

Welcome to the Certified Program! While the program is extremely challenging and demanding, I cannot emphasize how much I have learned being part of the program, and just how rewarding it is as both an aspiring candidate and as a member.

The application process consists of a deceptively simple form to fill out with NSP experience questions, plus a few short answer essay questions. Despite the short length, the Credentials Committee will dig deeply into your application. Many candidates have already achieved senior status, as well as current OEC or OET instructor roles, and maybe even participated in avalanche or other training activities. These qualifications are great starting points for the Certified Program, and they speak greatly to general patroller skills. However, the committee is looking beyond these check boxes. They are also looking for demonstrated leadership, and very importantly leadership outside of your local patrol.

As part of the program, you will learn from the top members of the National Ski Patrol. You will receive direct first hand tips, advice and guidance from the most skilled members the NSP has in its ranks. All that we ask in return is that you pass on this knowledge to our future members, to your fellow local patrollers, and to members of your Region as well. This is a critical aspect of the program, and something very important to our continued success at shaping future generations of the NSP. To ensure the knowledge and experience of the Certified Program continues, we search for new candidates that have already demonstrated the principles of giving back. Whether that is teaching a toboggan class at a neighboring hill, or helping with the Region's Senior testing, the Credentials Committee wants to see active leadership participation. The committee wants to know that not only can you excel in the program (demonstrated by your patroller qualifications), but that you will pass the knowledge you learn on to future members as well (demonstrated by your leadership activities).

Your challenge is to use the application to convey not only your NSP experience and abilities, but most importantly your willingness and desire to give back to NSP what you learn in the Certified Program. The application may be short, but you need to hit on all of the important themes, so the Credentials Committee can accept you into the program, which we are eager to do.

Take a look at the application on the website. Talk to other members of the Certified Program. Talk to your Patrol leaders, your Region leaders. We are all here to help and we look forward to you joining the program! Good luck on your Certified Journey!

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