

WELCOME

We are excited that you are interested in joining us as we seek excellence in patrolling by participating in the Southern Division's Certified Program. As George Wesson who developed the Certified Program for the NSP and subsequently for the Southern division characterized it, this is a program that demands "...the highest level of proficiency from patrollers through training and testing and would promote a level of patrolling in which there would be no compromise with excellence in skiing, first aid, patrol management, administration and leadership."

My involvement with the Certified Program is often the most valuable professional development experience of my year. It is a great opportunity to participate in an exciting endeavor with leading experts in our industry. I hope that the program can provide you with the same benefit.

Welcome to the program!

Brandon Deane
Southern Division Certified Advisor

CERTIFIED PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide performance standards and evaluation on a broad range of patrol skills and knowledge.
- Increase patroller's awareness of issues relevant to ski area operations.
- Provide a readily identifiable resource of highly skilled, motivated, and knowledgeable patrollers to better serve NSP, ski area management, and the outdoor recreation community through instruction and/or leadership.
- Promote interaction and exchange between paid and volunteer patrollers.
- Build on, but not duplicate, the Outdoor Emergency Care program and or the Senior OEC program by providing a flexible, self-directed training program to develop member skills.

These goals are listed on the NSP web site at http://www.nsp.org/about/nsp_programs/certified.aspx

The Certified program serves the ski patrol training needs of our leaders whether they are compensated or not, including everyone from shift supervisors to patrol directors to our various division leaders.

This analogy may be instructive. If the process of attaining basic patroller status is like high school, and the process of attaining senior patroller status is like college, then the process of attaining certified patroller status is like graduate school. This analogy's primary value is the parallel between graduate school where professors guide the study but planning and executing the experiences necessary to gain the knowledge and experience falls to the student. While the program has some educational components its focus is primarily to verify the skills, knowledge, and experience a candidate possesses.

The primary vehicle which the Certified Program utilizes to help students attain certification is an 11-station examination process which focuses on the following modules.

Module 1	Area Operations and Risk Management
Module 2	Avalanche Management
Module 3	Emergency Care
Module 4	Lift Evacuation and Rope knowledge
Module 5	Skiing/Snowboarding
Module 6	Toboggan Handling

Your contribution to the program is valued and important to maintaining a vibrant, cutting edge educational program. You may choose to:

- Support our clinic and exam processes by acting as a bystander, patroller, or injured skier.
- Participate in one or more of the clinics.
- Audit the exam process in preparation for entering the examination process (by reservation)
- Participate as a candidate in the exam process (prerequisites-application approval, prequalify for modules 5 and 6 at the Snowshoe clinic, and prequalify for module 3 at any exam).

The earlier you contact us the better we can serve your needs. Guidance directly from a Certified Patroller is invaluable. Any Certified Patroller will be happy to help you.

Here is a brief synopsis of the documents (excluding those which are exam specific) available in the Southern Division's library:

Welcome to the Southern Division's Certified Program (SDCP): You are reading it now. Initial answers to questions that a curious patroller might have.

How to get involved with the certified program: A guide for beginning to participate in the certified program.

Certified Exam Components: A reader friendly explanation of the examination process used in the Southern Division program. Specific guidelines may be found in the SDCP Policies and Procedures Manual and various study guides.

Certification Made Easy: A tongue and cheek discussion of how to make the examination process easy. This document gives you an idea of the scope and depth of the program.

Certified Candidate Application Process: An explanation of the prerequisites which must be met by a candidate who is interested in entering the actual examination process.

Certified Candidate Check list: Bullets to help a first year exam candidate to cross all the i's and dot all the t's.

Certified Candidate Application Questionnaire: Questions to respond to when applying to enter the exam process in lieu of a resume.

SDCP Policies and Procedures: Our formal operating guidelines.

SDCP Calendar 2012

Come join us!