



U.S. Paralympic skier Andrew Kurka is working hard to prepare for the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing this March. The Alaska native won both gold and silver medals during his 2018 run in Pyeongchang and hopes to do even better this time. When he's not on the slopes, Andrew spends time giving back to various causes and communities to show there are no limitations when you put your mind to accomplishing something. Netcracker is proud to sponsor Andrew, and we wish him the best of luck in Beijing!

Making a Difference On and Off the Slopes

What are your events at the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, and how are you preparing for them?

I will be competing in a few different skiing events, including downhill, giant slalom, super-G, super combined and parallel slalom. When I'm not traveling on the World Cup

circuit and competing, I usually train six hours a day, focusing on achieving small goals and fine-tuning my technique to succeed. It's never about winning; it's only about getting better.

What did your gold medal in Pyeongchang mean to you?

When you wake up every morning just to strive for a single goal or dream, the moment that you finally accomplish it gives a euphoric sense of peace because you know that you weren't wasting your time. It gives a purpose to all of your hard work and leaves you with a feeling of happiness that I can't even describe.

Can you tell us about some of your volunteer work?

I work with multiple programs throughout the United States and around the world. Classroom Champions is one where I mentor underprivileged youth through online videos and interactions. I also work with Challenge Alaska and a lot of other programs where I mentor and teach adaptive sports and athletics to young disabled children and aspiring athletes. The goal for me is to help make a difference, no matter how small, in the future of these kids.

How did you first start working with Netcracker?

My relationship with Netcracker started with a program called Adaptive Spirit, which is a fundraiser for the U.S. Adaptive Team. Netcracker was a sponsor, which gave me an opening to speak on their behalf at TheCable Show in Boston. From there, I made several friends from the company and learned more about all of the great things that Netcracker does. I never would've imagined that Netcracker would change my life and keep me pushing forward in pursuing my life goals, and I never would've achieved the success that I have without their support.



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What has your experience been like working with Netcracker?

Netcracker has been with me on the most important parts of my journey. They not only helped me to compete at the highest level, but also helped me to give back to others. As an athlete who wants to instill

a sense of integrity in everything that I do, I appreciate the support of a company that shares the same positive values. Netcracker is committed to making a real impact on the world and doing its part to help its employees, customers and the wider community. **IB**

