



Becoming a part of the Powder Ridge Ski Patrol

Mission is to provide quality focused education and training in safety, credentialed outdoor emergency care, and transportation services. This enables members and other stakeholders to serve the outdoor recreation community.

Vision is to be the premier provider of outstanding education programs and services benefiting the global outdoor recreation community.

Powder Ridge Ski Patrol

The Powder Ridge Ski Patrol falls under the direction of area management. The patrol promotes safety education and supports area management's policies regarding risk management.

Joining the Powder Ridge Ski Patrol

No medical experience is needed to join. It is preferred that candidates are at least an intermediate-level skier/snowboarder or better. Training is provided by Certified NSP Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) instructors along with Certified NSP Ski and Toboggan Handling instructors.

To become a patroller, you need to complete the National Ski Patrol OEC class along with the Skiing/Snowboarding and Toboggan Handling class. The instructors who teach these classes are flexible and accommodating to the candidate's needs.

Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Class

The OEC class begins the very first Monday or Wednesday in September (but will never be held on Labor Day), and goes through the third week in November. Classes meet two days a week, and are 3-4 hours each night (start time is usually 6:00 or 6:30 PM depending on which is most convenient for all candidates). OEC training is very similar to EMT classes; but with additional outdoor training and a greater emphasis on cold-weather-related injuries/illnesses.

Skiing/Snowboarding and Toboggan Handling Class

The On-hill classes first teach skiing/snowboarding skills, and then move into toboggan handling skills. Training starts the second week in December and lasts through February or early March (this class is very flexible, and instructors are willing to work around candidates other schedules outside of patrolling). As part of the on-hill class, candidates are required to read through the 'Ski Patrollers Manual' and pass a test; which includes the history of the NSP and the Responsibility Code.

Costs for Joining the Patrol

Candidates pay for classes, books, and NSP dues (but they're all tax deductible—under the charitable donations section). The first year cost to join is approximately \$189.



First Year

Annual NSP dues \$61 (current cost; this amount can change anytime by NSP)

OEC textbook \$49.50 + S&H

OEC workbook \$24.50 + S&H

OEC final test \$30

Annual CPR certification \$12

Ski Patroller's Manual \$12.00 + S&H (for use during the on-hill class)

Total: \$189

Once you become a patroller, then you will need to purchase a ski patrol jacket along with a medical pack. Or, you can choose to order a ski patrol vest (which has pockets to hold all supplies, so you will not need a medical pack). The Powder Ridge Ski Patrol will pay for half of your jacket cost up to \$100. The standard jacket costs around \$200 and a medical pack is approximately \$30. If you choose to order a ski patrol vest, the cost will be around \$78 (plus S&H), but the Powder Ridge Ski Patrol will not help to pay any of the cost towards a vest.

Once you become a basic patroller

After becoming a patroller, you will be required to pay for the NSP annual dues and annual CPR re-certification. Both amounts combined are currently \$70, and are tax-deductible.

Every year you will need to attend two annual refreshers, one for OEC, and the other for on-hill skills. NSP requires all patrollers to renew CPR every year; this is included as a station during the OEC annual refresher in September. The annual on-hill refresher is held during December, and includes chairlift evacuation skills.

Shift Requirements

The Powder Ridge Ski Patrol requires patrollers to complete 4-5 shifts per month which includes at least one weekend per month. Patrollers typically leave the hill about 15-30 minutes after closing (lifts close at 9:00 or 10:00 PM which is when patrollers load the lift for sweeping the hill).

Shift Hours

Mondays – Thursdays 6:30 PM – Closing at 9:00 PM

Fridays 6:30 PM – Closing at 10:00 PM

Saturdays & Sundays

A shift 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

B shift 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

C shift 5:00 PM – Closing (10 PM Saturdays, 9 PM Sundays)

Continuing Education Opportunities

The NSP has many opportunities for personal and professional growth. For example, the senior program focuses on leadership, skiing/boarding skills, toboggan handling skills, and OEC skills. There is a wide variety of programs that you will have access to as a patroller.



What we do

All patrollers ski or snowboard until we get a call for injured patients. Plus, we patrol the slopes to ensure safety for all guests.

When we get a call for an injured person, this is how we respond:

- First, we quickly get to the scene
- Upon arrival we ensure the area is safe for everyone (temporarily close off jumps/terrain park features if necessary)
- Discover patient's injuries/illness
- Support injuries by utilizing quick splints (for leg injuries), slings and swaths (for wrist/arm/shoulder/collarbone injuries), and backboards (for spinal/hip injuries)
- Load the patient into a toboggan for transport down to the patrol room
- Complete a more detailed exam of injured area(s), discover any other injuries, treat all injuries with basic emergency care, fill out an incident report
- Finally, release patient or hand over to ambulance crew for transport to a hospital

Benefits of Patrolling

- Ski or snowboard for free
- Complimentary punch card (18 passes for lifts or rentals) to use for family/friends
- Cheap season passes for immediate family members
- Reduced prices on skiing/board-related merchandise in NSP's Winter Catalog
- Tax deductions (mileage to and from the hill, NSP dues, books, classes, jacket/vest, CPR fees, items ordered out of NSP's Winter Catalog -- full amount for patrolling necessities like jacket/vest; otherwise half for all other items)
- Community service/volunteerism/personal sense of accomplishment, pride, increased self-worth
- Camaraderie – being a part of the ski patrol is like joining a family composed of great people from various types of professions and different lifestyles
- Access to a wide range of NSP programs, classes, and educational materials
- Pro-Form program (40% - 70% discount on new skiing/board equipment)
- Connections through other resorts to ski/board for free or get good discounts

For more information visit our website at www.PowderRidgeSkiPatrol.com