: 30 kilometres (2).