
Appendix G SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Skills Development Program encompasses the Senior Program and the Certified Program, programs that affect the registration categories of NSP members.

A. Senior Program – Core and Elective Components

Core Components for Senior:

- a) Alpine (ski/snowboard) Senior candidates
 - i. OEC Module of the Senior Program;
 - ii. Alpine toboggan handling;
 - iii. Alpine skiing or snowboarding;
 - iv. Three electives from Senior elective list; and
 - v. A minimum of two electives must be from the NSP course offerings

- b) Nordic/Backcountry Senior candidates
 - i. OEC Module of the Senior Program;
 - ii. Toboggan construction and handling;
 - iii. Nordic/Backcountry skiing and endurance;
 - iv. Mountain Travel and Rescue 2; and
 - v. Two additional electives from Senior elective list; and
 - vi. A minimum of two electives must be from the NSP course offerings.

- c) Senior Patroller candidates
 - i. OEC Module of the Senior Program;
 - ii. Aid room management module;
 - iii. Four additional electives from Senior elective list; and
 - iv. A minimum of two electives must be from the NSP course offerings

Senior elective list

- a) Education Courses
 - i. Instructor Development;
 - ii. Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals or Mountain Travel and Rescue 1;
 - iii. Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 (required for Senior Nordic/Backcountry candidates);
 - iv. Mountain Travel and Rescue Enhancement Seminar
 - v. Level 1 Avalanche Module 1;
 - vi. Level 1 Avalanche Module 2;
 - vii. Level 1 Avalanche Module 3;
 - viii. Level 2 Avalanche for Rescue Personnel;
 - ix. National Avalanche School didactic sessions;
 - x. National Avalanche School field sessions;
 - xi. Skiing Enhancement Seminar;
 - xii. Ski Trainer's Workshop;
 - xiii. Toboggan Enhancement Seminar;
 - xiv. Toboggan Trainer's Workshop;
 - xv. OEC Enhancement Seminar (two modules equal one Senior elective); and
 - xvi. Patroller Education Conference.
- ics100, 200, and 700 (completion of all three modules equal one senior elective)
- b) Leadership Courses
 - i. Patroller Enrichment Seminar;
 - ii. NSP leadership module;
 - iii. NSP instructor status (any discipline);
 - iv. NSP instructor trainer appointment (any discipline);
 - v. Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) or American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI) Certified Level II or higher; and

- vi. BLS CPR instructor or instructor trainer certification (American Heart Association, American Red Cross, National Safety Council, American Safety and Health Institute, or Medic First Aid).
- c) Division Optional Electives
 - i. One elective may come from a list of approved division electives. The division director or a committee appointed by the division director shall have the option of reviewing educational programs available within the division and determining if they should be accepted for Senior elective credit. Each elective must be an educational course that enhances the student's ability to perform ski patrol duties, must be at least eight hours in length, and must be taught by a credentialed instructor. The applicable national education program director must accept content by submitting the appropriate form for NSP Education Committee approval for each elective before holding the class.

Qualifications

- a) NSP members may enroll in the Senior Program at any time after advancing beyond candidate status and obtaining their NSP patrol representative's recommendation. There is no minimum age or experience requirement. Eligibility for the Senior Program is based on NSP member classification.
 - i. Senior Patrollers may achieve Senior alpine status/classification by successfully completing the alpine ski and toboggan components of the Alpine Senior Program. To achieve Senior Nordic/Backcountry status/classification, the Nordic/Backcountry ski and toboggan components of the Nordic/Backcountry Senior Program and Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 must be completed.
 - ii. Alpine and Nordic/Backcountry patrollers are not eligible to achieve the Senior Alpine or Nordic/Backcountry Patroller status/classification level by way of the Senior Patroller Program.
 - iii. Senior alpine or Nordic/Backcountry patrollers who wish to reregister as patrollers will forfeit their Senior alpine or Nordic/Backcountry patroller classification. To become a Senior patroller, these individuals must complete the Senior patroller core requirements and all elective requirements as listed above in Section, A.1.C.
- b) Senior candidates completing elective courses, or participating in instructor or instructor trainer courses, must provide proof of participation through a certificate of completion or a current instructor authorization certificate. Proof of completion also appears on the membership card and the member's education record on the NSP website.

A Senior candidate need only complete/pass the OEC Module of the Senior Program one time. In other words, a candidate who completes the OEC core component/module, but does not complete the skiing or toboggan-handling component, need not repeat the OEC Module component in the next effort to achieve alpine or Nordic/Backcountry Senior certification. Furthermore, a Senior patroller who has changed status to an alpine or Nordic/Backcountry patroller need not complete the OEC Module of the Senior program when attempting to earn Senior alpine or Nordic/Backcountry certification.

Program Goals

- a) Approved program goals for all Senior Program classifications are listed in the current edition of *The Ski Patroller's Manual*.
- b) Core Components
 - i. The OEC Module of the Senior Program consists of field-relevant exercises to develop skills in the objectives of decision-making, problem management, and leadership. Further information on this module can be found in the *OEC Senior Training Coordinators Guide*, which is posted on the member website.
 - ii. The Senior Alpine (skiing/snowboarding) component consists of long, medium-, and short radius turns, skiing/snowboarding unpacked snow or icy conditions, and equipment carry exercises that require edging, weight transfer, and upper and lower body movements. The objective is to help patrollers become better alpine skiers/snowboarders and toboggan handlers.

- iii. The Senior alpine toboggan-handling component covers the mechanics and components of various rescue toboggans, as well as the operation of loaded and unloaded toboggans from the front and tail in a variety of conditions on more difficult slopes and including route selection. Toboggan-handling criteria will vary with the multiplicity of equipment used across the country and the differences between alpine and Nordic/Backcountry techniques.
 - iv. The Aid Room Management Module is a core component for Senior Patroller. As of this printing, this module was under further development.
 - v. The Senior Nordic/Backcountry component consists of on-snow exercises to develop leadership abilities while increasing and enhancing Nordic/Backcountry skiing proficiency, Nordic/Backcountry tobogganhandling, and related Nordic/Backcountry skills.
- c) Electives
- i. A division, by resolution of its board of directors, may specify one elective from the list above Section A.2 that all alpine and Nordic/Backcountry Senior patroller candidates in the division must complete. If a division chooses to require an elective, Senior candidates will complete that elective as one of their electives from the list.
 - ii. Divisions, regions, sections, or NSP registration units may not add to, modify, or delete any of these options. If divisions, regions, sections, or NSP registration units require all patrollers to complete one (or more) of the electives listed in Section A.2 above as a requirement for continued membership, a Senior candidate who has completed that option may credit that course (or courses) toward completion of their Senior electives.
- d) Continuing Education
- i. To maintain Senior alpine or Nordic/Backcountry classification, patrollers must complete national- or division-authorized clinics once every three years. They will be given performance feedback during these clinics. Participation in these clinics fulfills the requirement; participants do not need to meet a performance standard.
 - ii. To maintain the Senior patroller classification, Senior patrollers are required to meet the continuing education requirement once every three years by retaking the Aid Room Management Module or serving as an evaluator, advocate, or trainer for this module at least once every three years.

B. Alpine Certified Program

National Standard

- a) Certified is a national education and skill verification program that provides a readily identifiable resource of highly-motivated, skilled, and knowledgeable patrollers to better serve the NSP, ski area management, and the outdoor recreation community.
- b) The Certified Program, as presented in the *NSP Policies and Procedures* and the current edition of *The Ski Patroller's Manual*, specifies the accepted national standards of the Certified Program. Additional education content may be added to the manual as needed to support the initial objective.
- c) Each patroller who successfully completes the Certified Program will be assigned a unique Certified number. This number will be printed on the member's registration card.

Application Requirements

- a) An applicant must be an NSP member who has advanced beyond the candidate level.
- b) A recommendation signature is required from a supervisor (NSP patrol representative, area manager, etc.).
- c) An applicant must meet all division requirements (e.g., dates, fees).
- d) It is recommended that Senior status be achieved before entering the Certified Program.

Program Requirements

- a) In order to achieve Certified status/classification, an applicant must complete each of the following modules within three consecutive ski seasons, starting with the application season:
 - i. Area Operations;

- ii. Risk Management;
 - iii. Avalanche Hazard Assessment;
 - iv. Avalanche Mitigation;
 - v. Avalanche Rescue;
 - vi. OEC for Certified;
 - vii. Rope Rescue and Lift Evacuation Management;
 - viii. Skiing (free-heel, fixed-heel, snowboard); and
 - ix. Toboggan Handling (free-heel, fixed-heel, snowboard).
- b) The evaluation system for the Certified Program will be consistent with other NSP programs.

Recertification

- a) To maintain member level, Certified patrollers are required to successfully demonstrate ski and toboggan-handling skills in division-authorized events once every three years.
- b) If a Certified patroller is not able to meet the performance standards at a recertification event, he or she will be given a grace period of one ski season to bring the skills up to standard. Noncompliance is handled by the division.

Reciprocity

- a) Division Certified Advisors, with concurrence of their division director, may approve, as appropriate, partial or full reciprocity for individuals in their division.
- b) Divisions granting reciprocity must continually review this policy to ensure that NSP Certified objectives are being met.