
Appendix G SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Skills Development Program encompasses the Senior Program and the Certified Program, those 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. Senior Program OEC Module;
 - ii. Alpine toboggan-handling;
 - iii. Alpine skiing or snowboarding; and
 - iv. Three electives from Senior elective list.
 - b) Nordic Senior candidates
 - i. Senior Program OEC Module;
 - ii. Toboggan construction and handling;
 - iii. **Nordic skiing and endurance;**
 - iv. Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 course; and
 - v. Two additional electives from Senior elective list.
 - c) Senior Patroller candidates
 - i. Senior Program OEC Module;
 - ii. Aid room management module; and
 - iii. Four additional electives from Senior elective list.
- 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 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.
 - 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 by successfully completing the alpine ski and toboggan components of the Senior Program. To achieve Senior Nordic status, the Nordic ski and toboggan components of the Senior Program and Mountain Travel and Rescue 2 must be completed.
 - ii. Alpine and Nordic patrollers are not eligible to achieve the Senior Patroller member level by way of the Senior Program.
 - iii. Senior Alpine or Nordic patrollers who wish to reregister as Senior Patrollers will forfeit their Senior Alpine or Nordic 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 personal page on the NSP website.
- c) A Senior candidate need only complete the OEC module of the Senior Program one time. In other words, a candidate who completes the OEC core component, but does not complete the skiing or toboggan-handling component, need not repeat the OEC Module component in the next effort to achieve Senior certification. Furthermore, a Senior Patroller who has changed status to an alpine or Nordic patroller need not complete the OEC module of the Senior program when attempting to earn Senior Alpine or Nordic 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 Senior Program OEC module 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. Toboggan-handling criteria will vary with the multiplicity of equipment used across the country and the differences between alpine and Nordic 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 component consists of on-snow exercises to develop leadership abilities while increasing and enhancing skiing proficiency, Nordic toboggan-handling, and related Nordic 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 Senior patroller candidates in the division must complete. If a division chooses to require an elective, Senior candidates will complete that elective and two other 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 toward completion of one Senior elective.
- d) Continuing Education

- i. To maintain Senior alpine or Nordic classification, patrollers must complete national- or division-authorized clinics once every three years. Patrollers 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 module or serving as an evaluator, advocate, or trainer for this module at least once every three years.