

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, 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 advisers, 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.