

WILLAMETTE PASS SKI PATROL

Information for Prospective Patrol Candidates

We are accepting applications for patrol candidates for the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol. The normal attrition of a few patrollers will very possibly lead to openings for the upcoming season, so information is included below about our patrol and the responsibilities associated with participation on it.

Ski patrolling at Willamette Pass, whether as an on-hill patroller or a non-skiing patroller, is a lot of fun. It is also a lot of work. We are largely a volunteer patrol with a handful of paid members who are also employees of the Willamette Pass Ski Corporation (WPSC). We take a lot of pride in our performance and work hard to maintain the high standards expected of us by area management, the skiing public, and most important, ourselves. We appreciate your interest in becoming a member of our patrol and hope the following information will help you understand what we are looking for in our candidates.

CANDIDATE SELECTION

The criteria for selection of patrol candidates will include positive attitude and first aid experience, as well as the ability to complete the required training and carry out all required patrol duties. Selection will be made on the basis of the written application, interviews and references.

CANDIDATE TRAINING

Candidate training will include the following:

- 1 An Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) course, required by the National Ski Patrol System. The course normally starts in September and is completed in late November. The first aid training of patrollers (those whose primary duties are in the aid room, and do not include toboggan handling) is usually expected to be at or beyond the level of this course before they are accepted into the patrol. If that is the case for you, it may not be necessary for you to participate in all aspects of the class. But you will have to indicate what your current certification is, and will be expected to demonstrate to the satisfaction of our OEC trainer that you are prepared to deal with the first-aid demands of this position. Current paramedics generally accomplish this with a one-evening session. CPR level C is required of all patrollers.
- 2 Candidate training will begin with the start of the ski season at Willamette Pass, and will cover all aspects of patrol operations including history, safety, communications, chair lift evacuation, first aid, map and compass orientation to the ski area and surrounding terrain, avalanche and search and rescue (and probably some additional topics as well). Training will be at the ski area.
- 3 Candidates will be required to complete the Basic Avalanche course as part of their training. This is a National Ski Patrol System course taught by local or regional instructors. We hope to hold it at Willamette Pass during the season each year.
- 4 Annual ongoing training includes OEC, On-Hill, and CPR (level C) refreshers.

COST

Candidate expenses in the first year will include a one-time fee of approximately \$75 to cover OEC books, Patroller's Manual and OEC registration fees. In addition, all patrollers must pay annual National/Division/Regional dues, currently \$63. Uniform vests are provided on a cost-sharing basis for patrollers upon completion of training.

All patrollers are required to have personal medical insurance.

DUTIES

Upon successful completion of required training, patrollers will be assigned duty days, which may include weekdays. In a normal season, duty days will total about 15 days spread over the season. Duty days start at 8 a.m. and continue until release by the Hill Chief at day's end, usually about 5 p.m. All patrollers are required to remain on duty in the event of a search and rescue mission unless excused by the Hill Chief. Weekday paid patrollers are scheduled by WPSC.

All candidates and patrollers are encouraged to attend in-town patrol meetings during the season and to participate in other off-hill activities and other patrol administrative functions.

A minimum of 10 hours service is required at the annual Ski Swap, which is our fund-raising event. The Swap is ordinarily Thursday through Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Notwithstanding the personal demands and initial costs, patrolling at Willamette Pass is fun and rewarding. We will do our best to see that your experience with the Patrol is both. Questions regarding this application or duties should be directed to the recruiter, at recruiter@wpsp.org.